



**SVUDL**  
SILICON VALLEY  
URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

**2020-2021**

**IMPACT  
REPORT**



# MISSION

To empower Silicon Valley students, regardless of their race or socioeconomic status, to reach their full potential to become professional and community leaders by teaching critical thinking and communication skills through speech and debate programming.



# TO OUR SVUDL COMMUNITY

2020 was a year like no other. Inequalities have been laid bare. The Silicon Valley Urban Debate League's mission of helping youth from low-income backgrounds to tap the power of their voices to compete, excel, and change the world has never been more important.

When COVID-19 struck, SVUDL pivoted to a virtual environment and adapted how we worked with students. We are proud of how our students responded—with resilience—to continue on their speech and debate journeys in the midst of so many obstacles. Students like Bresy and Jude exemplify the grit, perseverance, and success that so many of our students experienced. They've taken what they've learned from SVUDL to become advocates for themselves, their futures, and their communities. Last year, empowered students led protests, got out the vote, and educated their family members on issues and candidates important in their communities.

Through all the challenges we faced this year, the resilience of our students, school partners, staff, and Board have remained steadfast. We'll continue to work with students, whether virtual or in person, to help them use the skills they develop through Speech and Debate, and leverage the networks they build through Professional Access and Mentoring, to advocate for change, give voice to the marginalized, and work towards a better tomorrow.

Thank you for standing with us. With your support, we will continue to be Resilient Together.

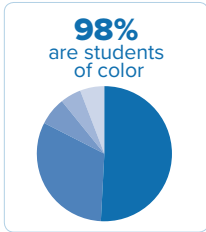


Willie Hernandez  
Board Chair

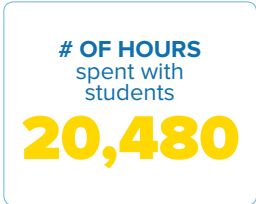
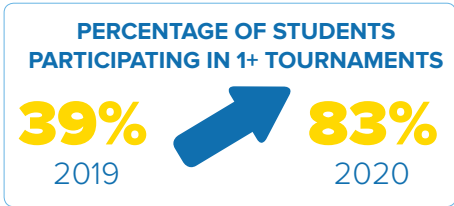
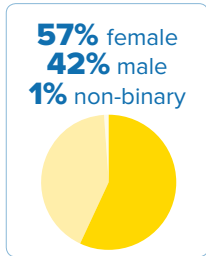
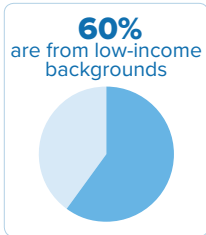


Rolland Janairo  
Executive Director

# SVUDL BY THE NUMBERS



- 53% Latinx/Hispanic
- 33% AAPI (Asian American/Pacific Islander)
- 7% Native American
- 5% African American
- 2% Caucasian





National Catholic Forensics  
League Grand National  
Championship

Niles Township

NAUDL I Resolve

STUDENTS, WORKING TO HONE  
THEIR SKILLS, **ATTENDED 23 ONLINE**  
**TOURNAMENTS** AROUND THE COUNTRY

NAUDL Championship

Emory University

University of Houston

### THANKS TO OUR SCHOOL PARTNERS

**Andrew P. Hill High School** *San Jose*

**Cristo Rey Jesuit High School** *San Jose*

**Downtown College Prep** *San Jose*

**East Palo Alto Academy** *East Palo Alto*

**Eastside College Preparatory School** *East Palo Alto*

**KIPP San Jose Collegiate** *San Jose*

**Silver Creek High School** *San Jose*

**Summit Everest** *Redwood City*

**William C. Overfelt High School** *San Jose*

**Yerba Buena High School** *San Jose*

A photograph of two young men in a classroom. The man on the left, wearing glasses and a dark t-shirt, is looking down at a book held in a wooden podium. The man on the right, wearing a light blue polo shirt, is looking towards the first man. The background shows rows of blue school chairs.

