



2022 Achievement Week Proposed Westlake High School Partnership

Overview

Since 2019, the Delta Mu Mu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity (DMM) has partnered with Westlake High School (WHS) in its annual Omega Debate advancing critical thinking skills, public speaking, and teamwork while providing financial support to WHS. For 2022, DMM is looking to expand its partnership with WHS through a focused, expanded debate effort and the addition of two community service awards specifically for a WHS Instructor and student: The Just Cause and the Youth Service Award.

The Omega Debate

In 2019, the inaugural Omega Debate pitted WHS against Langston Hughes HS. While the debate was successful, it was not without issues. Langston had trouble fielding a team resulting in only two members participating (versus three for WHS). In addition, Langston's coach was unable to attend. In 2021, the challenges increased as two of the three schools participating in the triangular debate (North Atlanta HS & FCS Career and College Academy) canceled their participation within two weeks of the scheduled debate. WHS hosted the debate, fielded full debate teams in both cases, and performed strongly.

Given the experience and WHS's commitment and performance in the past debates, the 2022 Omega Debate will be an intraschool debate composed of students from WHS. By modifying the structure from a school versus school debate to an intraschool debate, the Omega Debate achieves the following:

- Encourage, support, and advance debate at WHS
- Eliminates the challenges in fielding a team (or teams) from other schools
- Simplifies the implementation of the Debate

The following is the proposed structure of the 2022 Omega Debate:

- Target eight (8) 2-3 student debate teams (16-24 students participating)
- Two-day tournament-styled debate
 - Day 1, Saturday, October 29, 2022: Round 1 debate where all teams will participate in a debate at the same time to determine the semi-finalists (the Final Four), e.g., 1 v. 2, 3 v. 4, 5 v. 6, and 7 v. 8
 - Day 2, Saturday, November 5, 2022:
 - Semi-Finals (the two debates to occur at the same time, e.g., 2 v. 4 and 5 v. 8)
 - Finals (e.g., 2 v. 8)
- Debate Format: Team Policy Debate
- Topic:
 - One topic will be presented in advance for Round 1 (Day 1) for all teams to debate. Each team will be assigned a position (affirmative or negative) before the debate date.
 - A relevant topic to consider for the Round 1 debate is how to tackle the mass shooting crisis in our schools (e.g., militarized schools or gun control/safety measures)
 - For Day 2, a different debate topic will be presented in advance so teams may do some advanced preparation on both sides of the position. However, the assignment of positions (affirmative or negative) around the debate topic cannot be assigned until after Round 1, when the semi-finalists are determined. Positions will be given to each semi-finalist on 10/29. The semi-finalists can finish preparing the week between rounds, assembling their arguments for the debate topic. However, the semi-finalists will have to prepare arguments for both positions (affirmative and negative) on the topic, given that determination of the finalists won't occur until the day 2 of the debate

- Awards:
 - 1st Place: \$1,000
 - 2nd Place: \$500
 - Runners up (2): \$250 each
 - Participation medals for all students

The Just Cause

The Just Cause is named after one of Omega Psi Phi's Founders, Ernest Everett Just. Initially teaching English before transferring to biology, he was dedicated to his students during Just's early teaching years at Howard University. When asked to give up teaching to pursue research full-time, Just refused to consider the suggestion noting:

"if I can give the boys and girls (at Howard) a scientific start, it will help them in whatever they do later. It will clarify life. I doubt if I leave here to go into the best research laboratory in the world. I believe in mass action, and I am here to help raise the general level of race attainment."

The Just Cause is awarded to the teacher at WHS who demonstrates a commitment and service to their students above and beyond expectations.

- Award is for service performed by a teacher for the 2021-22 school year
- Determination and notification of the awardee should be made by Friday, August 26, 2022, by WHS administration (principal and vice principals) with support provided to DMM on why the recipient is deserving of the award
- Award: \$1,000 grant to the teacher to support initiatives for their students

Youth Service Award

The purpose of the Youth Service Award is to recognize a deserving student at WHS for their exceptional, impactful service and volunteerism to communities of color. This can include commitment and work with churches, senior citizens, youth programs, homeless, teen pregnancy, domestic violence, health awareness, substance abuse, mental health awareness, literacy, and civic engagement organizations, to name a few.

Parameters for students include:

- Qualified current sophomores, juniors, and seniors are eligible for the award
- Reporting the following information for each applicant:
 - Estimated number of service hours dedicated toward the project, initiative, agency, or firm
 - Estimated number of community members/individuals served/impacted
 - Number of months/years providing service to this initiative
 - Brief narrative (500 words or less) describing the work performed, its impact, and the motivation behind the student's service
 - Letter of support from the agency/organization the student served outlining the student's work and contribution
- Award: \$500 grant to the organization the awardee supports plus \$250 for the awardee

About Achievement Week

Founded in 1926 and celebrating its 96th year, the purpose of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Achievement Week is to encourage, inspire, and support achievement for the collective good among today's youth in communities of color.

About Delta Mu Mu Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

With over 185 Brothers, the Delta Mu Mu Chapter (DMM) of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity serves the North Fulton County, GA area through innovative programming and service aimed at helping the community. Chartered in March 2008, DMM has implemented impactful community programs such as the Black Rhinos mentorship program, partners with a local food bank, Caring For Others, to serve families in need in metro Atlanta, and provides over \$75,000 in scholarships annually.