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March 10, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

The Clark County School District (CCSD) is proud to partner with the Las Vegas Debate League (LVDL) and the LVDL Advisory Board to support the mission to expand opportunities for students to participate in high school policy debate throughout CCSD.

Participating in policy debate connects students with challenging curricula and helps them to become invested in their own education. Along with training in argumentation, critical thinking skills, and using argumentation to learn across the curriculum, participating on a high school policy debate team can be a life-changing event for high school students. We know from both anecdotal evidence and social scientific research that participation in policy debate improves critical thinking skills, academic achievement, and graduation rates in students.

Expanding participation in policy debate also can be integral to helping CCSD students achieve many of the goals of the Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS). Specifically, the NVACS emphasize the ability to write logical arguments, research, speak, and listen effectively, and to use language effectively. Participation in policy debate can demonstrably improve student achievement in each of these areas, and helps to mold students to be college-ready by graduation.

We look forward to the integration of argumentation and debate into our curriculum and to the expansion of policy debate in our high schools. There is a bright future for debate in the Clark County School District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Pat Skorkowsky". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pat Skorkowsky
Superintendent of Schools

"Every student in every classroom, without exceptions, without excuses"