**SPEECH COACH OF THE YEAR**

**Pamela Childress, Valdosta High School**

Pam does a great job traveling with her students around the state. She has unique challenges most of us don't have, because she lives in Valdosta which is far from many programs. Pam also does an excellent job helping with the Varsity Qualifiers sheet and is very organized.

**Mario Herrera, Henry W. Grady High School**

His team consistently performs well at tournaments locally and nationally.

**Cheri Ullo, Rockdale Magnet School for Science & Technology**

Cheri coaches at a very small program but consistently fields students from varied backgrounds in speech events. She is a tireless judge, often judging every round at a tournament and providing excellent feedback to student competitors.

**DEBATE COACH OF THE YEAR**

**Jamie Wills, Cherokee High School**

Jamie is a tireless debate coach. In five years, her LD team has grown to one of the most respected in the state. Additionally, she has worked with the GA-DOE to get the Speech/Forensics Pathway approved.

Jamie’s enthusiasm for speech and debate is infectious, and she has worked tirelessly to build a program from the ground up, earning support from her administrators, students, and parents in her community. She quickly expanded her efforts to create a feeder program at the middle school, too. Her students are strong competitors, and she clearly instills in them a strong ethical foundation and love for the activity.

Her team is performing well on the Georgia circuit.  She has grown her LD program into one of the largest in the state.

**ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR**

**Garrett Abelkop, Assistant Principal at Taylor Road Middle School**

Despite his frequent assertions that the debate he loved is dead, that he is done with debate forever, and that he never wants to judge a competitive debate again, Garrett Abelkop is probably the most debate-connected administrator in the country. He helps with coaching Hooch Debate, and he also tabs the Alpharetta tournament each year. Garrett is a kind, frequent advice-giving, hard-working, and intelligent human being. I always leave conversations with him feeling reflective and curious. He has also helped other debate coaches with Fulton county related issues such as obtaining county buses, and he did an excellent job helping at the Chattahoochee Cougar Classic. Thank you for your support of Georgia debate programs Garrett!

**Dr. Todd Cason, Superintendent, Valdosta City Schools**

Dr. Cason has given a commitment to the development of Speech & Debate in southern Georgia to include starting magnet programs at the two middle schools and providing school and personal funds to support high school competitors.

**J. RICHARD BRACKNELL SERVICE AWARD**

**Bill Batterman, Woodward Academy**

Bill helps with the Novice Policy Packet, is a tabroom expert, and is always willing to help at the drop of a hat.

**Shunta Jordan, Pace Academy**

Shunta supports speech & debate in a variety of roles. As a speaker at the NSDA Education Conference, she has enlightened and educated our community about gender and racial inequality in our community. As a leader of the National Debate Coaches Association, she supported bringing Nationals to Atlanta and building resources and opportunities to member schools by the NDCA. As a tournament administrator, she is regularly in tabrooms across the country and served as Chair of the Policy Debate tabroom at NSDA Nationals in 2018. As a coach, she had helped facilitate many opportunities for AUDL competitors by hosting several state championships and summer institutes at Pace Academy.