

Career Highlights:

- Coached 98 Lincoln-Douglas entries to the Tournament of Champions
- Inducted into the Tournament of Champions Hall of Fame, 2024 (First debate coach from Southern California, first Asian American inductee)
- Coached 2 NSDA National Champions, 2 TOC Champions, 2 NDCA Champions, 1 MSPDP National Champion, and 8 Novice National Champions, along with 85 other national championship elimination round participants
- Closed out The Glenbrooks Invitational twice, The Greenhill Round Robin & Invitational, & Mid-America Cup, and many other major national invitationals
- Closed-out the Stanford Invitational in Semis final (and had 6 of 8 quarterfinalists)
- Expanded Victory Briefs from 90 to over 600 annual attendees, founded the Coaches Program
- Served as President of the National Debate Coaches Association (NDCA)

Biography:

Mike Bietz is one of the most accomplished debate educators of the last quarter century, known for combining competitive excellence with a deep commitment to mentorship and community leadership. Over the course of his career, he has coached 98 Lincoln-Douglas entries to the Tournament of Champions, more than any other program head during that period, including three seasons with over ten qualifiers. His students have earned national titles across the Tournament of Champions (TOC), NSDA Nationals, NDCA Nationals, and Novice Nationals.

He is the only coach in history to win both the NSDA and TOC national championships in the same season with two different debaters, a feat achieved while building the Lincoln-Douglas program at Edina High School from scratch. At Harvard-Westlake, he established one of the most dominant debate programs in the country, leading the team to sustained national success and a culture of intellectual rigor and integrity, where he coached 12 national champions.

Mike also served as Director of Victory Briefs, where he expanded the summer institute from 90 to over 600 attendees and helped create VictoryBriefsDaily.com—the most visited debate blog of its time. His leadership extended beyond coaching, serving as President of the National Debate Coaches Association (NDCA), advising the TOC, and directing divisions at major national tournaments at Berkeley, Stanford, and USC.

His contributions have been recognized with induction into the TOC Hall of Fame (as the first Southern Californian and first Asian American coach to receive the honor) and the Barkley Forum Gold Key Society at Emory University. More than accolades, however, Mike is known for his mentorship. His students and assistant coaches have gone on to become program directors, and educators in their own right, carrying forward a legacy of excellence and purpose-driven debate education.

Professional Experience:

Head of Debate Harvard-Westlake School, 2007–2024

- Oversaw unprecedented competitive success, securing multiple national championships.
- Qualified more Lincoln-Douglas entries to the Tournament of Champions than any other school during the same period, including three seasons with over ten qualifiers.

Director, Harvard-Westlake Summer Debate Program, 2015-2024

- Founded and built the Harvard-Westlake Summer Debate program from nothing to 200-300 students per summer.

Director of Victory Briefs Victory Briefs, 2005–2014

- Expanded program from 90 to 600+ annual summer attendees.
- Founded VictoryBriefsDaily.com, the most visited debate community blog at the time.
- Founded the Coaches Program, which acted both as mentorship and a place where new coaches could learn practical team management skills

Head Lincoln-Douglas Debate Coach Edina High School, 1999–2005

- Established and developed a nationally recognized LD debate program.
- Led team to back-to-back Minnesota State Championships.
- Coached both the NSDA and TOC National Champions in the same season—only coach to achieve this feat, and with two different debaters.
- Achieved multiple championships and consistent TOC qualification.

Community Leadership:

- Past-President & Board Member, National Debate Coaches Association (NDCA)
- Board Member, Los Angeles Metropolitan Debate League (LA's urban debate league)
- Advisory Committee Member, Tournament of Champions
- Tabroom Director: UC Berkeley Invitational (2015-2024), Stanford Invitational, USC Trojan Invitational, CSU Long Beach

Awards & Honors:

- Tournament of Champions Hall of Fame, 2024
- Emory University Barkley Forum Gold Key Society Inductee, 2022
- USC Chuck Ballingal Service Award, 2018
- Bronx High School of Science Coach of the Year, 2009
- Minnesota Debate Coaches Association Coach of the Year, 2004

Education:

- BA, University of Minnesota, Major: Political Science; Minor: Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature