



Connecticut DECA

Spring Newsletter

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SPRING ISSUE

INDEX:

- **ICDC Overview**
- **Collegiate DECA Survey**
- **Member Interviews**
- **Chapter Spotlight**
- **New State Officers Introductions**
- **American Red Cross Efforts**

DECA @ Disney World: ICDC 2011

DECA is going to Disney World! The 2011 International Career Development Conference will be held in sunny Orlando, Florida from April 30, 2011 - May 3, 2011. Our state delegation will be traveling on April 29th and May 4th. The primary focus of this conference is the national DECA competitions as well as many great activities.

Connecticut DECA is in for a real treat at the ICDC. This year, we are in the tier one housing group, and we will be staying in the beautiful Rosen Centre Hotel, conveniently located right next to the convention center! Along with being so close to the convention center, the hotel has internet, three restaurants, and a pool.

For more information on the Rosen Centre including pictures

Collegiate DECA Survey

One of the performance goals of the State Officers' Program of Work was to build upon the numbers of collegiate DECA and alumni members. In order to get a sense of the attitudes that our Connecticut DECA members have toward Collegiate DECA, the State Officers distributed a "Collegiate DECA Questionnaire" during the 59th Annual State Career Development Conference on March 14th, 2011.

of rooms, restaurants, and other accommodations, please visit www.rosencentre.com.



ICDC is filled to the brim with exciting things to do. You can participate in a 5k for MDA, attend a fashion show, visit Disney World and Universal Studios, or just peruse the many booths and exhibits at the convention center. And of course, you should always study for competition! If you are not competing, you can attend a leadership academy and strengthen your leadership skills.

Don't forget, our new national officers will be elected at this conference too.

For those of you who like to have your picture taken, our group state photo is slated for Tuesday evening at 7:40, just before the Grand Awards Session begins. No matter what you do, you are bound to have fun in Orlando.

The last day of April will be the first day of a truly memorable experience. Those who will attend the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida will have one of the greatest weekends of their lives and take part in a remarkable event!

Start packing your bags and don't forget your DECA blazer!

The survey comprised of questions such as "Have you heard of Collegiate DECA?" "What are your plans for college?" and "Do you plan to continue DECA in college?" The survey results will give the State Officer Team a better understanding of our membership views of Collegiate DECA and how we can expand our association with DECA through

The State Officers thank all members who participated. Your time, effort, and responses were well worth it. The following page showcases a few results of the Collegiate DECA Survey. For more information regarding Collegiate DECA, take a look at the Collegiate DECA page of the www.deca.org website.

Have YOU
heard of
Collegiate
DECA?

Collegiate DECA Survey—Results

The Collegiate DECA survey gave us many varied results. We found that the majority of DECA members are interested in DECA at the college level. DECA members also shared that some of the main reasons they would join a DECA chapter in college would be for furthering their business education skills as well as developing more leadership skills and networking. Some drawbacks of Collegiate DECA that members shared with us were that they would not start a DECA chapter of their own, it would already need to be in place at their college. In addition, students said that they believe their school work or schedules would be too busy to make the

time commitment to DECA. Further results regarding the Collegiate DECA Questionnaire will be available soon.

To all our seniors DECA members, we hope that DECA has prepared you for your overall future. We wish you the best of luck in college, your career, and all your life experiences. Make the best of every opportunity....don't forget....we can always use judges at State Conference! Thanks for being part of our CT DECA Association!

Member Interviews

One of our state officers asked DECA members how their experience was at the State Conference this year. State Officers are always interested in what you want, how you feel, and ways we can improve your DECA experience! We asked DECA members for their honest opinions to a few questions regarding this year's state conference; some of their answers were:

Q. Is this your first time attending a State Career Development Conference?

A. "No, I went last year, so this is my second time."

Q. How do you like this year's conference opposed to last year's?

A. "There are a lot of new things to do during our down time... I really liked the photo-booth thing, and it was fun watching the karaoke, but I didn't do that myself."

Q. How would you rate this year's conference on a scale of one to ten?

A. I would rate it as an 8, but it would be higher if the weather had been a bit warmer.

Q. Are you planning on attending Orlando if you win, or to attend a leadership workshop?

A. Yea! Hopefully I win, my school usually attends ICDC and I would love the chance to go along!!

Q. If you could change one thing about this year's conference what you change and why?

A. Definitely bring back the breakfast in the morning, a lot of people from our chapter were hungry and didn't want to wait until the brunch to have something to eat or drink.





CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

The New Fairfield High School DECA Chapter has earned a moment in the Connecticut DECA spotlight through their extremely successful event, Mr. Rebel. The event was planned and organized by New Fairfield High School seniors Kristen Spiridon, Molly Helmes, Jessica Morin and supervised by their advisor, Mr. Thomas Scherf. The three girls began their project in early November and continued to work feverishly on the event until January. On January 6, 2011, six senior contestants competed for the title of Mr. Rebel in the high school's auditorium.

This male beauty pageant consisted of three different segments. First, the contestants needed to prove they could dance. In order to do this, they participated in a group dance, an individual dance, and a dance to a randomly selected song. Next, the boys needed to wow the crowd with some form of talent. This portion entertained the audience with anything from sign language to Irish dancing! The final portion of the competition consisted of an interview. Each competitor was asked, "What is your favorite thing about New Fairfield High School?", "What is your biggest flaw?" and "Why should you be crowned Mr. Rebel 2011?". Corey Lens proved to be the best and took home the title of Mr. Rebel 2011.

One of the biggest problems they faced while planning the event was the involvement of underclassmen boys. Since the creation of Mr. Rebel in 2005, the crown has always gone to a senior and due to this, many underclassmen males are reluctant to participate. In an effort to increase DECA involvement, the team created "Mini Competitions". During this portion of the program, underclassmen boys were asked to dress up, race across the stage in heels, and have their make-up done by another boy. The champion of the mini competition received a gift card to a local business.

Ticket sales for the Mr. Rebel festivities totaled 353 people and the chapter earned an astounding \$1,565! All of the money realized went to New Fairfield High School's DECA chapter and was used to reduce the costs of state and international competitions for DECA members. Kristen, Molly, and Jessica's hard work and dedication paid off at the annual Connecticut State Career Development Conference this year. Congratulations to the team for taking home first place in the *Learn and Earn* written competitive event!





Meet your new State Officer Team!



As this year's state officers' term winds down to an end, your new state officers for the 2011-2012 year have been elected at the 59th Annual State Career Development Conference. Officer candidates had to complete a series of tests, interviews, and speeches whose point values were combined with the ballots results to get a final score. The person with the top score is now your CT DECA State President, your second place scorer is your Vice President, and so forth.

In this newsletter you will be introduced to your new state officers. Next year's officer team consists of diverse students who are dedicated, enthusiastic, and passionate about DECA and they will guide CT DECA in the upcoming year and prepare us for our 60th Annual Career Development Conference next February. If you have any questions, suggestions, or want to congratulate your State officers, please contact them directly by email.

President



Kelsey Brennan



She presently serves as the Vice President of her DECA chapter at Brookfield High School, the Executive Treasurer of her school's student council and is an active participant in the community. She loves community involvement and being in leadership roles. She also enjoys Bikram yoga, recreational tennis, field hockey, kayaking and snowboarding. Kelsey states: *"I plan on pursuing a career in international marketing and DECA has already put me on the right path. In this position I will personify the values that DECA stands for: competence, innovation, integrity, and teamwork. I plan on uniting local DECA chapters in Connecticut to work and learn collaboratively through events and fun assignments, such as last year's scavenger hunt, that will encourage interaction amongst chapters. Also, I would like to get CT DECA involved in the Japan Tsunami and Earthquake Relief Fund and Global Water. I'd like to see us utilizing our marketing knowledge to promote charities like this and raise money for worthy causes. Additionally, I intend to make next year's 60th State Conference the best we've ever had."*

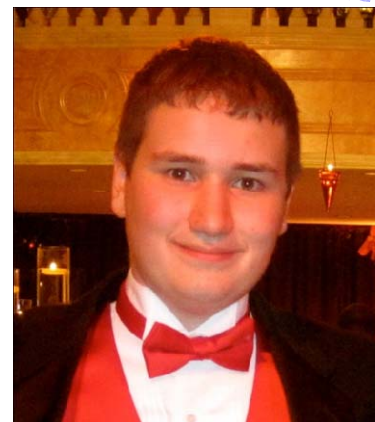
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Nicholas DiNardo

Nicholas has been a DECA member for only one year now, but tells us that DECA has been a major role in his family for generations now. He says: *"In my spare time, I hang out with my friends and family, and also play basketball, football, and volleyball for my school. I am a part of the SODEXO Board of Governors, and also, I am one of the Super Attendant's Sophomore Ambassadors. As far as CT DECA, I want to make it more of an open environment, where there is more communication between State Officers and local DECA chapters."* Nicholas believes that hard work and persistence will help him accomplish his goals. He is very excited to see what the new executive team can accomplish as state officers for next year.

