



BLACK YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Black Youth Leadership Project, Inc. to  
Host over 150 Students in  
1<sup>st</sup> Annual Capitol Forensics Invitational  
November 3-5, 2011**

**Black Youth Leadership Project Events in State Capitol  
Include Movie Showing of “The Great Debaters” Open to  
Public and High School Poetry Competition Hosted by Petri  
Hawkins-Byrd (Judge Judy)**

(Sacramento, CA) – The Black Youth Leadership Project is proud to announce its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Capitol Forensics Invitational being held November 3-5, 2011. This event focuses on effective communication and public speaking through a competitive forensics (i.e. speech & debate) tournament for high school students.

This leadership development event will feature Lincoln Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, **Student Congress**, Poetry Competition and Individual Events, bringing together high school students from all over California to address various topics covering: State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Eliminating Out-of-School Suspensions for Students, discussing ones moral obligation to assist those in need, and addressing whether the electoral college should be replaced with direct popular vote.

Opening festivities kick-off with a movie showing of “The Great Debaters” open to the public on Thursday evening, Friday evening’s Poetry Competition hosted by **Petri Hawkins Byrd, Bailiff from Judge Judy**, two days of Forensics Competition (Friday and Saturday), concluded with an Awards Banquet on Saturday evening.

“The Black Youth Leadership Project believes that every student is valuable, and can make a valuable contribution if given the right tools to succeed. By exposing youth to forensics we will be strengthening their communication foundation which is essential to progress in life,” said BYLP President Lorreen R. Pryor.

For more than twelve years, the Black Youth Leadership Project (BYLP) has been a leader in offering experiential and academic hands on educational programming to California’s high school students. For more information, please visit our website [www.bylp.org](http://www.bylp.org).

**Media is welcome to cover any of the events throughout the day. See attached for more detailed schedule.**

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*Creating the vision...*