

Spotlight on DECA

January 2011

Alumni Edition

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State Career Development Conference

It's hard to believe that it's already time to get ready for the State Career Development Conference. A weekend that quite literally has the potential to change the lives of many high school students. A weekend where months (sometimes years) of preparation and classroom learning gets put to the test. You know what I'm talking about - the intense stress of polishing off your written project. The nervous sweats in preparing for role-plays. The awesome adrenaline rush that comes with competition, and that nerve-wracking music adding to your already excited anticipation of the awards being announced.

Michigan DECA is expecting this year's conference to be our biggest yet, and we need your help to make it happen. Consider spending the weekend in Grand Rapids, helping DECA members from all over Michigan participate in the same experience you remember. Catch up with old friends, your DECA Advisor, and meet some new people along the way. We work hard, we play hard, and we always come away from the conference feeling like we've done something awesome - because we have. Don't let this year pass you by!

Registration information is on page 2, and the registration form is at the end of the newsletter. Remember - fully paid Life Members don't have to pay the registration fee - only the hotel costs!

What are some of the things Alumni Members help with?

Awards

Judging

Math & Economics Testing

Security

Alumni Booth

Registration & Conference Management



A Publication of Michigan DECA

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Articles and letters welcome for publication

The policy of the Michigan Association of DECA is that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, gender, marital status, weight, sexual orientation, sex or disability be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination, during any program, activity or in employment.

State Career Development Conference Registration Information

Registration Deadline:
February 11, 2011

March 18-21, 2011
Amway Grand Hotel, Grand Rapids

Housing

All hotel reservations must be received at Michigan DECA by February 11, 2011. They are to be prepaid and sent with the registration form included in this packet. Send your registration information and conference fees to Michigan Alumni DECA. Listed below is the complete registration information. There will be a \$10.00 late fee assessed to any registrations received after February 11th.

1. All rooms will be held for arrival after 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 18, 2011, and departure by 1:00 p.m. on Sunday March 20, 2011.
2. Each individual is responsible for their own incidental room charges.
3. No reservations will be accepted unless accompanied with full prepayment. Payment must be received, (not postmarked), by Michigan Alumni DECA by February 11, 2011.
4. You must be a paid Alumni Member to attend.
5. No refunds will be issued for cancellations.
6. Room keys will be distributed at the Alumni booth next to conference registration located behind the elevators. Room keys are not to be picked up at the front desk.

Room Rates

- Quad (4 per room) \$78.00 per person for two nights.
- Triple (3 per room) \$94.00 per person for two nights.
- Double (2 per room) \$115.00 per person for two nights.
- Single (1 per room) \$230.00 for two nights.

Conference Registration Fee

The non-refundable registration fee for the State CDC is \$40.00. This fee includes two meals, tickets to the hockey game and registration materials. As in the past, there is no registration fee for fully paid Life Members.

Financial Assistance to Alumni Members

Michigan Alumni DECA is pleased to announce that it will offer financial assistance to Alumni members attending the state conference. This assistance will be 10% off your lodging and registration fee for every year you have assisted, as an Alumni member, at a state conference up to a maximum 50%. Use the registration form to compute how much you may deduct from your conference costs.

Alumni Conference Activities

Some of the activities the Alumni members will be assisting with at the conference include: administering competitive events, judging, recruiting members, coordinating the award sessions, selling DECA related items, and distributing T-Shirts.

Homestretch to SCDC

Jarod Foshag '10-'11, Chairperson

The calendar year has just begun, which signifies the DECA year is coming to an end. We are now in the homestretch, with the State Career Development Conference in sight. It has been an exciting year. We have maintained our traditions with an Alumni Picnic and State Leadership Conference in Detroit, and are beginning a new tradition with the State Career Development Conference being held in Grand Rapids every other year. The Michigan Alumni Board of Directors has worked hard during the past year in anticipation of this moment. We are very eager to see what Grand Rapids has in store for us in March. I'm hoping that the change in location will bring some new faces to the conference, but I'm concerned we might lose some old friends from the Detroit area. The Board urges all of our regular Alumni members that have participated time and time again in Detroit to join us in Grand Rapids. Change is good, and we would hate to miss you. As for Alumni members on the west side of the state; if you have never joined us for SCDC, please consider it. Our northern Michigan Alumni are also very welcome to attend. The State Career Development Conference is the highlight

of our DECA year; it's a great weekend full of fun and making memories. SCDC is a very exciting time for Alumni; new members join us for the first time and the Board of Directors is elected. We are always looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new members.

