MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is 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.

OUR APPROACH

Our Speech & Debate program provides high school students with regular speech and debate practices and opportunities to complete after school, on weekends, and during school holidays.

Our Professional Access & Mentoring program engages high school students and SVUDL alumni in activities aimed to broaden their horizons, opportunities, and networks. The program also provides professional mentoring for those students with high interest in it.

Our overarching goal is to increase students’ exposure to role models and opportunities to connect with a range of professional adults. These adults can open their workplaces and share advice, possible career options, and lessons from their personal journeys. Touchpoints come through site visits, informal interactions at tournaments and debate practices, and at community panels. This all helps students learn:

- How to analyze and solve complex problems;
- How to research information and evaluate evidence; and
- How to speak and persuade.

2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

- 348 Students
- 11 Site Partners
- 10,235 Total Participation Hours
- 503 Events with Tracked Attendance

SITE PARTNERS

- College Track
- Cristo Rey High School, San Jose
- Downtown College Prep - El Primero
- East Palo Alto Academy
- KIPP San Jose Collegiate
- Mount Pleasant High School
- Oak Grove High School
- Oxford Day Academy
- Silver Creek High School
- Summit Ranier Public School
- Yerba Buena High School
Silicon Valley Urban Debate League partnered with UpMetrics to co-create an approach to investigate correlations between program participation and Social Emotional Development during the 2018-2019 school year. The study focused on the impact of SVUDL program involvement on students’ Social Emotional Learning scores.

**Student Social Emotional Learning Study Overview**

Silicon Valley Urban Debate League

info@svudl.org  -  www.svudl.org  -  408.337.2493

Pre & Post-Survey: “What is the Highest Education Level You Think You Will Reach?”

- High School: Pre 9, Post 2
- 2 Year College: Pre 1, Post 3
- 4 Year College: Pre 13, Post 3
- Graduate School: Pre 14, Post 24

Pre & Post-Survey: “I Have the Tools to Speak Out Against Issues of Inequality and Prejudice”

- Strongly Disagree: Pre 1, Post 1
- Mostly Disagree: Pre 1, Post 4
- Slightly Disagree: Pre 2, Post 3
- Slightly Agree: Pre 9, Post 7
- Mostly Agree: Pre 7, Post 8
- Strongly Agree: Pre 9, Post 5

SVUDL gives students a booster shot of the support, training and coaching that kids who are born into wealth and privilege are handed as a matter of course. Perhaps most important, it gives students a sense of confidence that they can compete and find their own unique voices to change their community and be leaders. No local philanthropic investment can better attack inequality and create opportunity.

— James Basile, Board Member and Partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP