

May 23, 2001

FINAL

01-0523-RS2

**RESOLUTION RE:  
THE CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS DEBATE TEAMS- 2000-01**

**WHEREAS**, Louis Reeves and Sharone Mitchell of the Morgan Park High School Debate Team, won the City Championship, Varsity Division, "A" Conference; and

**WHEREAS**, Brealon Slatton and Angelique Irving of the Lindblom College Prep High School Debate Team, won the City Championship, Varsity Division "AA" Conference; and Nashone Goolsby and Terri Thomas won the Championship, Junior Varsity Division, "AAA" Conference; and

**WHEREAS**, Maya Frommer and Rosemarie Clauston of the Whitney Young Academic Magnet High School Debate Team, won the City Championship, Junior Varsity Division, "A" Conference; and

**WHEREAS**, Alfredo O'Kray and Michael Mendoza of the Steinmetz Academic Center Debate Team, won the City Championship, Junior Varsity Division, "AA" Conference; and

**WHEREAS**, Louis Reeves and Sharone Mitchell of Morgan Park won the Maine East Township Invitational Championship at which over 100 teams competed from eight states; and

**WHEREAS**, Morgan Park team was one of six teams to qualify from the state of Illinois for a bid to the National Forensic League Championship in June; and

**WHEREAS**, David Beer and James Holley of Morgan Park reached the Semi-Final Round at the State of Illinois Championship, Junior Varsity Division; and

**WHEREAS**, Maya Frommer and Rosemarie Clauston of Whitney Young will represent CPS and the Chicago Debate League at the National Urban Debate League Championship in Atlanta in April; and

**WHEREAS**, Paul Whitsitt from DuSable, Matthew Katz from Farragut; David Vaughn from Lindblom, Peter Bavis and Nick Muys from Steinmetz, and Cheryl Daniel from Von Steuben were awarded the "Excellence In Coaching" Awards by Phi Beta Kappa,; and

**WHEREAS**, Paul Whitsitt of DuSable High School was the 2000-01 Winner of the Prestigious Golden Gavel Award selected by Phi Beta Kappa from Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, over 50 CPS students have been awarded scholarships over the past four year (cumulatively valued at \$140,000) to summer debate institutes at universities; and, over 500 CPS high school students participated in the Debate Project in 2000-01, at fourteen tournaments around the city, involving 40 CPS teacher coaches; and

**WHEREAS**, for the fourth consecutive year students who participate in the Chicago Debate Project have raised their G.P.A., have higher rates of attendance and lower drop-out and disciplinary rates than their non-debating peers; and

**WHEREAS**, the administrative direction, training and support provided for five years by the Chicago Debate Commission has been instrumental in bringing all of the pieces together and making them fit, turning their charter ("to bring argumentation and debate back into the curriculum and the established activities offerings of the Chicago Public Schools") from a vision into a solid reality; and

**WHEREAS**, Chicago, through the steady leadership and sponsorship of the Chicago Board of Education, and the dedication and hard work of the many debate coaches throughout the high schools, and the remarkable achievements of the city's many debaters--has become probably the nation's leader in the division of the urban education reform movement that promotes the co-curricular expansion of academic debate and argumentation;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we the President and members of the Chicago Board of Education, gathered here this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2001 to, congratulate the Chicago Debate Project, participating students, coaches, judges, and administrators for their successes and accomplishments in the 2000-01 school year.