



# DECA Times

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall Seasonal

## Special points of interest:

- See how the new officer team has prepared for the upcoming year
- Find out more about the 2nd Annual DECA Summit
- Get community service ideas for your chapter

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## Delaware DECA Goes to Texas

By Koltyn Risser

Over 14,000 students convened in Dallas, Texas this year to partake and compete in the 60<sup>th</sup> International Career Development Conference. The five-day experience provided an eventful array of activities, such as Six Flags, rodeo, shopping in the Dallas West End, and just competing in itself!

The conference started with the opening session, which included a laser show, special DECA awards, and a performance from the popular band Emerson Drive. The week continued with event

test-taking, role-plays for some, and presentations for others. During free time many members went shopping, toured the spectacular famous city, and simply



went networking with fellow DECA members from around the world. The “super dance,” beginning with a professional fashion

show, was a fun and lively activity that raised spirits at the conference. Students also got very involved with pin trading—gathering pins from different states and countries while meeting new people.

The week came to a close with the awards session, where winners from around the continent (and even some foreign countries!) were honored. In all, the conference was a truly unique experience and high expectations have been set for next year’s conference in Orlando, Florida!

## Improving Delaware DECA

By Adama Sirleaf

This year your Delaware DECA officer team went through a week-long summer training program. They came up with three important goals that will help Delaware DECA become a stronger organization.

The first goal of Delaware DECA is to increase communication between the state officer team and chapters. This is something that was attempted last year but was felt could use improvement. Officers plan on using newsletters, emails, the Dela-

ware DECA website, and the Second Annual DECA Summit to communicate efficiently.

The second goal is to increase statewide community service efforts. Each chapter will receive a plaque for performing community service. This year Delaware DECA will be sponsoring Coins for Kids and collecting change for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). For more information please read the section on Page Four where there is a list of volunteer

opportunities.

Lastly, the officer team wants to increase Delaware DECA membership. To implement this goal, officers will visit schools that have new marketing programs or are new to DECA. There are also ideas on the website on how to increase chapter membership.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your local and state advisors or the state officers.

## President's Corner

Dear Delaware DECA,

Welcome back! Although school is just beginning, Delaware DECA is already in the swing of things. Your state officers have already begun planning for the Fall Leadership Conference and the Leadership Summit. Apart from planning for the conferences the executive team has also been working on many other topics to improve our state organization. For community service Delaware DECA will again be sponsoring Coins for Kids. This community service effort will run from September till December. Also, a redesigned website is already up, this year some new sections were added to couple with a new layout. In closing, the year is already off to a great start, so lets keep the ball rolling and make this year the best yet for Delaware DECA!

-Koltyn Risser, President

# Meet Your New 2006-2007 Delaware DECA State Officers!

**Koltyn Risser**  
President



**School:** Middletown High School

**Grade:** 12

**GPA:** 4.4

**Favorite Class:** History

**Interests:** hunting, fishing, jet skiing, and spending time with interesting people

**Activities/Clubs:** varsity football and tennis, and the MHS class of 2007 president

**Plans for the Future:** to attend the University of Virginia, go to law school, and later become a real-estate developer

**Favorite Quote:** "Success is a journey, not a destination" - unknown

**Ginger Hansen**  
Vice President



**School:** Middletown High School

**Grade:** 11

**GPA:** 4.4

**Favorite Class:** Marketing

**Interests:** Shopping, hanging out with friends, and reading

**Activities/Clubs:** DECA, BPA, and the World Language Club

**Plans for the Future:** attend the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business and become a marketing/advertising agent

**Favorite Quote:** "People can live one hundred years without really living a minute" - Unknown

**Ashley Kempczynski**  
Secretary



**School:** Christiana High School

**Grade:** 11

**GPA:** 4.4

**Favorite Class:**

**Interests:** reading, debating, and interacting with people

**Activities/Clubs:** Volunteer Club, International Club, and the National Honors Society

**Plans for the Future:** to attend college and then law school to become a lawyer in criminal defense

**Favorite Quote:**

**Adama Sirleaf**  
Treasurer



**School:** Christiana High School

**Grade:** 11

**GPA:** 3.5

**Favorite Class:** Psychology

**Interests:** Music, Law, Photography, Flying, and Fencing

**Clubs/Activities:** Soccer, Volunteer Club, Rugby, Enigma, National Honor s

Society, and DECA

**Favorite Quote:** "Wisdom is a curse when wisdom does nothing for the man who has it." -Teiresias, 'Oedipus Rex'

**Plans for Future:** Attend Princeton or Oxford for Bachelors Degree in International Relations, obtain a graduate degree from NYU, and get a job that allows world travel

# Officer Summer Training

By Koltyn Risser



Adama and Ginger working on their Summit workshop.