Looking to get involved but can't make it to SCDC? Great! We always need help at the District conferences and the International Career Development Conference. We are always looking for more ways to keep in touch with members. If you can't make it to Grand Rapids due to location, never fear the State Career Development Conference will be back in Dearborn next year, but we need you to stay in touch until then. So keep up-to-date with Michigan Alumni DECA on Facebook. Join us for the Alumni picnic later this summer, and attend the State Leadership Conference in the fall. This year started off good, and I'm expecting it to end great! This will be a conference to remember; we are making Michigan DECA history!

Bring in the DECA New Year with us in Grand Rapids! It will be a time to remember!

Want to Make a Difference? Run for the Board of Directors

Jason Whiteson '00, Board Member

We need your help! Alumni DECA is in search of qualified, committed members to serve on the Board of Directors. It's not a difficult process, but there are some things that must be done. The requirements are simple: you must be a paid member in good standing, and have participated in at least one State Conference as an Alumni member. To run for the chairman of the board, you must have been active on the board for at least one year and give a speech at the time of elections at the state conference.

The process for being elected to the board is as follows, decision, application, elections, commitment. Before you fill out the application you must decide that you are willing to make the commitment of time to make the meetings, and write the required articles. That is approximately four meetings and four articles for *Spotlight on DECA - Alumni Edition* a year. The meeting locations are determined by the board of directors to make sure it's convenient for everyone. The Summer Picnic and State Conference are also required.

You can download an application at www.mideca.org. If you have any questions, feel free to contact any of the Board Members listed on page 5. Good Luck!

Planning Ahead: ICDC 2011

Laura LeVasseur: Saline High School '03



Each year DECA members vie for the opportunity to advance to the International Career Development Conference; the culmination of the DECA Calendar year. Through hard work and dedication, the best of the best are invited to participate among students from throughout the globe for the title of International Champion. As Alumni members, all of us remember what it's like to fight for this opportunity and many of us were privileged enough to make it to this glorious event during our high school years.

This year's conference will be held in sunny Orlando, Florida from April 29-May 4, 2011. As Alumni members, we have the opportunity to participate in the experience with DECA members and play a part in making this a truly "magical" experience for them. Much like the State Career Development Conference, Alumni members are given tasks to ensure the conference runs as smoothly as possible for Michigan DECA participants. This includes patrolling during Night Watch to ensure the students are following curfew standards, as well as providing assistance to the Michigan DECA Staff in whatever areas they may need you to provide a helping hand. This conference is another great opportunity for you to give back to this great organization and play a huge role in providing a

memorable experience for Michigan DECA members. One of the benefits of this particular International Career Development Conference is that it takes place in Orlando, FL. This gives you the chance to be a tourist as well, and visit all the sights and sounds that Orlando has to offer. New to Orlando in 2010, is the "Wizarding World of Harry Potter" at Universal Studios Islands of Adventure theme park. It features attractions, restaurants, and shops set inside such locations as the Forbidden Forest, Hogsmeade Village, and the iconic Hogwarts Castle. Another highlight is the Orlando treasure, "Walt Disney World". It features the Magic Kingdom, Epcot Center, Hollywood Studios and the Animal Kingdom theme parks; sure to offer many opportunities to explore and experience new attractions and shows.

Plan ahead and take the time to make a difference in the lives of DECA members by attending this year's International Career Development Conference. Several current Board of Directors members have attended this conference as an Alumni member, and would be happy to answer any questions you have about the conference. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us via email. Our contact information is listed on the Board of Directors' page of this newsletter. We hope to see you in April in sunny Orlando!

Now is the Time to Start Saving for Retirement

Lavey Edwards: Petoskey High School '02

With tax season upon us, it is also time to think about how much of your hard-earned income will be put away during 2011 to fund your retirement. Many twentysomethings (and even a few thirtysomethings) that I know have plenty of excuses as to why they “can’t” set aside money to save for retirement right now. This is the time of their lives where they just landed their first (or second) job after finishing their Bachelors or Masters degrees. Now that there is a steady income stream, the responsibility of managing their money comes to the forefront of any other obligations they have. Some of the excuses include: the mortgage on the new house, the cost of raising kids, not getting paid enough at work, needing a new car, putting off saving until they are older, not knowing how to invest, needing to pay off credit cards and/or student loans, and my personal favorite: really wanting to buy a new (fill in the blank)... This list could go on forever.

Saving for retirement may not be easy for some people, especially if they haven’t been in the habit of saving before. It’s kind of like trying to get to the gym and exercise to help lose those extra 5lbs you put on during the holidays. There never seems to be enough time to get around to it, and in the beginning, it can be pretty overwhelming.

Not saving for your retirement is a missed opportunity that you will never regain! The most important thing is to get started early on retirement. Set aside as much as you can, as soon as you can. The long-term growth and interest on the earnings you accumulate will make a huge difference during your lifetime.

