

Kim Jones

CHSSA HALL OF FAME 2006



Kim Jones has coached speech and debate for twenty-four years. Originally an English major with a teaching minor in music, her involvement in competitive speech began at Leigh High School in San Jose, when her principal “tapped” her for the speech job. Her response: “I can talk; what else do I need to know?” Decades later, she is co-leading one of the most successful programs in the nation, she is still learning and according to her students, still talking...

Kim has co-coached state and national finalists and champions. Her team has won the State Championship tournament a remarkable ten times: 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2007. She was named NFL Co-Coach of the Year with Jim Harville in 1994.

She proudly says that the best part of her eighteen years of coaching at Bellarmine College Prep has been the collaboration with an amazing group of coaches. She adds that, individual accomplishments are difficult to list apart from those with Jim Harville, Bill Healy and Chris Wolf.

One of the keys to her students’ winning records is Kim’s belief that it is important for her students to compete against the strongest, hardest working competitors. Kim feels that her students learn from losing to the best and smartest and can use the experience to become stronger competitors themselves. Kim enjoys the spirit of competition at tournament, but also the camaraderie among the coaches from opposing schools.

In addition to Kim’s competitive success, she has served as a leader in the speech community holding office in the Coast Forensics League, and serving as the chair of the California Coast NFL District since 2000. She hosted the California LD warm up to Nationals through the 90’s and served on the National Topic LD Wording Committee. Kim’s league hosted the 50th anniversary state speech tournament, and Kim volunteered, along with the Bellarmine community, to head the gargantuan task of community judge recruitment.

Kim tells us that her first inspiration are those students who put their teammates ahead of themselves, who coach freshmen without being asked and who continue to work hard in both speech and debate long after their resume is built. She is proud of that student who is prepared to debate before a diverse audience and variety of judges because a focus of Jesuit education is being a voice for any who do not have one in society. Most important, though, is the daily gift and inspiration of her sons Josh and Noah and husband Jeff, who have selflessly supported her coaching from the beginning.



For her dedication to the California High School Speech Association and its students, Kim Jones was inducted into the CHSSA Hall of Fame in 2006.