School may have been out for the summer, but your Delaware DECA officer team has been hard at work, preparing for the upcoming school year. This year the joint DECA and BPA officer training was held in late June, with both student organizations coming together to share ideas and outlooks for the near-

ing year. The productive summer training was a time for officers to become better acquainted with one another, and a time to get a jump-start on the year's goals, conferences, and many other topics. Joint DECA and BPA sessions were conducted to lay the foundation for the Fall Leadership Conference as well as the Fall Middle School Conference. Subjects such as: presenters, theme, pin design, and workshop topics were discussed.

Apart from the work accomplished with BPA, your DECA officers also spent many hours focusing on the needs of Delaware DECA. Goals for the year were set, along with a detailed plan of work. Com-

mittee chairs were assigned for every officer; Koltyn Risser was assigned to chair the website committee while co-chairing the Summit committee, Ginger Hansen was assigned the chair of the newsletter committee, Ashley Kempczynski was assigned head chair of the Summit committee, and Adama Sirleaf was assigned chair of the community service committee. Planning for the second Delaware DECA Leadership Summit also took place. All in all, your officers became more acquainted with one another, and a lot of work was accomplished to help you, the members of Delaware DECA.

## 2006 Fall Leadership Conference

By Ginger Hansen

As another school year starts, so does another DECA and BPA annual Fall Leadership Conference start. This year the conference will be held on Thursday, November 9, 2006 at Clayton Hall on the University of Delaware from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.—lunch included!

The theme for this year is "Racing into Leadership," and all workshops are titled accordingly. Just as in previous years, students will be attend-

ing three 45-minute workshops—the first two will be about building your leadership skills, but the third workshop will be specific to your organization (DECA or BPA). We have great presenters this year who will be discussing everything from the latest computer technology and management techniques, to preparing you for competition and enhancing your résumé.

Three to five hundred student

business and marketing leaders will be attending, as well as few new schools, and various local college representatives. The Fall Leadership Conference is a great opportunity to learn more about your organization and how you can improve your place in the business world. So hurry up and reserve a place in the conference with your chapter, because seats are limited!

*"Discuss everything from the latest computer technology to preparing for competition..."*

## 2006 Middle-Level Fall Leadership Conference

By Ginger Hansen

Delaware DECA is always interested in recruiting new members and helping students learn more about marketing, management, and entrepreneurship. That's why we are starting at the source—middle schools—to get students interested in business organizations like DECA.

DECA state officers will be holding a workshop at the Business Professionals of America (BPA)

Middle-Level Fall Leadership Conference to inform current BPA students about joining DECA in high school. This conference will be held on Tuesday, October 31, 2006 at the Sheraton Hotel in Dover from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The middle-level conference will follow along the same theme as the high school conference—"Racing into Leader-

ship." DECA will be hosting a workshop called "Benefits of Being a Winner—DECA High School Opportunities." The DECA state officers will explain the similarities and differences between DECA and BPA, and discuss the benefits of being in DECA as a high school student.





### Contact Information

State Advisor—Mr. Frank Ingram  
 fingram@doe.k12.de.us  
 Assistant State Advisor—Mr. Matt Biggs  
 mbiggs657@comcast.net  
 State President—Koltyn Risser  
 Koltyn@delawaredeca.org  
 State Vice President—Ginger Hansen  
 Ginger@delawaredeca.org  
 State Secretary—Ashley Kempczynski  
 Ashley@delawaredeca.org  
 State Treasurer—Adama Sirleaf  
 Adama@delawaredeca.org

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](http://www.volunteermatch.org)
  - [www.networkforgood.org](http://www.networkforgood.org)
  - <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dssc/volevnts.html>
  - [www.volunteerway.org](http://www.volunteerway.org)



# 2nd Annual Leadership Summit

By Ashley Kempczynski

Last year kicked off the First Annual Delaware DECA Leadership Summit. This “experiment” is not a nationally recognized DECA event, and Delaware is one of the few privileged states—if not the only one—to entertain this type of event. The idea came from our then State Treasurer, Koltyn Risser.

The goal of the Leadership Summit is to educate the leaders of each Delaware DECA chapter in a short one-day session. Because of its success last year, the 2006-2007 State Executive Officer Team has decided to make it part of the yearly DECA tradition. So on October 16, 2006, the Second Annual Delaware DECA Leadership Summit will take place.

Like last year, four leaders from each chapter—chapter officers, or other

heavily involved members—will be invited to attend a two-hour activity session, consisting of two engaging and informative workshops that will enable students to make their chapters



even better. The first workshop will cover everything you need to know about meetings, from parliamentary procedure to officer duties in a meeting to every element of effective meetings.

The next workshop will be spent informing you of the happenings of Delaware DECA at the state level, including our goals for the year and upcoming events. There will also be a brainstorming session in this workshop, asking for your opinion on statewide topics, such as community service ideas. Each workshop will include a short ice breaker, and at the end, everyone will congregate to share what was learned.

Anyone who wishes to find out more about the Summit can log on to our website at [www.delawaredeca.org](http://www.delawaredeca.org). All officer contact information can be found on this page, in case you have additional questions. If you are interested in attending, talk to your chapter advisor and look out for the formal invitations, which will be sent out closer to the Summit date!