The University of Denver Sturm College of Law wins first place in Diversity Matters Award contest

The Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) presented the 2015 First Place Diversity Matters Award to Denver Law at the LSAC Annual Meeting and Educational Conference, held May 27 to 30, 2015, in Coronado, California. The Award is given to a law school for its commitment to diversity and for its efforts promoting LSAC’s DiscoverLaw.org™. Denver Law’s pipeline efforts were recognized for demonstrating creativity, outreach and use of funds in supplying information and guidance to diverse high school and undergraduate students interested in law school and the legal profession. Last year, Denver Law won the 2014 Second Place Diversity Matters Award.

Yvonne Cherena-Pacheco, Associate Director of Admissions, accepted the award and spoke at the LSAC panel presentation of May 30. She showcased Denver Law’s pipeline programs and answered questions about how to focus on target audiences of high school and community college students, how to involve community-based organizations, and how to work with students already interested in law.

Denver Law’s pipeline programs include its annual Pipeline Conference and its partnership with Denver Urban Debate League (DUDL). Over one hundred students, high school and undergraduate, attended this year’s Denver Law Pipeline Conference, held March 28, 2015. Parents, mentors and teachers were also in the audience. Twenty-four speakers – legal academics, practitioners, law and undergraduate admissions officers – discussed social justice lawyering, access to legal education, what law school is like and the kind of work lawyers do.

Denver Law’s partnership with the Denver Urban Debate League began in 2009. DUDL, whose offices are in the law school, creates opportunities for hundreds of students from metro area high schools to develop their analytic and presentation skills while sparring with their peers over issues and questions that profoundly affect our world. Denver Law students, staff and faculty volunteer at tournaments and other DUDL activities. Nearly all DUDL students pursue higher education. They have been accepted to
the University of Denver and other institutions, including Yale, MIT, Colorado State University, Metro State University, Regis University, Wyoming and Wisconsin. Six years into our partnership, two former DUDL debaters are enrolled in law school. For more information on the Diversity Matters contest, see www.discoverlaw.org/outreach/diversity-matters.asp.