## COACHING

### THE NEXT GENERATION OF CIVICALLY-ENGAGED CITIZENS

SVUDL's Speech & Debate program provides high school students with regular speech and debate practices and opportunities to compete. Our program teaches how to analyze and solve complex problems; research information and evaluate evidence; and speak and persuade. Our dedicated coaches mentor the students in a variety of ways as they navigate the path through high school and beyond.

# EXPANDING IMPACT THROUGH TEACHER COACHES

SVUDL adapted to the pandemic by re-invigorating its Teacher Coach model: a teacher at a partner school is the main coach for students, and is also responsible for recruiting and retaining members of the Speech and Debate team. In turn, SVUDL provides ongoing support and professional development to Teacher Coaches, setting them up for success.

SVUDL has unique collaboration strategies for each of its schools. In each case, we work with Teacher Coaches to make speech and debate an organic part of the partner school culture.

- KIPP San Jose Collegiate High School Teacher Coaches Jack Monagle and Hasanka Mudalige pioneered SVUDL's social studies A-G approved curriculum during the school day. Dr. Robert Burns, SVUDL's Director of Programming, visited the class to model instructional best practices and support the teachers by co-writing curriculum with them.
- At Downtown College Prep - El Primero, Dr. Burns and SVUDL Head Coach Santalucia Hernandez collaborated with DCP Teacher Coaches to provide resources and enrichment activities to develop public speaking games that will attract and retain new students at after-hours practices.
- Teacher Coach Mike Winsatt at Andrew Hill actively seeks ways that public speaking can be utilized in traditional classes that have been taught at the high school for many years, such as Theatre and the International Baccalaureate Program.

## 2020-2021 TEACHER COACHES

### **Andrew Hill High School**

Mike Winsatt

### **Downtown College Preparatory**

Lindsay Denton, Jessica  
Lew-Munoz, Nushi Yapabandara

### **East Palo Alto Academy**

Peter Otte

### **KIPP San Jose Collegiate**

Jack Monagle, Hasanka Mudalige

### **Silver Creak High School**

Adrian Caesar

### **Yerba Buena High School**

Emily La

## CURRICULUM FOR A HEALTHY CIVIL SOCIETY

Looking for new, effective ways to grow the presence of Speech and Debate within school communities and building off the desired impact of the Teacher Coach model, SVUDL created a new Speech and Debate curriculum for high school students, titled *Rhetoric & the Art of Advocacy: Public Deliberation in Democratic Society*. Designed for the entire school year, and approved as A-G certified by the University of California system, this means the course is an accredited college-preparatory elective.

Reason, evidence, and persuasion is the lifeblood of American democracy and a keystone for civic-minded professionals from the courtroom to the boardroom. Student participation in this living tradition of public advocacy is crucial to the future growth of balanced politics and a healthy civil society. In this class, students will learn to participate in civil deliberation over controversial social questions by researching, writing and communicating clearly, in dialogue both with their contemporaries and with the intersecting social and political histories that inform their own American experience.

SVUDL Head Coach Kwodwo Moore taught the class at Eastside College Preparatory and Summit Everest Public High School, and other Teacher Coaches taught the curriculum at Silver Creek High School and KIPP San Jose Collegiate as well. Our goal is to continue to strengthen the curriculum over the 2021 summer, and create new curricula for performing arts/theatre; English Language Arts; and an advanced course that builds upon our original curriculum--deepening skills such as critical thinking, research, oral and written communication.

