



DECA Times

Volume 1, Issue 2

Winter Seasonal

Special points of interest:

- Your chapter may be rewarded for its community service efforts!
- Thought about running for state office? Here's your chance.
- See what the State President has to say about upcoming activities and events.
- What's the importance of reaching students early?

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The 2006 Fall Leadership Conference Was a Success!



Pictured above: Koltyn Risser, State President

The Joint BPA/DECA Fall Leadership Conference took place on Thursday, November 9, 2006. Statewide members met at the University of Delaware's Clayton Hall. The FLC was similar to the DECA Leadership Summit earlier this year, except members enjoyed more networking opportunities offered through larger numbers of DECA members. Members came from

each DECA chapter in the state, in addition to the BPA members who attended from other high schools.

After a light breakfast, visits to college displays, and the opening session, delegates attended two joint BPA/DECA workshops led by community business leaders and presenters from the area. Topics of the workshops included everything from teamwork to community service. Then members moved on to their third workshop of the day, which was specific to the member's organization and led by the State Officer teams.

The day wrapped up with lunch and a closing session with a slideshow to highlight

the day's activities. Following the "Racing into Leadership" theme, everyone in attendance received a "Racing into Leadership" pin at the conclusion of the conference. As always, it is the hope of the officer team that all members bring information learned at the conference back to their local chapters in order to better each individual group, making Delaware DECA better as a whole. The next Delaware DECA conference will be held on February 8, 2007, at the Dover Sheraton Hotel. The State Officer Team encourages all DECA members to participate!

State Officers Give Presentation to Prominent State Council

In partnership with two Business Professionals of America state officers, your Delaware DECA State President, Koltyn Risser, and State Vice-President, Ginger Hansen, made a presentation to the Delaware Council on Career and Technical Education (DCCTE) on October 11th. The council reviews and assists all career and technical education programs in the state, such as DECA, Business Professionals of America, and



Pictured above: Vice-President Ginger Hansen

Technology Student Association. DCCTE is comprised of members appointed by the Delaware Governor, Ruth Ann Minner. Seeking to show the

members of the council what DECA is, and how it is benefiting students in Delaware, the state officers presented a PowerPoint and took advantage of the opportunity to speak personally to the DCCTE members. The presentation was a huge success, and council members thoroughly enjoyed seeing the student leaders in action.

President's Corner

The warm days of summer are gone, and the cold days of Winter seem to already be upon us. With these winter months there are many things to look forward to, such as the holiday season, snow days, and of course the Delaware DECA Career Development Conference. Mark the date in your calendars!

This winter season also marks the collection of Delaware DECA's annual Coins For Kids charity drive. Remember: the chapter that contributes the most will be awarded at the CDC.

Lastly, if you or a chapter member plans on running for state office, please remember to pick up an application from your advisor. I hope this message finds everyone in good spirits and high hopes. See you all at states!

-Koltyn Risser,
President

2nd Annual Leadership Summit



Pictured above:
Adama Sirleaf, State Treasurer

On October 16, 2006, Delaware DECA held its Second Annual Delaware DECA Leadership Summit. With the results of the survey in, it is safe to say the Summit was a success!

DECA leaders from all over the state met at the Dover

Sheraton Hotel to attend two workshops. The first workshop was led by State President Koltyn Risser and State Secretary Ashley Kempczynski, concerning effective meetings, officer duties, and parliamentary procedure. The other workshop, regarding membership drives and community service, was led by State Vice President Ginger Hansen and State Treasurer Adama Sirleaf. All members attended both workshops and received important information to bring back to local chapters. The official containers for the statewide Coins for Kids fundraiser

were also distributed.

The Summit concluded with a closing activity that allowed each chapter to share what was learned. Delegates from each group put together a personalized action plan to implement on the chapter level. Overall, the Summit was a fun night that provided a great opportunity for learning, networking, and meeting this year's State Officer Team. Because of the opportunities the Leadership Summit offers to the leaders of each chapter, the officers have decided to plan a Summit

Middle-Level FLC Also a Success

Although DECA is not offered at the middle school level, it is important to inform students early about the opportunities they will encounter when they enter high school.

On October 31, DECA held a workshop at the Business Professionals of America Middle-Level Fall Leadership Conference.

The State Officer Team made

a presentation outlining the benefits of being in DECA to the middle school students. Scholarship opportunities, travel, experiences gained, and an explanation telling the students exactly what DECA does were all topics discussed.

Students seemed to like the workshop, especially since the average rating from each stu-

dent of the presentation was a 4.5 out of 5.

Presenting at the Middle Level also prepared the state officers for the upcoming Secondary Fall Leadership Conference, on November 9.

The MLFLC was a great opportunity to tell students about DECA, and has hopefully convinced some to join our organization!

Community Service Reminders

Members of Delaware DECA: the State Officer Team challenged you to make your organization and your state better, through volunteer work.

As you already know, the officer leadership team has instituted a new incentive to encourage members of DECA to volunteer: each chapter will be given an award for the volunteer service throughout the year, given at the Career

Development Conference. With the CDC less than two months away, the officer team hopes that you have spent your time wisely and have been volunteering as a chapter.

If you need a reminder of the rules please be sure to check with your advisor. If your chapter is out of volunteer ideas, feel free to e-mail your state officers, who will reply as soon as possible.

Another reminder is that Volunteer Log forms are due before the end of January, so get to volunteering and accumulating those hours!

Next is Coins for Kids. Hopefully, you have been collecting coins because your money is due any day now. Along with good feeling that you will receive from helping others, the three chapters that raise the most money will receive a plaque.

Chapter Spotlight

Caesar Rodney DECA Raises \$47,000 for ALS!



In the spring of 2006 our superintendent of Caesar Rodney High School (Camden, DE) Dr. Harry Roberts, was tragically diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). ALS is a terminal illness more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. As members of DECA (An Association of Marketing Students) and the students who run our school store we decided that we had the power to make a difference and organize a project in which we could raise money for ALSA (ALS Association). It all began when we started selling \$2 "Strike Out ALS" wristbands in our school store. From there we designed a "Strike Out ALS" t-shirt and it was a hit. At this point we were more motivated than ever and after getting just a little taste of what it felt like to give back to others and raise money for a life changing cause, we dove in head first to uncharted waters.

In our small group of planners, including Emily Warren (17), Jessey Appel (17), Rosemarie McGreevy (17), Brittany Lawrence (17), and Tyler Scott (17) all seniors at Caesar Rodney High School we collectively decided on hosting a walk to honor Dr. Roberts. We titled it "Laps of Love, Riders Walk for ALS" and set the date for November 11, 2006. Going into the project blind, without any past experience in planning or organizing walks, we learned as we went through the project that it was much more difficult than we had anticipated. With only two months until the walk we had a lot of work ahead of us. We worked day in and day out for two months to further educate ourselves and our community.

Through the support of the community, corporate sponsors, those connected to ALS patients, and others who were there solely for Dr. Roberts we were able to exceed our original goal of \$7,000 and raise over \$47,000. This money is to be split up and distributed to national ALS chapters which will go to patient care/services, ALS research, and public awareness of the disease. With the walk day behind us we are finally able to sit back and not only admire, but reflect on the work that we accomplished. This is by far the largest and most successful project we, as a DECA group have ever put together and are able to take credit for.



Coins for Kids

Hope that you have been collecting those coins because the deadline for Coins for Kids is January 8!





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Want to help your DECA Officer Team achieve their goal of increased community service? Here are some ideas:

- Ronald McDonald House
 - Retirement centers
 - Homeless shelters
 - Reading to children at a library
 - Mentoring/tutoring
 - Coins for Kids
 - Polar Bear Plunge
 - Raising charity money
 - Planning a Red Cross Day in your town or school
 - Clothes/food drive
- For even more ideas, visit some of these websites:
- www.volunteermatch.org
 - www.networkforgood.org
 - <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dssc/volevnts.html>
 - www.volunteerway.org

Are You Interested In Running for A State Office?

Being elected at a state level is impressive. It shows leadership, responsibility, and a desire to learn more about your organization.

As the current State Vice President, I can assure you that, even though the workload is massive, the experience is totally worth it. I have learned more about DECA in the past year than in any of my previous years in the organization! I have gained valuable skills like leadership and communication, and even had the opportunity to meet many other DECA members from across the state.

The offices available for election are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Historian,



Pictured above: Ginger Hansen, State Vice-President and Ashley Kempczynski, State Secretary

and Reporter. All of the positions carry different responsibilities, but are just as rewarding. Many of the difficult tasks included in being a state officer are shared by the entire team, so the officers get to know one another well by the end of their terms.

Once you have signed up to be a candidate for state office, campaigning begins at the state conference and chapter delegates vote. At the end of the conference, the new officer team is announced, and your term begins!

The DECA website, www.delawaredeca.org contains more information about running for a state office, like the specific responsibilities of each officer position, and the officer application form to be completed by all candidates.

I wish good luck to everyone interested in running for a state office!

Mark your Calendar for these dates

State Officer Applications are due - January 8, 2007

DECA State Career Development Conference - February 8, 2007

International Career Development Conference - April 28–May 1, 2007