

# Distributor

"Virginia DECA... Daring to Dream!"

## WELCOME BACK!

By: Kirsten Bennett  
President

As the 2006-2007 school year commences, Virginia DECA kicks off another successful year. Last year, we surpassed the 12,000-member mark and preserved our title as the largest DECA state association, an honor Virginia DECA is proud to hold. As you begin this year, I would like to encourage each of you to take an active role as DECA members and take part in all the exciting events DECA offers its members and use all the skills learned throughout your marketing education to strengthen your community and reach your goals. Virginia DECA is eager to work closely with chapters, districts, members, and advisors to further the dynasty Virginia DECA has created for itself. As a way to excite everyone about Virginia DECA this year, we

have decided on a state theme that is truly inspiring. It's hard to explain a state organization that does so much for its members and the community. Virginia DECA equips its members with fundamental skills that will aid them the rest of their lives, as well as reaches out to the community to help others. Virginia DECA has always reached for the stars and surpassed their goals. DECA members are true visionaries who dream of making the stage at the International Career Development Conference, or becoming successful business professionals. People so innovative and daring are hard to describe. This year Virginia DECA is "Daring to Dream" not only of fulfilling and expanding their dynasty

of ex-

cellence but also of expanding their presence in the surrounding community and making DECA a positive force in the community. This year's Program of Work will set a frame for the local chapters to follow when developing their plans for the year. The state officers and I are excited to introduce to you our Program of Work, and this newsletter includes some of its highlights.

So, "Let the Adventure Begin" and explore all the possibilities available to you by DECA. I urge you to strive for excellence both in yourselves and in your peers, and promote a positive change in your area. Nothing is ever impossible, as long as you are... "Daring to Dream."



## Virginia DECA Sweeps Dallas!

By: Andy Andrews  
Northern Area VP

Why were there so many "Let's go Redskins" and "V-A" chants in Dallas, home of the Cowboys, this year? That's because Virginia DECA, the largest state contingency in DECA, was there for ICDC and they were not afraid to be proud! Virginia DECA had another record-breaking year at ICDC this year in Dallas. Our organization set an ambitious goal of having 100 Virginians to make the stage at ICDC, two more times than our previous record of 98. Virginia

DECA destroyed its goal, with 130 members making the stage in Dallas! Virginia had six top three finishes with Potomac Falls leading the way with three first place finishes! Virginia DECA would like to congratulate all who competed and participated at ICDC. Your hard work was apparent and you made Virginia proud. ICDC was fun and a great experience for all who attended and we hope to send even more people to Orlando this year! Highlights from Dallas included competitions, leadership

academies, the rodeo, and of course, the super dance. Talk to your advisor for more information about how to get your ticket to Orlando. We look forward to breaking even more records next year!

## Virginia DECA has a Myspace? By: Logan Kosloski

A Myspace profile for Virginia DECA has recently been created by your Virginia State Action Team! This Myspace will be used as a tool to help communicate with marketing students across the state of Virginia. This will allow Virginia DECA to reach a large number of members and inform you of any news, upcoming events, Virginia DECA Web site updates, promotions, and other DECA info. Also, Virginia DECA plans to use this site to market new products to DECA members that would help in promoting Virginia DECA. With

the new school year now underway, the Virginia State Action Team feels this will be an effective way to further interact with the chapters and active DECA members, which will in turn help in achieving many goals for Virginia DECA this year. Any current or previous DECA members are encouraged to check out Virginia DECA's Myspace profile. We hope that you will feel free to post comments or send messages with any concerns, questions, or just to let others know how much you love Virginia DECA. It is our hope that many stu-

dents across the state will use this site to gain information for the 2006-2007 school year! Make sure you check out our Myspace and add yourself and your school to our profile! Help us spread the word! (PS Keep it clean!)

[http://www.myspace.com/va\\_deca](http://www.myspace.com/va_deca)

We look forward to hearing from you!

## Virginia DECA Fundraisers! By: Matt Raper

Each year Virginia DECA raises money for the state Charity. This charity, The Virginia DECA foundation, supplies worthy DECA students with 10,000 in scholarships. In order to accumulate the funds required so Award you, Virginia DECA with scholarships, The Virginia DECA state action team has devised a plan that includes two key events.

The first event is one that you should be familiar with. Each year Virginia DECA holds their online D-BAY auction. This auction features items such as I-pods, Gift certificates, DVD players and much, much more. The auction has proven to be a great asset in the past, and last year raised over 2'700 dollars in support of our worthy cause. For more information visit [www.virginiadeca.com](http://www.virginiadeca.com) in the months to come, the website will soon feature a preview of D-bay. We thank you for your support in the past, and ask you to help us make this year's auction far surpass our expectations.

The second fundraiser will feature the sale of Virginia DECA flip-flops. These custom made flip flops feature DECA colors and the Virginia DECA emblem. Also, on all chapter orders shipping and handling is paid for in full by Virginia DECA, so promote these sales on a chapter level, and get your members involved. Please help us in making this new event a Great success, for more information visit [www.virginiadeca.com](http://www.virginiadeca.com)

Please aide us in raising money for this worthy cause, anything you can do, from bidding online in the D\_BAY auction, or buying a pair of Virginia DECA flip flops, will be a great contribution to Virginia DECA. Thank you for your past support, and help us to make this year the best year in Virginia DECA history.

DECA 2007...

