

SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
GOVERNING BOARD

UNADOPTED MINUTES  
April 21, 2010

**APPENDIX B**

9. REPORTS (NO ACTION REQUIRED):

(d) Superintendent

Dr. Jowel Laguerre asked Judy Spencer, Executive Coordinator to Superintendent/President and Governing, to report on her visit to New Orleans and her association with the national award- winning Speech and Debate Team.

“I was pleased when I found out that Solano’s award-winning Speech and Debate Team was having their national tournament in New Orleans, where I was already planning on vacationing over spring break. My friend and I walked over to the hotel where the tournament was occurring and were blown away by how many students were attending—it was organized chaos! We were very happy to find Neil Glines, head coach, and have him introduce us to several of the speech and debate team members. We went to observe one of the members, Lance Bubak, deliver a persuasive speech and were impressed by his composure and the interesting topic. After that, we spent some time talking to coach Libby Simas and other team members to get a better idea of exactly what these students and coaches do throughout the year to get to this point.

I had no idea of the hard work and dedication put forth by these students and coaches. It was amazing to see the work throughout the year culminate at this national competition. I was astounded at the level of professionalism and energy the students brought to each and every one of their performances. My favorite experience was when I got to watch one of our very own students, Alex Pineda, in the gold medal round for her interpretation of literature. I was so happy that I was not a judge, as all five competitors were not only polished and perfect, but excelled at making the audience actually feel what they were performing. It was great getting to sit with the team during the awards ceremony and watch as their faces lit up with pride when Solano’s name was announced to win awards.

When we set out on vacation, we plan on having a relaxing and enjoyable time, and sharing this experience with our Speech and Debate Team certainly fit into that definition of a vacation. It was great getting to see them at the peak of their game, and getting to spend some time support Solano College. The team also apparently felt this way, as they have now called me their good luck charm and asked that I travel to all future national tournaments with them.

President Honeychurch, Dr. Laguerre, and members of the Board, it is my pleasure to present to you on behalf of the students, coaches and faculty, the National Championships Wheeler Division Debate Sweepstakes 2010 Silver Award.”