



State Newsletter

January
February
2012

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Special points of interest:

- January 2-27: Virtual Business Challenge Round 2 Competition
- January 20: National Scholarship applications due
- February 9: North Dakota Scholarship Applications due
- February 9: State Officer Candidate Forms Due
- March 1: Witten Events judged for state competition
- DECA State Conference: March 11-13, 2012

Happy New Year! What's Your DECA Resolution?

It is 2012. North Dakota DECA is providing many opportunities for its members to "ASPIRE HIGHER" in 2012. Have you thought about what you are going to do as a New Years DECA Resolution?

Maybe your resolution is to set 1 hour a day aside to work on DECA?

Maybe your resolution is going to promote DECA by wearing a DECA shirt to school at least one day a week.

Maybe your resolution is going to talk to one person a week who is not involved in DECA and encourage them to get involved.



Maybe your resolution is to work one hour a day on your project for state competition.

Whatever your resolution, be sure you can measure what you set as your resolution for 2012.

Morgan Thompson:

My resolution is to continue the progress we've made with our Facebook page and get 400 fans by the state conference.

Paige Cote:

My resolution is to contact every DECA Chapter in North Dakota at least once a month.

Mara Nysetvold:

My resolution is to create ways to increase our state's involvement in the MOVEMENT program.

Courtney Jacobson:

My resolution is to network with most people at the state conference by making my move in DECA.

State President's Column ~ Morgan Thompson

When I started DECA as a sophomore I was thrown into a role play with no idea what to do, and let me tell you, that was quite the experience. After that, I wasn't so sure about the whole "competing" part of DECA, but I heard so many stories about how cool the trips were in DECA and my mind was set on attending the International Career and Development Conference, and that was the only way to get there.

Even though competition can be scary at times, especially if you've never done it, it is one of the most rewarding parts about DECA. I don't mean rewarding as in receiving trophies (don't get me wrong, that's fun too)

but there are so many benefits that come out of competing. First you learn how to *make yourself unique* and stand out from everyone else. Which is a lesson that is key in business, but in life too! Another great reason to compete is that it teaches you to *connect to the classroom*. Think about all the classes you learn things in but can't apply them to real life. The great part about DECA is what you learn every day in class can be used to help you in your competition! But after all the hard work, there is nothing like standing on stage and hearing your name called, and getting that *medal around your neck*. So if you are skeptical about competing, give it a try! Maybe you



will find yourself on stage at the State Conference in March! Or on a plane to Salt Lake City! But even if you don't, the experience of competing, working hard, and being confident will make you an even stronger, greater you!

Recruiting New Members ~ Callie Roth

It's hard to believe that the DECA year is half over already and our State Conference is in less than three months! With the year moving so quickly, now is a great time to start sparking interest of future DECA members.

Expanding your DECA chapter is an important and achievable goal and starting early will give you more opportunities to gain interest. Most people throughout your school know the basics of DECA, but it is important to display the things that have not been shown to these potential members. Some of these consist of: community work, activities they can participate in throughout the year, and the

unique opportunities provided by being a DECA member. There are many different ways you can spread the word about the great experiences of DECA. Have a couple members who have attended conferences in the past, like Central Region Conference or ICDC, speak to classes about all the experiences they had. Showing pictures of the great atmosphere that occurs at DECA Conferences will provide a great visual.

Keep planning and hosting activities like dodge ball tournaments or fundraisers at your school to show the involvement of current members that will welcome new members who want to be a part of

something great. Use the benefits of social media like Facebook or Twitter to advertise all the things your chapter is doing. Towards the end of the year, you can also hold a meeting for anyone who is possibly interested in joining DECA for the 2012-2013 school year to show the positive and lively world of DECA that they haven't had an opportunity to see.

The national website for DECA also has great promotional videos that will grab the attention of these people. The most important thing is to keep showing the fun you have when a part of a DECA chapter and the great experiences you get!

Running for State DECA Office ~ Jordi Braaten

Are you interested in running for State Office for North Dakota DECA? Ever thought of being one of the officers on stage? It's a great experience and it's well worth the work! It's time to start preparing your campaign and getting everything together.

First, you need to talk to your advisor and let them know you are interested in running. After that, go to the North Dakota DECA website at: <http://nddeca.org/studentadvisor/24> and open the State Officer Application and Information tab. Simply follow the application and read all the information thoroughly. The first deadline is coming up fast, it's an easy deadline; submit your campaign photo and your online application.

