WELCOME BACK!
By: Bobby Hobbs

As we begin the new year, Virginia DECA takes the rank of the LARGEST state association in the United States. Our large number of winners at the International Career Development Conference (most participants in the country) secured our status as a DECA dynasty, and it is up to you this year to strive for excellence and uphold Virginia DECA’s legendary tradition of excellence. I and the other members of this year’s State Action Team are looking forward to working with chapters across the state, and I am positive this year will be one of the most successful in Virginia DECA’s history. It is also my pleasure to inform you that Virginia DECA has the opportunity this year to bring back an important piece of DECA history. In 1937 a group of Waynesboro businessmen decided that a community-wide training course was needed to educate workers in retail selling, merchandising, display, advertising, and management. They extended a request to Miss Louise Bernard, already well known in the national retail field, to organize and teach these classes. These classes attracted the attention of the Virginia Department of Education, and Miss Bernard was called to Richmond to establish Distributive Education in High schools. At this point DECA was born. Upon DECA’s introduction to public school systems, Waynesboro, the birthplace of DECA, constructed four signs in the shape of a Diamond, and posted them at each of the four entrances to the city. This past summer while the State Action Team was meeting; the teachers journeyed to Waynesboro and made a grim discovery. The Signs had been taken down, and the local Waynesboro High School no longer has a DECA chapter. As part of this year’s program of work, Virginia DECA will put forth an effort to redesign the signs, and have them re-posted at a ceremony on Virginia DECA Day.

The year is just beginning, and New Frontiers are just over the horizon. I urge all of you to work up to your potential; I know we can set the bar higher and once again outperform every other state in the U.S.! It is up to you this year to get involved and...EXCEED EXPECTATIONS!

The 2005-2006 Program of Work
By: David Adams

Virginia DECA has exciting plans for this year. Four main arenas of interest have been included in the program of work, which include Membership/Involvement, New Awards, State Charity, and some good old Historical Preservation.

In the tradition of increasing membership, it has
been decided that it is paramount to promote involvement at the local level. To help encourage involvement at this critical stage, Virginia DECA is challenging every district to have a Fall Rally. Each district needs to do something to kick off the competitive season and get students excited about competing. This is where the Fall Rally is crucial.

Another aspect of increasing involvement is the creation of a video, which highlights the exciting opportunities, offered through DECA. This video will be a useful tool to increase involvement among current members as well as to recruit new ones. The video will be available online upon completion. So remember, if we are to reach the 13,000 member mark, we all need to help recruit new members.

The fun continues. Virginia DECA has decided to continue the Superstar recognition. See page 3 for more information. A new award has been created and titled the District Recognition Award. This award will honor those districts that participate in fall rallies and have high chapter participation. We hope that these awards will inspire the excellence that we have all come to expect from Virginia DECA.

A third aspect of our program of work is the support of the state charity. The Foundation provides funding for the scholarships awarded each year to deserving members. Providing for the Virginia DECA Foundation allows you to give back to the organization that means so much to all of us. Virginia DECA will continue to honor the chapters that donate the most money to the Foundation. The top contributing chapter(s) will be recognized and rewarded at SLC. Contributions will be tallied on a PER MEMBER basis to ensure fairness to both large and small chapters. Part two of the initiative is for Virginia DECA to host an online auction, with all proceeds to go to the Virginia DECA Foundation. Corporate sponsors are being solicited for donations, and Virginia DECA should have some very nice items to auction for the holidays! For more information about the state charity check out the website at http://www.lions2.odu.edu/org/deca/students/charity.html.

DECA feels strongly about preserving its heritage, so when it was discovered that Waynesboro, the historic home of DECA, had forgotten its important place in history we decided to help. Local officials have been located that might be willing to reconstruct the signs that once proudly graced the town’s entrances. Efforts have also been started for reinstating the Waynesboro DECA chapter. We hope that by saving our history, we can ensure our future.