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Vice-President



Secretary

Cristina Costa

She is a junior at Naugatuck High School and is on the high school swim team and plans to continue through her senior year. She works part time at a local grocery store and in her free time she helps support the Special Olympics. She plans to help DECA raise money so that more members will be able to participate. Cristina tells us: *"I am a hard worker and dedicated to the state executive team. I know that as a team we will be able to accomplish a lot and come up with great ideas. I am looking forward to a great year."*



Treasurer



Alphonse Catullo Jr.

He tell us that: *"I am a junior at Windham High School where I play many sports such as football, golf, and track and field. This is where I challenged myself by taking an AP College course and have received honors in all my classes so far this year."* His goal for the upcoming DECA year is that he and the officer team work to unite the local DECA chapters of Connecticut through social networking. He is looking forward for the 2011-2012 DECA year with enthusiasm and hopes for a prosperous year for all chapters.

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Blaise Boullianne

Blaise tells us: *"This is my first year in DECA and I am very excited to participate in competitions. I am a very hard worker and I am always persistent. I take pride in my work and always do my best. I came in third in the Food Marketing series at the state competition and I am planning on going to the national competition. I participate in community service whenever I can and I am in the financing club at my school. I am a varsity wrestler and a junior varsity cross country and track and field runner. I am looking forward to this next year in office and will do my best to help DECA."*

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Historian





*Make it an effort
of your DECA
chapter to help
the American Red
Cross. Their
efforts save
lives....you can
help.*



American Red Cross Efforts

In September 2010, the Connecticut DECA executive council was proud to announce that this year's charitable organization that we would focus upon would be the American Red Cross. On the American Red Cross website, it states that the Red Cross: "provides relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies." Throughout the year, the council has made extensive attempts to show its support for this honorable organization. Most importantly, the council wanted the local DECA chapters to be involved in supporting this organization.

Ms. Betty Dugan of the Connecticut American Red Cross met with the executive council in November so we could learn more about the organization and also discuss ways Connecticut DECA could become involved. Her suggestion was for us to get involved with the American Red Cross' Mail for Heroes project. The program collects holiday cards that are sent to soldiers who are fighting for our country. The council decided to turn this event into a friendly competition between the local DECA chapters. The chapter that created the most cards and sent them to Mr. Leete, our State DECA Advisor, before December 5, 2010 would be the winner.

The high schools that took part included Ansonia, Glastonbury, Hamden, Masuk, Southington, Notre Dame, Ridgefield, Shelton, Wethersfield and Windham. The state officer team also participated and made a total of 165 cards. A total of more than 3000 cards were created. All participating chapters were awarded certificates of appreciation at the state conference. Shelton High School was announced as the winner of the Mail for Heroes event by creating over 1000 cards. Marketing teacher and DECA advisor, Ms. Sherie Goldstein and her students turned this program into a school wide project. The DECA members encouraged all Shelton High School students to participate by promoting the Heroes event in home-rooms, the cafeteria, and during Parent-Teacher conferences. The chapter received a special award at the State Career Development Conference in March. The state executive council and Ms. Dugan were ecstatic about the number of schools and DECA members that participated.

Each year the Connecticut American Red Cross hosts a breakfast award ceremony called Heroes of the American Red Cross. This event honors a number of people whom are heroes in their communities across our state. There are four different Heroes of the American Red Cross ceremonies based on the different regions of Connecticut. They include Western Connecticut, Northern and Eastern Connecticut, Lower Fairfield County and New Haven County. As a team, your state officers helped find heroes that would be nominated for the honorable award. Individually, the officers have helped in preparation of the ceremony within their specific region and will be present at the individual regional awards ceremonies.