Sometimes people are scared away from the test. Just prepare yourself. Study for the test and make sure to set up a time with your advisor, to take the test. A study guide is provided. Everything else you will be submitting is due in March; your campaign portfolio. Then be sure to find a theme for your campaign and prepare the materials for your campaign booth.

As a candidate, you will have an interview, give a speech and have a campaign booth at the state conference. Use your booth to encourage voting delegates to vote for you. Maybe purchase a bag of candy to set out to attract students like your self. Think to yourself, what would help me be attracted to stop by a booth?

Yes, it takes time to prepare but it is worth the effort. You get an experience that only you and six other students a year get. I would not trade my experience for anything. If you have questions, contact any of the state officers, your chapter DECA advisor, or the state advisor.



Need Money for College? ~ Austin Cariveau



Are you graduating in May? Are you going to college? Do you have a full ride? Or do you need money or scholarships for college?

DECA offers many scholarship opportunities to high school seniors. In fact, the scholarship program provides \$300,000 in scholarships every year. DECA scholarships are based strictly on merit, and may have additional guidelines set by the donor.

Many companies and organizations participate in the DECA scholarship program. Employees of corporations such as Finish Line, Otis Spunkmeyer and Safeway qualify for scholarships from their respective employers.

Some additional opportunities are also offered to DECA members from the College or University that they attend. To see which scholarships you qualify for, go to www.deca.org/scholarships.

The application process is relatively simple. Once you create an

account and fill out basic information, it is automatically applied to all the scholarship forms. All applications are due on January 20th. Apply today! When applying for scholarships, the on-line form asks you to "check the box" for all the things you have participated in: be sure to check as many boxes as you can so you can continue the process. Once applications are complete the top finalists will be asked to submit additional information before the scholarship recipients are selected.



Scholarship Deadlines

January 20: On-Line National Scholarship Applications
 February 9: ND DECA Scholarship Applications

MDA...DECA's Charity ~ Courtney Jacobson

Hello North Dakota DECA! I hope you all had a happy holiday season and are ready to make your move in DECA with these last few months!

One great way to go to the State and International Career Development Conference this spring is a community service project, or raising money for MDA! The Muscular Dystrophy Association has been partnered with DECA for many years and its our turn to give back to them! You can choose any charity but keep MDA in mind when making your decision.

You could sell something fun at your school, or plan an event such as a male mock beauty pageant to

raise money for MDA! North Dakota DECA also helps out with the MDA Summer Camp. You can be a camp counselor in June. Check with the MDA office for more information. Also, check with your chapter president to see what your chapter is donating at the opening session of the state conference to help with the MDA summer camp!

Alright North Dakota DECA, lets see how much money we can raise for MDA in this final stretch to state! The goal set by the state officers is to raise \$15,000 for such a great organization! See you at state!



Central Region was WILD! ! Mara Nysetvold

DECA members got **WILD** this December when they attended the Central Region Leadership Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. Whether by car, bus, or plane, Central Region DECA arrived to discover Omaha and spend some time with other DECA members before beginning the journey on one wild weekend.

On December 2nd, over 1,700 DECA members and advisors gathered at the Hilton Omaha to attend their state meeting and go to two workshops of their choosing. When evening came, members attended a cutting-edge and very up-beat



opening session. The opening session featured keynote speaker Bill Cordes. Following the opening session, there was a DECA dance. During the dance there was a "Miracle Song" benefiting MDA, similar to a "Miracle Minute."

On Saturday, members attended workshops throughout the morning and early afternoon. This year, there were "tracks" members could choose from: Marketing, Finance, Hospitality and Tourism, Business Management and Administration, and the "Wild Card." Following the workshops, members had some free time and then it was off to the Leadership Safari at the Henry Doorly Zoo! Teams of 7 members participated in a variety of puzzles that helped them to discover the "secret" animal. That evening, members attended the Finish Line Entertainment Night. Members



listened to live music, climbed a "rock" wall, donated money to MDA, watched the Big 10 Championship game, and participated in other exciting activities.

Sunday morning brought the closing session where members listened to a hilarious and very exciting keynote speaker, Kevin Wanzer. In addition, with the money raised throughout the conference, a check was presented to MDA for 2,500 dollars. The Central Region Leadership Conference was definitely a **WILD** success!

DECA Chapters Are Active!

Minot High School DECA

Minot DECA did some shopping before the Christmas season with a few homeless children to purchase some Christmas gifts! It was such a great experience. Minot DECA is also really excited about having our DECA social on the 5th of January with a white elephant exchange and bingo!