## Project TLC! By: Jamil Snyder

This year Virginia DECA is Daring to reach out to people in our communities. To do so, DECA is teaming up with Community Outreach Programs to host a care package distribution. These care packages will be given to less fortunate families, all throughout the year, in the city of Franklin, Norfolk, and many other areas around Virginia. This project will be called operation TLC, also known as operation tender loving care. The care packages will consist of toiletries and other hygienic items. The plan is for each chapter across the state to collect at least 5 care packages and for those who are up to the challenge we will be presenting an award, at SLC, to the chapter who donates the most care packages! Chapters have two optional ways to turn in the packages: you may send the packages to Mr. Kosloski, at the address provided on the DECA Web site, or bring the packages with the chapter to the State Leadership Conference in Norfolk, Virginia, in March. If everyone does their part and helps out in making one care package then we believe this project will take off and really make a difference. For more information on Operation TLC, visit the DECA Web site or stay on the look out for more information that will be given out in the following months.

## Virginia DECA is alive and moving! By: Aaron Van Allen

Virginia DECA members are on the move for the 2006-2007 school year! Students have traveled all over the country in competitions, training conferences, and much more. Chapter officers have even been to many officer training conferences all over Virginia. Let's keep the name of this amazing organization alive and moving!

Have you ever been to a farm? Many members of Virginia DECA live in the cities, and have never really seen "southern" living. Well the students got a big taste of that as we all attended DECA Day at the State Fair. The State Action Team also informed students of many activities that will help *your* chapter participate in the program of work. Many students had the experience of trying the fried pickles and the fried Oreos! They also had the pleasure of getting to see farm animals and the smells that they bring along with them. Chapter officers work very hard to make sure that they stay on task inside their school and community, and looked to further their skills as they attended the Officer Training Conference in Roanoke and Richmond. Chapters in Virginia are going to be well represented, as we have seen them in action. Chapter officers went through three training workshops that were led by state officers. The workshops were Team Building, Leadership Development, and my personal favorite-Stepping Out of Your Comfort Zone. Go chapter officers, you guys are awesome!

Virginia DECA will soon be traveling to the Nation's capital for SoNAR (Southern/North Atlantic Region Leadership Conference) November 3-5. While there, you will get a tour of all the history and beauty of Washington, D.C. Also, participants will be able to hear from the amazing Ryan and Carrie Underwood. We will learn many skills that will help us development and mature as officers and members in leadership roles. These skills will be used to lead Virginia DECA and our surrounding communities in the right direction. Officers will learn skills such as competing in events, entrepreneurship, government representation, skills in running for office, and much more. Don't forget to send in your registration form for this amazing conference! Virginia DECA also has many upcoming events such as DECA day with the Washington Wizards and Nationals, the New York Experience, the Sports and Entertainments Conference, and District Competitions. Now let's not forget the STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE in Norfolk, Virginia! Let's not forget, also, the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida. Virginia DECA is the largest state association in the country and the largest in the history of the organization. The members and chapter officers are critical to the success of this amazing organization. Let's continue to move forward and show why Virginia DECA has the best student association in the country!

## Super Star! By: Kirsten Bennett

It is a tradition, for chapters with outstanding membership to show off their achievements by wearing glow stars at the State Leadership Conference. This year is no exception. We want every chapter to be shining at SLC this year, so Virginia DECA has made it possible for all chapters to shine regardless of size.

There are three ways for your chapter to be a superstar chapter, and you only have to meet one of the requirements. Here are three ways to receive glow stars to wear at SLC.

100% membership, regardless of the chapter's size

A 10% membership increase from last year's membership

If the chapter had over 100 members last year, just increase your membership by only 10 members.

Also, ***don't forget that professional, alumni, and advisor members count in your chapter's membership.*** Virginia DECA is known historically for having powerful membership, so we encourage each chapter to continue to grow and keep Virginia DECA number one! Be creative in your recruiting strategies with exciting activities that entice marketing students to join. Be sure to contact past DECA members who may want to continue supporting DECA even after they leave high school and offer membership to professionals or alumnus members in the area that are interested in all DECA has to offer. Start recruiting and have fun!



# Meet your State Officers



## Kirsten Bennett

President

Fairfax High School

Favorite DECA Moment: "Being announced as the VA DECA President. I was so excited I raced to the stage, in stiletto pumps, did a victory dance on stage and I could barely speak!"

I like long walks on the beach followed by a romantic dinner under the stars!

Talents: Competitive Dance

## Logan Kosloski

Eastern Area Vice President

Kempsville High School

All time favorite "DECA Moment"? Napoleon DECAmite at SLC

"During the summer I... Visited the Bahamas, went on a mission trip to Ticul, Mexico, and attended 2 weeks of service camp."

Favorite food: CHEESE!

## Nicole Imhof

Reporter

Chantilly High School

Fill in the blank, "During the summer I..." Looked at colleges, worked at a summer camp and enjoyed the sun!"

## Jessica Thomas

Secretary

Stone Bridge High School

Other school activities that you take part in? Track and Field

## Matt Raper

Executive Vice President

Clarke County High School

Fill in the blank, During the summer I... "Hung out with my friends!"

## Jamil Snyderl

Historian

Broad Run High School

Favorite after school snack? Everybody loves Ice cream!

## Andy Andrews

Northern Area Vice President

Dominion High School

Favorite subject in school? Marketing and History.

Favorite band? Brand New

Favorite Movie: Fight Club

Favorite Food: Spaghetti

Has 9 athletic varsity letters

## Aaron Van Allen

Western Area Vice President

Tunstall High School

Fill in the blank ,During the summer I... "went to the beach, chilled with all my friends, and spent time taking on my DECA responsibilities."

Favorite Food: Sesame Chicken and Nutty Bars

My passion: Playing Baseball!