

Service Above Self

Honoree: Dr. Tommie Lindsey, Jr.

The Donovan Cummings Service Above Self Award is given to individual California speech and debate coaches that exhibit the qualities of service that represented the life of Donovan Cummings. This year I am proud to announce and award the Donovan Cummings Service award to Dr. Tommie Lindsey. While being long-overdue, Dr. Lindsey best demonstrates all the qualities that Mr. Cummings admired in coaches. Unbeknownst to many, Mr. Cummings was a regular mentor to a young coach starting a team in Union City. The amount of respect I personally witnessed between my high school coach, Mr. Cummings, and Dr. Lindsey was impressive and Dr. Lindsey never forgot the assistance he received. As Dr. Lindsey grew in stature and experience, he never forgot how he got there, and always lent a hand to any new coach that needed assistance. Besides mentoring, and advocacy for speech and debate in California and the nation, Dr. Lindsey went on to produce more coaches than likely any other person in California ever. His students went off the to all reaches of the nation and started many teams that did not exist prior to their arrival.

I feel blessed to know Tommie and to have myself been mentored as a coach by him. I know that Mr. Cummings would be honored to have an award named after him awarded to Dr. Lindsey. California high school speech and debate is richer as a result of Dr. Lindsey's involvement and decades of service.

- Reed Niemi, CHSSA President



Prior Service Above Self Honorees

Gay Brasher

- 2010 -

Ron Underwood

- 2011 -

Rita Prichard

- 2012 -

Nermin Fraser

- 2013 -

Hoon Ko

- 2014 -

Mikendra McCoy

- 2016 -

Matt Fraser

- 2017 -

Karson Kalashian

- 2018 -

Terry Abad

- 2019 -