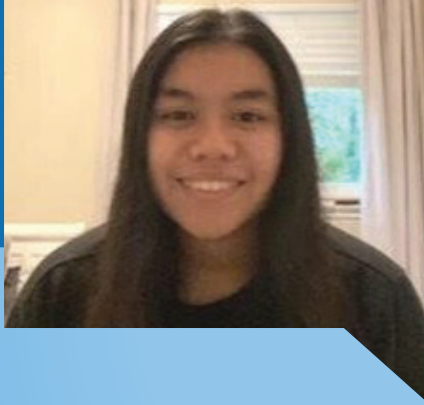




## PROFILE

ANSELL  
JUDE GADINGAN

Ansell Jude Gadigan is a graduating senior from Yerba Buena in San Jose, who will be attending San Jose State University this fall. After transferring to Yerba Buena his sophomore year, he helped create the school's new debate club. Although he was a bit shy in the beginning, he quickly found that it wasn't just the club he enjoyed, but the community he found in SVUDL that helped him truly become passionate about debate. "Debate educated me on the many topics and subjects that surrounded my life, and even directly affected me. SVUDL's ability to foster such a welcoming (and competitive!) environment allowed me to find my own voice through every debate I participate in. SVUDL taught me that there's so much more I can do, both as a debater and a high school student, to make a positive impact in my own community."



## PROFILE

BRESY  
PEDRAZA-PEREZ

Bresy Pedraza-Perez, a graduating senior from Eastside College Preparatory in East Palo Alto, enjoys the different mentors and coaches that SVUDL gives her access to and recognizes how SVUDL has changed her as a person. “What’s particularly exciting about being in this moment in history is that everything that is happening in the world right now can be applied to my work with SVUDL. It comes into play with the news, talking to people, hearing and comparing different perspectives and weighing one policy to another. What we are seeing in full color today is how one rule can change so much for so many people. At SVUDL, you have to be ready to hear those different perspectives and defend those different perspectives.” Congratulations to Bresy, who will be attending Macalester College in Minnesota this fall.

# 2020 SUMMER SPEECH AND DEBATE INSTITUTE

The start of the 2020-2021 season began with our annual Summer Speech and Debate Institute from July 13-18, 2020. We transitioned to a virtual format, and also partnered with the Bay Area Urban Debate League (BAUDL) and the Los Angeles Metropolitan Debate League (LAMDL) to offer a virtual speech and debate summer camp experience. More than 200 students from around California participated and returned to school with their critical thinking, research and communication skills reinforced, their motivation for research and learning high, and their skills sharp. There were guest speakers and panels focused on careers in the legal profession, college-level speech and debate programs, and expert advice on the national 2020-2021 policy debate topic:

***“Resolved: The United States federal government should enact substantial criminal justice reform in the United States in one or more of the following: forensic science, policing, sentencing.”***



# 2020 SVUDL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Our July 1, 2020 Moot Court competition brought much needed hope, joy, and light into the SVUDL community after months of enduring a lengthy shelter-in-place, a shaky economy, intense protests, and wobbly steps toward reopening the country. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, SVUDL persevered to provide an online version of this competition. The students argued the case of *Brush & Nib Studio v. City of Phoenix* regarding the business owners' right to refuse to create custom wedding invitations celebrating same-sex wedding ceremonies, which they felt was in violation of their sincerely held religious beliefs, in front of three judges.

The judges emphasized that if you can do debate, you can do anything. The ability to get up and talk intelligently is invaluable whether you work as an attorney, restaurant manager, or coach of a basketball team. Skills learned in debate are transferable to any career path, and SVUDL gives them the power to drive their own success in life.



“ We came up with the concept of a moot court event to give the students an opportunity to show their research abilities and skills to critically analyze arguments. The case of *Brush & Nib Studio v. City of Phoenix* is a great foundation for the students to grapple with issues of freedom of speech and freedom of religion. They can already see how these types of cases can have wide-ranging impacts in real life. ”



- Chris Hersey  
Partner at Ventura, Hersey & Muller LLP  
and SVUDL Board member

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
43 SENIORS WHO GRADUATED  
THIS SPRING AND ARE HEADED  
TO THESE COLLEGES:**

Brown University  
Carleton College  
College of the Holy Cross  
California State University, East Bay  
Evergreen Valley College  
Macalester College  
San Francisco State  
San Jose State University  
Santa Clara University  
Stanford University  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, Riverside  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of the Redlands



## MENTORING PROGRAM & PROFESSIONAL ACCESS

SVUDL's Mentoring & Professional Access program engages high school students and SVUDL alumni in activities aimed to broaden their horizons, opportunities, and networks. From networking and discussing career paths at Tesla, to learning about the impact of the legal community on advocacy and community representation at the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, students were exposed to diverse professions and learned how the skills they learn through speech and debate can propel them in the professional world.