For more DECA fun check out the message board at http://www.lions2.odu.edu/org/deca/contact/messageboard.html

Congratulations, Jen Vaziralli!
New DECA National President!!

Chapter Involvement
By: Nana Boateng

An important part of being a DECA member is getting involved with the activities your chapter has to offer. This means motivating yourself and your fellow DECA members to partake in exciting programs your chapter has lined up. This can start by simply attending meetings and bringing ideas that can help your chapter not only grow, but maintain its membership. For example, If your DECA chapter organizes an exciting promotion for Virginia DECA Day, try your hardest to be a part of it, whether it is organizing the event or...
introducing new people to what DECA has to offer. Getting involved in DECA activities does not stop with just your chapter members; it can mean organizing a fun-filled day with other members in your district. You can start out by contacting your District Advisor or District President. He or she can help you develop programs and events designed to bring chapters in the same district together. For instance, rather than raise money for the state charity with your individual chapters you can use the help of your district advisor and your district president to develop a district-wide fundraiser for the state charity. Getting involved can mean organizing a large fundraiser with your whole district or simply arranging a small car wash with your chapter. As DECA members, it is your obligation to be involved in your chapter activities.

Officer Training Conference
By: Kiara Girkins

Congratulations to all the new 2005-2006 district and chapter officers! As the new school year begins, the state officers would like to invite you to one of the state sponsored Officer Training Conferences to be held in October. The first date will be October 1 at Hollins University and the second in Richmond on October 15. Explore effective techniques to become better leaders, and learn ways to get your chapters more involved in DECA! Remember that registration is due by September 27. We hope that you will join us as you begin your journey towards Exceeding Expectations!

Award for Civic Consciousness
By: David Adams

Civic Consciousness is an integral part of Virginia DECA, as well as one of the four principles that DECA is built upon. As a result, the chapters that show the most effort in this area will be recognized and awarded at SLC. The awards will be presented based on the chapter that puts forth the most total community service hours per member. Start tracking your community service hours right now! The tracking period begins August 1, 2005, and ends on January 15, 2006. To apply for this award, document the total number of community service hours performed by your paid chapter members. They must be members of Virginia DECA for their hours to count toward this award. To document your hours complete the application posted at http://www.lions2.odu.edu/org/deca/students/pow.html. It includes:

* A list of each activity your chapter has performed throughout the time period. Activities must be DECA activities supported by your chapter. For example, if someone does community service through another organization, it could not be counted.

* A brief description of each activity, as well as how many members were involved in the activity.

* A place to tally up your total hours. Your total eligible hours will be divided by the number of members you have, again, giving use an hours per member ratio. This will make the award competitive for big and small chapters alike.

* All chapter advisors must sign the documentation.

* Submit the documentation to Virginia DECA. For more information go online to http://www.lions2.odu.edu/org/deca/students/pow.html.

Super Star Award
By: Allen Eickelberg

Building on the success from last year, Virginia DECA will be promoting the Superstar Award once again for the 2006 State Leadership Conference.

Visit Virginia DECA online at http://www.virginiadeca.com
National DECA: http://www.deca.org/
This award recognizes growing chapters for their monumental achievements in recruiting new chapter members. Chapters will be presented with glow stars for each of its SLC attending members to proudly wear. In order to receive this award, chapters must increase membership by 10% from the previous year (or by 10 members for chapters over 100), or 100%.

Continued growth is necessary in order to maintain our title as the largest state association in the nation. Virginia DECA wants to see everyone with a Superstar Award.

District Recognition
By: Bryce Kunz

This year Virginia DECA will institute a District Recognition Award in order to acknowledge outstanding districts throughout the State. The requirements, although simple, will require effort and planning. First, a district activity must take place that includes 50% participation. Second, the activity must raise a minimum of $250 for the State Charity. Finally, this activity must be one other than your DLC. We recommend that the Districts hold this event during DECA week; however, this is left up to the district leadership. An idea for the activity might be a car wash, which would involve several chapters. Again, brainstorming and arranging the activity is up to the district leadership. We do believe that this award will promote DECA at the district level. Please help Virginia DECA to Exceed Expectations by going for it, and in the process, earning the District Recognition Award. Good Luck!

