



Sydney Page and Jennifer Moore

SpeakFirst Pair Earns Position at Nationals as One of Four Teams Representing Alabama Out of Fifty Competing to Represent the State

First Sixteen SpeakFirst Graduates Have Earned \$2.5 Million in College Scholarships

The SpeakFirst citywide debate team has reached several milestones this year, including achieving its first tournament wins in the team's history and, remarkably, being selected to represent the state of Alabama at the national championship tournament held in Kansas City last week.

Competing as a pair, SpeakFirst debaters Jennifer Moore and Sydney Page achieved key wins at area tournaments in January and February of 2010, bringing the team its first tournament wins in its six-year history. Along with other team members, that same pair of Ramsay High School seniors went on to achieve additional victories at a March Regional Tournament, victories that secured SpeakFirst's place as one of only four teams from Alabama chosen to represent the state at the National Debate Championship. Jennifer and Sydney finished in the top 100, out of 250 teams from across the nation.

SpeakFirst students, representing Birmingham City Schools, practice three hours a day, three days a week, and compete in monthly tournaments across the southeast. In securing their position at nationals, the SpeakFirst team won debate rounds against a wide range of schools across Alabama, including Mountain Brook, Homewood, Vestavia Hills, Altamont, St. James School, Montgomery Academy, the Randolph School, and others.

In 2007, SpeakFirst established incredible partnerships with The University of Alabama, UAB, and UAHuntsville. Each of these institutions has committed to providing, in perpetuity, full, four-year academic scholarships, including tuition and fees, to Birmingham school students who complete at least three years of SpeakFirst.

When including additional scholarship awards granted, SpeakFirst's first three graduating classes have earned more than \$2.5 million in college scholarships. This includes a \$226,000 scholarship earned by Jennifer Moore to Vanderbilt University, where she will be enrolled in the fall.

Scholarship Totals by Graduating Class

2008 (Eight Graduates)
\$1 million

2009 (Four Graduates)
\$707,000

2010 (Four Graduates)
\$850,000



Coaches Callie Corley and Houston Shaner with Jennifer Moore and Sydney Page



Current SpeakFirst Team and Recent Graduates

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