

**DEBATE TEAM**  
**ACCESS. OPPORTUNITY. EXPERIENCE.**

UPrepSchools.com | 610 Antoinette St., Detroit, MI 48202 | Office: (313) 887-1613

**TEAM HISTORY**



The University Prep Academy (UPA) High School debate team was established in 2010 with 20 eager students that competed monthly, at Wayne State University, against Detroit area public, private and charter schools. Within the team's first year of competition, it was chosen as one of only two schools to represent Detroit at the 2012 National Urban Debate Tournament in New York City.

**IN THE NEWS**



UPA High School debaters have been great advocates and marketers for the school. Participating in countless print interviews, the team has been showcased in the Detroit News, Hour Magazine and Deadline Detroit. They have been featured more recently in a FOX 2 News segment and on WDIV-TV's new hit show, Live in the D.

**TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The talented team has presented at numerous board meetings across the city including youth forums featuring Congressman John Conyers and the Michigan Wolverine Bar Association.

This year, the University Prep Academy debate team served as the first African- American team from Michigan to attend the Tournament of Champions, the pinnacle of interscholastic policy debate tournaments. Held at the University of Kentucky in April 2014, the team's co-captains represented the school and competed against the top-tier debaters from across the country. Typically, only those schools and children with substantial resources receive bids for the tournament due to the significant investment these events require per student. The costs associated with presenting and travel typically start at \$1,000.

In March 2014, U Prep Seniors Rayvon Dean, Brooke Kimbrough, Deja Valrie and Christine Rogers competed in the California Round Robin and at the University of California-Berkeley. The tournament was the largest of the season and landed Dean and Kimbrough in first place. Of the 242 teams that competed, the pair stood out with an 11-2 record. They were the first African-Americans to win the Berkeley Tournament and the two received a fourth bid to the Tournament of Champions! Dean also ranked as the eighth best speaker out of 484 competitors. In addition, Valrie and Rogers also cleared two elimination rounds with a 5-2 record. **University Prep is now ranked seventh in the nation among thousands of teams.**

A full year of the debate program for both of our districts can cost upwards of **\$25,000.**

Between travel expenses and registration fees, a national debate tournament can cost anywhere from \$1,200 to \$2,400.

Your donation will be used to:

- Send UPA's nationally-ranked debate team to 2 additional national tournaments in order to meet their total goal of attending 6 this season
- Send UPA's nationally-ranked debate team to the Tournament of Champions
- Recognize UPA's nationally-ranked debate team in a meaningful way as a way to mark their history-making efforts
- Elevate UPSM's younger debate team by investing in their national circuit travel

**FUTURE HOME OF THE U PREP DEBATE INSTITUTE**



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**BENEFITS OF DEBATE**

Consistently researching new topics and speaking publicly on these issues, students at UPA High School say they learn more from debating than any other school-offered program.

The program provides high school students the chance to visit various college campuses, meet recruiters and allows for travel opportunities. For example, debate has taken U Prep students to New York City, California, Washington D.C., Georgetown University, Stanford University, Harvard University, University of Michigan, University of Kentucky, Indiana University, Maryland and Minnesota.

Shown to be more academically prepared for college, U Prep debaters seem to also be more financially prepared as well. Many of the team's members have been offered full-ride scholarships to prestigious universities and other post-secondary educational institutions.

Funds donated to the study abroad program will support scholarships for students who cannot afford to attend class trips. This will allow ALL students to meet the study abroad requirement for graduation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED WITH U PREP SCHOOLS, please contact Josephine Cook, Director of Development and Marketing, by phone at (313) 549-5563 or email at jcook@detroit9090.com.

If you are interested in making a donation to U Prep Schools, please do so via PayPal

10% of all donations go toward the Excellence Fund. This is an administrative fund used to carry out operations within the two districts.