13,000 member mark
11,500 member mark
Can we make it to 13,000 members? I know we can with your help!

Exceeding Expectations
By: Tina Duong

There are two kinds of people in the world. There are those who choose to meet the minimum and only do what they’re asked, never going above and beyond and finding pleasure in just being doing well. Others, those who prevail in life choose to exceed expectations! These are your future leaders, those who work hard and only accept what they know is their best work. Those who’s only desire is to meet their objective and only take what life throws at them will soon find that as the days go by, life will throw many curve balls. Just meeting one’s objectives sets limits, lowers standards and dulls the purpose of life, a life full of “what ifs?” or simply being labeled as just average.

Exceeding expectations opens opportunities, allowing a bright future and something to actually look forward to. That incredible boost of confidence, the thrill of knowing that what you’ve just done is your best effort is completely worth that little “Wahoo” we all know you want to shout out! DECA is offering you that chance, the chance to exceed expectations! To realize that meeting the objective and only doing what you’re asked isn’t what takes you to the pinnacle of your existence. No matter how many curve balls life throws at you, by exceeding expectations you will soon realize what truly defines your character, and that the word average doesn’t belong in your vocabulary. DECA challenges you to constantly put forth your best effort by not just meeting the objectives but exceeding expectations!
State Officer Biographies

Hello, my name is **Bobby Hobbs** and I am your new President. My favorite color is **blue** and I believe that the best food ever is a steak and cheese sub. In the future I desire to attend college at the University of Virginia, which I hope will help me in my future career goals. I also love to play soccer.

My name is **Allen Eickelberg** and I am your Executive Vice President. My favorite color is **blue** and the best food in the world is a steak and cheese made fresh in Philly. In the future I plan to attend college at Virginia Tech, which I hope will help me in my future career goal of being an advertising firm owner. I also love to play guitar.

**Nana Boateng** has been a member of Virginia DECA since her freshman year, and currently serves as Northern Area President. She is a senior at Heritage High School, in Leesburg Virginia, and hopes to attend University of Virginia in fall of 2006. Besides DECA activities, she is also involved with a group called **Friends without Borders**: a group, which focuses on the different cultures of the residents in her community. Her favorite foods include just about anything African, or spicy. She loves to watch American football, and enjoys playing basketball, soccer and volleyball, and adores any shade of **green**.

My name is **Bryce Kunz** and I am your Western Area Vice President. My favorite color is **blue** and my favorite food is definitely lasagna. In the future I hope to attend college at BYU or the University of Utah. I desire to have a career in either law or business management. I have many hobbies that occupy my time, including boy scouts, sleeping, football, track, and reading.

My name is **David Adams**, and I am your State Reporter. So that everyone knows a little bit about me, I like Krispy Kreme doughnuts; I plan to attend William and Mary to study business management, and following college I plan to attend law school. With a degree in both business management and law, I don’t know what kind of job I will get, quite possibly corporate law. My hobbies include rowing crew, as well as playing soccer and volleyball.

Greetings, my name is **Kiara Girkins** and I am your DECA State Historian. My favorite color is **blue** or maybe **hot pink** and my favorite food is something either Mexican or Italian. In the future I hope to attend college at UCLA, which I hope will help me to become a CEO of a Marketing/Advertising firm. As an alternative I would love to stay involved with Young Life, a Christian Youth organization, and become a leader.

My name is **Tina Duong** and I am your DECA State Secretary. My favorite food is pasta; I love all types of pasta. I enjoy playing volleyball, it is so exciting and fun, and plus, I am really good. I am also the captain of the team at Dominion High School of Loudon County. I am active and enjoy athletics; my hobbies are volleyball and lacrosse.