Saving on a pre-tax basis in your employer’s retirement plan such as a 401(k), 403(b), or 457 allows you to reduce your current income tax liability and increase your retirement savings. You should consider contributing as much as allowable on a pre-tax basis to the plan, and try to contribute at least enough to take full advantage of any match that your employer may offer.

How much should you save for retirement? You can use the web as a source to help you determine your retirement needs. One site worth visiting is Choose to Save® (<http://www.choosetosave.org/>). This website helps to raise awareness about the need to plan and save for retirement. The site offers the “Ballpark E\$timate” a tool that helps you quickly determine approximately how much you need to save to fund a comfortable retirement.

What is the typical retirement age? Unless you are as well-off as Mark Zuckerberg, studies have shown that the typical age of retirement ranges anywhere from 60 to 74 years of age. At age 70, retirees can enjoy maximized social security benefits, and at age 70-1/2, retirees must begin to withdraw from their personal retirement accounts. Another thing to keep in mind is that while the retirement age to start receiving 401(k) and IRA distributions is 59-1/2, the minimum retirement age to start receiving social security benefits is 62. However, that doesn’t necessarily mean the person should retire at age 59-1/2 or age 62.

So when your boss hands you the retirement plan election form this year, please don’t throw it away or set it aside until next year. Take the time to really assess your budget and set aside some funds for your future. The current sacrifice will lead to long-term success!



Is This Your Passion?

Sean Warren: Westland John Glenn '03

The purpose of DECA Alumni is to provide support to Michigan DECA and its members. If this is your passion, then consider becoming a member of the Board of Directors.

There are great opportunities for our Alumni members to steer the direction of both the Alumni and high school associations. Members of the Michigan Alumni DECA Board of Directors work throughout the year to ensure events and conferences come together successfully. We also aid in the direct education of the high school division, which is an opportunity often missed for our Alumni members. It's easy to get excited when you're passionate about DECA and the positive influence this organization has on students and our own lives. DECA gave us direction when we needed it, and now DECA needs our direction!

As a member of the Board of Directors, you'll have access to exclusive events and functions reserved for the most dedicated members. There are numerous non-mandatory events that Board Members participate in throughout the year. We prepare and deliver the Competition 101 workshop at the State Leadership Conference, which gives students the point of view of a judge during competition. An event that is typically exclusive to prior State Officers is the State Officer Screening. At this event, all Board Members are invited to interview and evaluate candidates for the State Executive Council. The Board is also responsible for the design of the official t-shirt for the SCDC. In addition, we plan the Annual Picnic and many of the events that occur at the State Leadership Conference.

Now that you're excited to join the Board of Directors, are you eligible and prepared for the task? You are

eligible to pursue election to the Board if you've previously attended a State Career Development Conference and helped as Alumni or if you were a member of the State Executive Council/Officer Team. With any leadership position, being a member of the Alumni Board of Directors comes with responsibilities. There are four meetings during the year throughout Michigan, generally in Detroit, Lansing and Grand Rapids. Each Board Member is also responsible for preparing an article for the Alumni Spotlight on DECA.



2010-2011 Board of Directors

Sean Warren '03

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Lacey Edwards '02

lacey@grandwealth.com

Jarod Foshag '05 - Chairperson

jfoshag@yahoo.com

Laura LeVasseur '03

laura.levasseur@hyatt.com

Dave Wait '78 - State Director

dwait@emich.edu

734.487.DECA

Jason Whiteson '00

jwhiteson@hotmail.com

Member Spotlight: Brad Schmidt

Jason Whiteson: Milford High School '00

This edition's spotlight is on one of the nicest, kindest people you will ever meet, not only in DECA, but in life. This spotlight is on Brad Schmidt. So I asked Brad a few questions, and here are his answers!

Where did you go to high school?

I went to Roosevelt High School in Wyandotte.

What year did you graduate?

I graduated in 1997.

When did you get into DECA, and did you hold any offices?

I started in DECA in the fall of my freshman year, and got hooked. I haven't left yet. I was a chapter officer, a state officer in 1996-1997 (District 5 all the way!), and a National Officer Candidate.

Where did you go to college, and what degree(s) have you earned?

I went to Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI and have an A.S. and B.S. in Marketing.

What is your favorite food?

I really like Hungarian food...that's my favorite. Chicken Paprikas has got to be the most amazing dish ever concocted.

In your years of DECA, as a student, officer, alumnus, and staff member, do you have a favorite memory of any conference or meeting?

This is probably true for most of us Alumni...but my most outstanding memory is from the National (yes, it was just National back then) Career Development Conference my senior year of high school, in Anaheim, CA. I ran for Central Region Vice President, and though I lost, it was one of the most thrilling, life-changing experiences of my life. It took me a long time to get over the pain and disappointment of losing... but I'm glad. I really am. Losing helped shape me to be the man I am today, and I'm very happy with where my life has gone.

