



CAPITAL ONE – UNIVERSITY *of* NEW ORLEANS
CHARTER SCHOOL NETWORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 14, 2009

Free Debate Workshop

Free workshop open to all teachers and students, grades 6-12 – all schools welcome

Kids want to be heard, and on January 30 and 31, New Orleans middle and high school students will acquire voices. With a free hands-on workshop, they will learn the important art of debate, and build the confidence and critical thinking skills to begin expressing themselves in a public setting.

The International Debate Association (IDEA), in partnership with the Capital One-University of New Orleans Charter School Network and the National Forensic League (NFL), is holding a free, two-day workshop on the University of New Orleans campus. After the workshop, participating teachers and students will be ready to form debate clubs and compete in city-wide tournaments slated for spring. The debate workshops will be held at the Lindy C. Boggs International Conference Center, UNO Research and Technology Park.

"We would like to have every school send teachers and students to the workshop. The ability to build and communicate a strong argument, rationally, is one of the most important skills students can have," said Dr. Andre Perry, Associate Dean of UNO's College of Education and Human Development and CEO of the Capital One-UNO Charter School Network.

"Kids and teachers might be reluctant to give up a Saturday, but IDEA's trainers make debate exciting. Students find confidence they never had before," said Hilary Jones, Director of Development, International Debate Education Association (IDEA) at Willamette University.

The debate workshop is designed for teachers and their students who are looking for an exciting way to develop skills in research, critical thinking and public speaking. As a bonus, the group with the most students at the workshop will win a free pizza party.

(more)

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Registration is free and experience is not required. The first day consists of a teachers-only workshop, on Friday, January 30, from 8 a.m. -3 p.m. Students join their teachers on Saturday, January 31, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. More information, including a registration form for teachers and their students, can be found at http://www.idebate.org/events/index.php?event_id=135.

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