Fargo South HS DECA

Fargo South DECA Chapter just had their annual holiday social at the Olive Garden. The chapter members took part in the ugly sweater competition, during which the member with the ugliest sweater was given a reward. DECA members also traded white elephant gifts. Some of the gifts included toy airplanes, marshmallows, and a picture of our DECA advisor, Mrs. Smith, which has been passed down at the holiday social every year!

Davies High School DECA

Fargo Davies DECA Chapter has had been doing a lot for MDA lately. We had a Student vs. Faculty Basketball Game, did concessions, and went caroling for MDA. We had our holiday social at Hu Hot and did a white elephant gift exchange!



WHAT IS YOUR CHAPTER DOING?
Remember to submit your article to the state officer you are working with this year by February 15, 2012 for the March Newsletter.

Century, Mandan & Bismarck DECA

Century, Mandan, and Bismarck plan to work together to prepare for the state conference. They are planning "work evenings" in January and February. They will be working on competition, test questions, and tips on how to present. They will take place on Monday evenings.

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Stock Market Game Winners Qualify for the International Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah!

Stock Market Game concluded on December 16. The top 25 teams from the Central Region qualify for the ICDC in Salt Lake City Utah. North Dakota qualified 8 teams to compete in April at the International Conference. Red River students placed 2nd in the region and took top honors for North Dakota. Other teams that qualified for the ICDC in the Stock Market Game are from Lake Area Career and Technology Center in Devils Lake, Fargo South High School, and Century High School.

Congratulations and good luck representing North Dakota in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Virtual Business Challenge Winners Announced

Round 1 of the Virtual Business Challenge was completed in November. Round 2 of the competition starts January 2 (and ends January 27). There is still time for you to compete in Round 2 and qualify to compete at the International Conference in SLC.

Round 1 Winners from North Dakota are:

Retail:

- 1st Place: Central Cass
- 2nd Place: Central Cass
- 3rd Place: Central Cass

Sports Marketing:

- 1st Place: Bismarck High
- 2nd Place: Central Cass
- 3rd Place: Mandan

Finance:

- 1st Place: Mandan
- 2nd Place: Central Cass
- 3rd Place: Mandan

Deadlines Approaching!

January 20, 2012:

- National Scholarship Applications Due

February 9, 2012:

- State Officer Applications Due
- ND DECA Scholarship Applications Due
- Emerging Leaders Application Due
- Nomination for Outstanding New Member Award
- Nomination for OM Hager Award

Volunteering as a DECA Member ~ Paige Cote



Volunteering is an important part of being a member of DECA. I am sure by now your chapter has conducted at least one project for a special charity, at your school, or in your community.

Who has been volunteering? I'm sure that plenty of you have been!

This year North DECA DECA wanted to recognize you for your efforts in volunteering. The Volunteer Program started last September and each month you record how many hours you have volunteered in any DECA project. It's a simple form to complete. Your advisor and your chapter president have both received the form, so if you need to complete one check

with them; or you can email Paige Cote at paige.cote@nddeca.org.

The form is also on the North Dakota DECA Website under Volunteer Service Program (www.nddeca.org).

There is still time. Just fill in the information and send it to paige.cote@nddeca.org. After you do that, we'll make sure to get you recognized at the state conference. If you need any help, feel free to email me. Keep working hard out there, North Dakota DECA.

What to Expect at State Conference...

Are you ready to Aspire Higher? Are you ready to pack your bags and head to Bismarck for the 2012 State DECA Career Development Conference? If not, you have only a few weeks left to get ready. So now's the time to begin practicing those test questions, getting your projects done and your presentations ready, and then get registered for the conference.

What to expect.....



Sunday will include an opening session, candidate speeches, testing, and a recognition session. You will also have a chance to visit with the state officer candidates and exhibitors.



Monday will include competition for all role play events, presentations for all written events, Apprentice Challenge, and a hypnotist for entertainment before curfew.

Tuesday morning the conference concludes with the Grand Awards Session including a buffet brunch and the introduction of the new state officers.

Sponsors Sought !

Do you know of an alumni member of DECA who is an entrepreneur? Or someone who is a CEO or Executive or someone that works someplace that may be a good sponsor for DECA? If so, contact your local advisor for a sponsor form. Make an appointment with them and check with them about sponsoring an event or an activity at the 2012 state conference. It's simple. It's easy. And it helps out DECA.

**2012 State DECA Conference
March 11-13, 2012**