



Nick Cugini wins top state and national debate honors

As a senior at Cypress Ridge High School, honor student Nick Cugini doesn't lack for outstanding credentials to list on his college applications. In fact, he may need an extra page or two.

In addition to a Top 5 class rank, Nick is Number One in the United States in National Forensic League points among this year's high school students. This past summer at the National Forensic League Speech and Debate Tournament in Las Vegas, Nick advanced to the top 30 in the country in U.S. Extemporaneous Speaking. That followed two State Championship awards in Persuasive Speaking and Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking his junior year. In September Nick was recognized for his accomplishments at a meeting of the Cy-Fair ISD Board of Trustees, where he was presented with an award of achievement from Gov. Rick Perry.

Voted Most Outstanding Sophomore and Most Outstanding Junior in prior years, Nick enters his senior year with sights on college and eventually a law degree. "College is all the talk in our house at the moment," says his mom, Eve. "His first order of business is to apply for early decision at Yale. I don't know if that's where he'll end up, but he's driven to try." Eve launched Family to Family Network as our first Executive Director shortly after Nick was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy in 1994. To her friends and former colleagues at F2F, Eve says: "As we reach another HUGE milestone in Nick's life, I think of all of you and thank you for being a part of helping me to be a good parent to a kid with so many possibilities."

"Once a sponsor from a local school was astonished that I would let someone with Nick's needs compete on my team. Shocked that a teacher would question whether or not a student with Cerebral Palsy should compete, I never questioned, 'Should?'. I only questioned, 'How?' To that teacher I say, 'I hope one day you meet a student who changes your life like Nick has changed mine; I have learned more from Nick Cugini than I will ever teach him as an educator.'"

*...Scott Baker
Cy-Ridge Debate Coach*



Nick Cugini Heads to Yale!!!

By the time you read this issue of F2F News, Nick Cugini will be a freshman at Yale University. Nick (pictured at left with his mom Eve and brother Alex, and at right exploring the Yale campus) was featured in the fall 2008 issue for winning top state and national debate honors. Since then, he has gone on to graduate at the head of his 2009 class at Cy-Ridge High School. Nick was accepted at several prestigious universities, including Harvard, University of Texas Honors, and Northwestern. We wish Nick the best of luck and much success as he blazes trails and shows the world what CAN be.