The program also provides professional mentoring and internship opportunities that provide work experience, build social capital, and expand the perspectives of students on potential career choices.

Over the summer of 2020, SVUDL staff and students gathered for a virtual field trip to visit the offices of the Davis Polk & Wardwell law firm. Students delved into content related to the types, stages, and styles of negotiation. They also paired off for a mock negotiation, which they had prepared for prior to the workshop. As they negotiated terms of a potential agreement, they were observed by members of Davis Polk's legal team, who were able to give the students direct feedback on their respective approaches, strategies, and language they used. To wrap up the visit, students were able to engage in a Q&A session related to law school and the law profession.

7

Professional  
Access  
visits in  
2020-2021

# THE 2020 JOHN LEWIS SVUDL INVITATIONAL

From November 20-22, 2020, SVUDL hosted its first national tournament – the John Lewis SVUDL Invitational. Formerly offered by Santa Clara University’s debate team as the SCU Dempsey Cronin Invitational, this tournament was attended by 1,700+ Speech & Debate students from 130+ high schools in 18 states across the country.

*Thank you to our sponsors!*



Andrew Gold





## SVUDL'S FIRST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to SVUDL students Daksh Jain and Jasleen Randhawa from Silver Creek High School in San Jose who earned the title of national champions of The National Catholic Forensics League (NCFL) Grand Nationals tournament in May 2021! NCFL is one of two major speech and debate associations in the United States and has held a national championship every year since 1952.

After four years of after school practices, weekends devoted to tournaments, and summers spent at debate camp, Daksh and Jasleen went undefeated and won all ten rounds during the tournament. SVUDL is incredibly proud of them as they are the first team from SVUDL to win a national championship title. They are also the second team that has ever done so at the NCFL Grand Nationals from any urban debate league.



“ Winning this tournament really felt like it validated all four years of our debate career. So often, even after putting in hours of prep with SVUDL coaches, we ended up close but it was never enough to make it to the top. Well, today we changed that. We are very excited to see what our win can do for SVUDL and urban debate in general. We’re glad to prove that you don’t need to be as well funded to win, all you need is dedication and smart arguments. ”

- Daksh Jain and Jasleen Randhawa

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

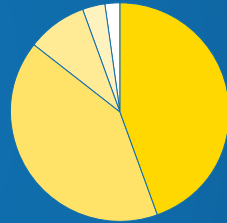
## AUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

January 1 - December 31, 2020

SVUDL delivers high impact programmatic results in an operationally efficient and cost-effective manner. This impact is made possible through the ongoing commitment, involvement and financial contributions of individuals, foundations, and corporations who believe in the importance of educational equity in our community.

### REVENUE

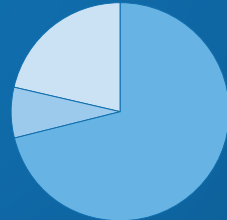
Grants	\$391,267	■
Donation and contributions	\$360,051	■
Other	\$76,841	■
In-kind donations	\$28,830	■
Special event	\$18,575	■



**TOTAL REVENUES & SUPPORT \$875,564**

### EXPENSES

Program services	\$709,228	■
Fundraising	\$210,938	■
General and administrative	\$73,958	■



**TOTAL EXPENSES \$994,123**

# THANKS AND APPRECIATION

**SVUDL is grateful to the following individuals, foundations, and corporations for their generous cumulative support in 2020.**

**Special thanks to the Sobrato Family Foundation for providing in-kind office space for SVUDL at the Sobrato Center for Nonprofits in Milpitas, CA.**

## **\$25,000+**

James F. Basile  
Dawson Family Fund  
Kirkland & Ellis Foundation  
LaureL Foundation  
Leo M. Shortino  
Family Foundation  
Jennie Savage  
John M. Sobrato  
The William and Charlene  
Glikbarg Foundation

## **\$10,000 - \$24,999**

Atkinson Foundation  
Ellen and Ira Ehrenpreis  
The Franklin & Catherine  
Johnson Foundation  
Andrew Gold  
Bernice and Willie Hernandez  
Eric Lancaster  
National Association for  
Urban Debate Leagues  
Bryson Santaguida  
and Annie Pogue  
Shineon.org Foundation  
Silicon Valley  
Community Foundation  
White & Case LLP

## **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Anonymous (1)  
Gene Assaf and Liz McHenry  
California Change Lawyers  
City of San Jose  
Coronavirus Relief Fund

Diversity Lab  
Facebook Local  
Community Fund  
Google Inc.  
Hewlett Packard Enterprise  
Intermedia  
David Kung  
Orrick, Herrington  
& Sutcliffe LLP  
Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund  
Kayvan Shahabi  
Sheputis Family  
Charitable Foundation  
Leslie M. Spencer  
Wayne Stacy and  
Caren Ulrich Stacy  
The Teichert Foundation

## **\$1,000 - \$4,999**

Anonymous (2)  
Matt Abrahams and BoldEcho  
Adam and Devin Alper  
Naomi Andrews  
Noah Boyens  
Brandon Brown  
Stuart Casillas  
David and Carla  
Crane Philanthropic Fund  
John Demme  
DLA Piper LLP  
Marc Fernandez  
George Furnanz and  
Allison Marrasso Furnanz  
Michelle and Brett Galloway  
James P. Gillespie



“ I am a long time investor in SVUDL because I want to help underserved students in our community thrive. I know from my own experience as a state finalist in speech over four decades ago how speech and debate programming builds confidence and teaches the critical skills needed to excel in school, career, and life. SVUDL students will be equipped to change the world—and I will be cheering them on! ”

- John M. Sobrato, Chairman, The Sobrato Organization

Jocelyn Goldfein  
Gregory and Sarah  
Sands Charitable Fund  
Christopher Hersey  
Hewlett Packard  
DeAndra Hicks  
Vivienne Hsu and Ken Tsai Fund  
Intuit  
Chris and Ali Keegan  
Rich and Gina Kelley  
Larry Langdon  
Mark Lemley  
Kelly and Mark McKane  
Microsoft  
Mortenson Family Foundation  
Nordson Foundation  
Orr-Lederer Charitable Gift Fund  
Francesco Penati  
Adam D. Phillips  
Valerie and Michael Russell  
Yesenia Villaseñor

#### **\$999 and below**

Anonymous (3)  
Larry Aceves  
Thomas and Julia  
Alloggiamento  
AmazonSmile  
Apple  
Nadia Arid  
Tia Arzu  
Karel Baloun  
Genevieve Bennett  
Blue Shield of California  
Claire and Jared Bobrow  
Mark and Sue Boennighausen  
Bright Funds  
Molly Bright  
Graham Buccigross  
Aurelie Champagne  
Clarissa Chang  
Olivia Chen  
Chris Jones Charitable Fund  
Mariel Cruz  
Christopher d'Ambrosio

Leila Decker  
Pamela del Rosario  
Jade Deng  
Elizabeth Duncan  
Ernest Fernandez  
Kim Grauer  
Elizabeth Green  
Barry and Judy Groves  
Anthony Hale  
Belen Handog  
Lynn Hermle  
Rita Hernandez  
Jessica Herreria  
Siraj Husain  
Sara Hutchinson  
Ana Iacovetta  
Kai Jackson  
Maria-Pamela Janairo  
Rodolfo and Perla Janairo  
Jeff Kichaven  
Rachel Kim  
Emily Laskodi  
Amna Latif