Different from the last question...but similar... what is your favorite conference to attend?

My favorite conference in general is the New York City Marketing Conference. It's something really special to be able to go to NYC and rub elbows with directors and vice presidents of marketing at places like the NBA, the NHL and ABC, and hear about the educational and career path they took to get to where they are...that's something you really can't get in a classroom. Even as a staff member I was blown away at the awesome educational experience that it was... and coordinating it - wow. I've made great connections with athletes' agents, the person responsible for the New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square, an incredible marketer for Broadway shows, and some really great people in high places at some of the major sports leagues. On top of all of that, New York City is an awesome place to visit.

What is your favorite color?

Green's my favorite color.

Do you have any ideas for the future of alumni DECA?

I think Michigan Alumni DECA is one of the most promising organizations out there. If we all gave just a little - judging a competition, donating \$10 or \$20 (or more), speaking in classrooms...we could make a huge impact on Michigan's future through the high school members. Serving in this way, all together, is work - but it's a TON of fun, and it brings you closer together with other Alumni members. Some of the friendships you form through this service can be pretty incredible.

How excited are you for this year's SCDC in Grand Rapids?

Grand Rapids is going to be great! The conference will be bigger and better than ever! Between the new place, the new schedule, a hockey game, and the opportunity for more DECA members to participate - we really can't go wrong.

Thank you Brad!



Membership Form

Life Membership: \$100.00

Michigan Alumni DECA members have the option to invest in a Life Membership. A Life Membership means just that - you're a member of Michigan Alumni DECA for life. No more membership dues. No more annual checks. Nothing to worry about. Life Members also have their State Conference registration fee waived - currently a savings of \$40 a year!

Life Membership Installment: \$25.00

With the installment plan, you can work toward your Life Membership over the course of five years. One payment of \$25.00 is due each year for five years. At the end of that time, you get all the benefits of a Life Membership.

One Year Membership: \$15.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Former Chapter: _____

Graduation Year: _____

Scholarship Donation (Optional)

Yes! I'd like to contribute to Alumni DECA's fund that provides travel scholarships to DECA members that qualify to compete at the International level. Amount: \$ _____

Michigan DECA is a 501(c)(3) educational association affiliated with Eastern Michigan University. Donations are tax-deductible.

Payment Options:

- Check enclosed - Make checks payable to "Michigan Alumni DECA"
- Please bill my Visa/MasterCard/Discover/American Express - **please note that this option is for Life Memberships, Installments & Scholarship Donations only.**

Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____

Signature: _____ Card Verification Number: _____
(three digit code from back of card)

Mail to: Michigan Alumni DECA
Eastern Michigan University
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Or Fax to: 734.487.4329

Questions? Call 734.487.DECA



State Conference Registration Form

Deadline: **February 11, 2011**

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: _____
 Former Chapter: _____
 Graduation Year: _____

Registration fee is \$40.00 per person. (There is no fee for fully paid life members.)
A \$10.00 late fee will be assessed for registrations received after February 11, 2011.

Room Rates are for two nights (Check option preferred) Roommate Requests:

- Quad (4 persons per room) - \$78.00 per person
- Triple (3 persons per room) - \$94.00 per person
- Double (2 persons per room) - \$115.00 per person
- Single (1 person per room. Max discount is \$70.00) - \$230.00

Lodging Expenses _____ + Registration Fee _____ = Subtotal _____

How to figure your discount: State Conferences you have assisted with as an alumni member:

_____ times 10 = _____ discount (Max disc is 50%) ~~When~~ the above subtotal = _____ Total Due

I plan on arriving at _____ (time). I would like to assist with _____.

Michigan Alumni DECA will need assistance on Friday afternoon. If it's possible, please try to arrange for arrival before 3:00 p.m. This is not required but merely a request. Thank you.

I would like a Board of Directors application.

Method of Payment: Check/Money Order Enclosed. *Make payable to Michigan Alumni DECA*
Please bill my Visa/MasterCard/Discover card:

Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____

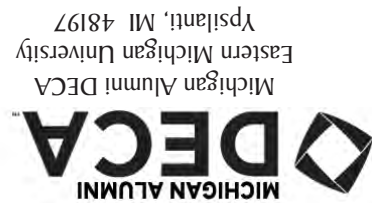
Signature: _____ Card Verficiation Number: _____
(three digit code from back of card)

Mail to: Michigan Alumni DECA
 Eastern Michigan University
 Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Or Fax to: 734.487.4329

Questions? Call 734.487.DECA

Address Service Requested



Spotlight on DECA

Alumni Edition

State Conference Registration

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