

# CHSSA Hall of Fame Inductee:

# Terry Abad

## Lowell High School

Since 2006 the Lowell High School speech and debate program has been a bedrock of success, opportunity, and excellence in the speech and debate community, thanks to the hard work of head coach, and most importantly, Lowell alumni:

Terence "Terry" Abad. Terry's sixteen years of commitment to speech and debate have been filled with competitive success, leadership roles, and friendships that e

xtend beyond forensics. This year, the California High School Speech Association is proud to welcome Terry Abad as the 2023 CHSSA Hall of Fame inductee.

When talking about Terry one common thread pops up among everyone who knows him: Terry is always willing to step up when he is needed. This has led to Terry serving as the Golden Gate Speech Association league president (2008 - 2016), District Chair for the NSDA San Francisco Bay District, the head of the judge room at the James Logan Invitational tournament for many years, and as state tournament host in 2012 when Terry hosted at Lowell High School. In that time Terry has always worked hard to innovate, including being the first state tournament host to bring in food trucks for attendees, a practice that is now copied year after year! Indeed, this leadership role comes naturally to Terry.

In fact, when the California High School Speech Association needs someone to lead a vote process, it is Terry who gets the call because everyone knows he is reliable, and has the relationship with his fellow coaches to get the job finished. It is no surprise that in 2019 he was awarded the Donovan Cummings Service-Above-Self Award for his many years of stepping up when needed. As fellow coach Michele Lamons explains, "I have watched Terry Abad facilitate tournaments at all levels for nearly twenty years. Terry has worked these events from the ground up: hosting, running TAB, and as a judge liaison. He has held multiple officer positions in the GGSA, and as one who knows the rules, regulations and ins-and-outs of both Speech and Debate. His dedication to Forensics is unparalleled."



While serving in these many leadership roles, Terry still makes the time to lead his Lowell students to success. As GGSA President David Matley explains, "Despite a complete lack of experience as a forensics competitor or coach, Terry helped rebuild the Lowell program in terms of both participation and competitive success while remaining true to legendary Lowell coach George Lorbeer's mantra: "The only losers are those who do not participate." More than 60 Lowell students have competed at the state tournament during his tenure, including the 2016 Parliamentary Debate champions and the 2017 runners-up."

Within the coaching community Terry has left an impact as someone who is always ready to provide a dose of integrity, positivity and joy into everyone's day. Hall of Fame coach Mikendra McCoy explains that "Terry remembers names and faces, he always engages with questions about your person, then your team ... he makes you feel like you matter in a world that usually only lets you matter if you're able to gain the titles."

And of course, any write up about Terry would be remiss if it didn't mention that no coach can rival the style, fashion, and je ne sais quoi that only Terry can bring to a long day in tabroom. Perhaps tournament director and Vice President of Activities Angelique Ronald sums it up best, "Terry's legacy is unmatched. Whether running his own successful team, helping GGSA thrive behind the scenes, or always stepping up to volunteer his time at State, Terry is always reliable and quietly exceptional. Plus, his style is just unmatched."

Congratulations to Terry Abad on his induction in the California High School Speech Association Hall of Fame.