Katie Lawrence  
Steven Le  
Viviane Le Chen  
Joy Lee  
Michael Marconi  
Katie Matice  
John McLaughlin  
William F. Meehan III  
Kirk Morris  
Dana and Mathias Mortenson  
Tri Nguyen  
Megan Olesek  
Oracle  
Carlos Orellana

Parikh and Gebert-Parikh  
Family Fund  
Payne Family Foundation  
Paul Perotti  
Abby Pungot  
Edward Rhee  
Laura Roberts  
and Robert Jones  
Jason Rosenberg  
Salesforce  
Drew Smith  
Paul D. Tanaka  
Stephen Telesmanic  
Darren Teshima

Nellie True  
Lisa Van Dusen  
and John Kelley  
Danielle Van Wert  
Raja Venkataraman  
Michelle and Alejandro  
Vilchez  
VISA  
Walmart  
Ann Wang Reed  
Mark P. Weitzel  
Sarah Wolff-Romero  
Andrew Yaphe  
Harold M. Yu

“We support SVUDL because of the life long skills it develops in participants that ultimately support a well-functioning democratic society. When students have an opportunity to dig deep into complex issues, consider benefits and risks from different perspectives, and improve their communication skills, they grow tremendously. SVUDL has already shown its ability to put students living in low income neighborhoods on a trajectory of success.”

- Susan Hanson, The William and Charlene Glikberg Foundation

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Served during the 2020-2021 program year*

### **Willie Hernandez, Chair**

Director and Associate General Counsel,  
Facebook

### **Jennie Savage, Chair Emeritus**

Director of Speech and Debate, Palo Alto  
Senior High School

### **Andrew Gold, Vice Chair**

Attorney, Private Practice

### **Nadia Arid, Secretary**

Associate, IP Litigation, Farella Braun +  
Martell LLP

### **Leslie M. Spencer, Treasurer**

Partner, Desmarais LLP

### **Matt Abrahams**

Lecturer, Stanford Graduate School  
of Business

### **The Honorable Julia Alloggiamento**

Judge of the Superior Court,  
Santa Clara County

### **James Basile**

Of Counsel, Kirkland & Ellis LLP

### **John Castelly**

Vice President - Chief Ethics &  
Compliance Officer, ServiceNow

### **John Dawson**

Dawson Family Fund, Partner  
at Legacy Ventures

### **Ellen Ehrenpreis**

Partner, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe

### **Christopher Hersey**

Partner, Ventura, Rossi, Hersey & Muller

Thank you to Jennie Savage and John Dawson for their tireless devotion to the Silicon Valley Urban Debate League. Co-founding Board members of the organization, John and Jennie officially completed their full terms of service on the Board of Directors in 2021. They were instrumental in mobilizing a community of champions to start the league in 2014, and we're so grateful for their leadership, guidance, and support that has laid the foundation for what SVUDL is today.

### **Kayvan Shahabi**

Principal (Partner),  
PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP

### **Wayne Stacy**

Regional Director, USPTO Silicon Valley  
Regional Officer

## LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Legal Advisory Committee brings together leaders from the Silicon Valley legal community to help students realize their dreams of becoming successful lawyers. Thank you to these members who mentor, host firm visits, and provide internships.

### **Willie Hernandez, Chair**

Director and Associate General Counsel,  
Facebook

### **Brandon Brown**

Partner, Kirkland & Ellis LLP

**Graham “Gray” Buccigross**

Senior Associate, Intellectual Property, Mayer Brown LLP

**Marc Fernandez**

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**Patrick Hammon**

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**Ash Nagdev**

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**Shayne O’Reilly**

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**Andrew Yaphe**

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**Mecca Billings**

Director of Development

**Dr. Robert Burns**

Director of Programming

**Santalucia Hernandez**

Head Coach

**DeAndra Hicks**

Director of Development

**Jenet Manuel**

Administrative & Operations Manager

**Brandon Montes**

Intern

**Kwodwo Moore**

Head Coach

Silicon Valley Urban Debate League  
Sobrato Center for Nonprofits  
502 Valley Way  
Milpitas, CA 95035



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