



# THE DIAMOND

Washington DECA's Newsletter

EDITION 7



FEBRUARY 2024

## THIS EDITION AT A GLANCE

Upcoming Events, Today's Quote, SCDC Checklist, Message from a Mission Team, Level Up Your Presentation, Leadership Skills, DECA-ccomplishments, Resources

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**FEB 21**

Scholarship Letters and Survey Due

**FEB 29 - MAR 2**

State Career Development Conference!

### TODAY'S QUOTE:

**"TRYING AND FAILING ISN'T THE WORST. IT'S NOT TRYING AT ALL."**

**~AUDREY TAN**

## SCDC CHECKLIST

Washington DECA's State Career Development Conference is right around the corner, and it's our biggest SCDC ever! But as everyone knows, the number one tip for competition is that preparation is key. And that includes having everything you need for success! So before you head off to Bellevue, make sure you have the following items:

- DECA business professional clothing
- A raincoat or umbrella
- Presentation materials (computer, charging cords, etc. if applicable)
- Sewing kit
- Blister patches/band-aids/medical supplies
- Water bottle
- Portable steamer (or use your hotel's iron)
- Toiletries
- A positive mindset!



Best of luck to all of you this year at SCDC, and make the most of your DECA experience!

## MESSAGE FROM A MISSION TEAM

Hello, Washington DECA members! It's that time of year! All your hard work and dedication has culminated to these next few weeks as you watch the fruits of your labor bloom into fruition!

As you prepare for SCDC, please remember to rest up. This idea includes eating healthy and well, sleeping at least 8 hours a night, and exercising when you can. Competition is often dependent on how you feel that day so it's important to make sure you feel amazing. Furthermore, continue to use LearnDECA as well as the help of those around you to prepare for your role-play or paper presentations. Good luck!

Written by:

Audrey Tan (23-24 Area 11 President),  
Caitlin Pham (23-24 Area 10 President),  
Ferrah Capas (23-24 Area 7 President)



## LEVEL UP YOUR PRESENTATION

It's ten minutes before your competition starts, and you are a train wreck of nerves.

**Stop right there.** Your competition is already doomed before it ever began. But never fear! Here are our five top tips to level up your presentation in 60 seconds.

1. Never seem nervous, even when you're not in the judging room. Mind over matter. **If you act like you're going to be all right, you will be.** Keep your mindset in shape even if your competition hasn't officially begun yet.
2. Speak loudly and **enunciate**. If your judge can't understand what you're saying, you're already off to a bad start.
3. Start strong with a happy greeting. Honestly, by the time you enter that room, your judge will probably be sleep-deprived and in need of caffeine. Make sure you're **unforgettable** from the start.
4. Close strong. Remember, the judge might not remember everything that you say, but **they will remember how you made them feel**. Make your parting words **powerful** and **meaningful**.
5. Messed up? Never fear! Remember, your judge doesn't know what you were planning on saying, they just know what you did say. So, if you fumble your words, don't apologize and draw more attention to it. Just **carry on, and they'll forget all about it**.

But perhaps most of all? Remember that winning isn't about walking on stage: **it's about leaving this conference better than you entered it.** And that *will* happen, no matter what. Best of luck to all of you at SCDC, and remember: confidence is everything!

Written by Caitlin Pham, 23-24 Area 10 President

## **LEADERSHIP'S LEADERSHIP SKILL FOCUS**

*Flexibility (flek-sə-'bi-lə-tē) - noun: a ready capability to adapt to new, different, or changing requirements*

It's been one of those days. The night before your chapter's community service project date, half of the volunteers canceled, it's going to rain tomorrow, your advisor had to go out of town in an emergency, and you're this close to snapping.

But for every problem, there's always a solution. You get your little siblings to fill in for the volunteers, move the project indoors instead, and find a different adult to supervise. It's okay for things to go wrong, because if you think hard enough, there's a way around it. Flexibility is one of the hardest and most necessary traits of a good leader—so remember that the next time your best laid plans start to crumble around you.

(story may or may not be based on true events)

Written by Caitlin Pham, 23-24 Area 10 President

## **WASHINGTON DECA ADVISOR: MRS. NICOLE LARSON**



**“Mrs. Larson is a supportive, kind, considerate, and dedicated advisor. She does everything in her power to give DECA members the best experience possible, our chapter would not be the same without her!”**

### **We want to hear from YOU!**

Do you have an amazing member, chapter, advisor, or SBE? Get them recognized by filling out this five-minute survey!

**<https://forms.gle/BYAPyTnA8BQH3o57>**

The most amazing DECA-ccomplishments from across the state will be featured on social media and in this newsletter section!

**Fill it out today!**

# YOU ASKED. WE ANSWERED

We asked Washington DECA students across the state for their questions and feedback! Here was one of the best:

“Where can I go to prepare for DECA competition?”

-Sarah French, Area 10

Answer: Check out the Learn DECA website at <https://wadeca.org/learndeca> to find a competition mentor series, role-play tips, written event formatting, and more! DM your Area President for the password!

## QUESTIONS + FEEDBACK?

Send them to

<https://forms.gle/zPRPjTgUXjwAvFchA>



## RESOURCES

DECA:  
@decainc

WA DECA:  
@washingtondeca

State President:  
@wadecaprez

<https://www.wadeca.org/funddeca>

Area 1:  
@area1deca

Area 2:  
@area2deca

Area 3:  
@area3deca

DECA+

Area 4:  
@area4deca

Area 5:  
@area5deca

Area 6:  
@area6deca

<https://www.shopdeca.org>

Area 7:  
@area7deca

Area 8:  
@area8deca

Area 9:  
@area9wadeca

<https://www.decadirect.org>

Area 10:  
@area10deca

Area 11:  
@area11deca

Western  
Region:  
@decawrvp

<https://wadeca.org/state-officers>