

# NEWS RELEASE

---



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Susan Barnett

773-881-6558

[sbarnett@mothermcauley.org](mailto:sbarnett@mothermcauley.org)

## **MCAULEY STUDENTS ATTEND NATIONAL HISPANIC INSTITUTE**

Seven students from Mother McAuley High School were invited to attend the National Great Debate sponsored by the National Hispanic Institute (NHI). Each student qualified to attend the nationwide competition after participating in the NHI Young Leaders Conference as freshmen.

Sophomores Lucia Gomez of Clearing, Elizabeth Miranda of Ashburn, Krystal Rodriguez of Ashburn, Amanda Romero of Evergreen Park, and Tania Velasquez of Ashburn competed in the events while juniors Sofia Ramos of Beverly and Amanda Rosado of East Side attended as staff members.

Students are selected to attend the four-day Young Leaders Conference based on their demonstrated leadership abilities, qualifying GPA and desire to further their education beyond high school. Students who advanced or received All-State honors at the conference automatically qualified for the National Great Debate event. The students competed in several categories including extemporaneous speech, adjudication and cross examination.

According to the National Hispanic Institute, "The Great Debate allows high school freshmen the opportunity to test and improve their written and verbal communication skills through organized discussions and debates about issues that impact today's Latino community. Students gain confidence in public speaking and an appreciation of communication as a powerful tool of leadership."

One goal of the NHI is to expose Latino students to experiences at American colleges and universities. This year's National Great Debate was held on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin, Texas.

###



McAuley students (left to right, front row) Elizabeth Miranda, Krystal Rodriguez, Sofia Ramos; (back row) Amanda Rosado, Tania Velazquez, Amanda Romero and Lucia Gomez (not pictured) attended the National Hispanic Institute's Great Debate event in Austin, Texas.