

Successful State DECA Competition Leads To National Competition For UHS Students

In addition to all 22 UHS students finishing in the top 10 of their events, 10 students qualified for the National DECA Competition taking place in Nashville this April

URBANDALE, Iowa – March 4, 2016 – Welcoming over 460 competitors in over 25 different Career and Marketing Events, the State DECA Competition is in a class of its own in preparing students for college and career. Critical thinking, collaboration, communication and presentation skills were in high demand as 22 [Urbandale High School](#) students demonstrated leadership, poise and expertise leading to all 22 UHS students finishing in the top 10 of their events.

“DECA is a great organization that helps better prepare our students for business, careers, and gives them real-world experiences,” said UHS Marketing Teacher and DECA Advisor Dave White.



[Iowa DECA](#) is a Career and Technical Student Organization which prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. In order to compete with expertise and proficiency, students apply concepts and skills learned in their UHS Marketing course as well as optional marketing, finance and hospitality practice tests and role play scenarios available through online resources.

“DECA is a great experience as I got to meet a lot of people from all different schools,” said UHS student Emily DeDoncker. “I really enjoyed doing a presentation and learning about finance.”

In addition to all 22 students finishing in the top 10 of their events, the following 10 students qualified for the National DECA Competition taking place in Nashville this April: Spencer Hotovec, Devan Fisher, Dalton Nelson, John Heinrich, Sydney Smetzer, Emily DeDoncker, Tyler Harms, Billie Mottet, Quinn Dannenfeldt and Nic Scharingson. The following students received Honorable Mentions: Luke Gilkeson, Josh Richards, JT Cox, Ethan Lebeda, Jenna Emerson and Kyle Hart.

“DECA has improved my communication and presentation skills and taught me how to think on my feet,” said UHS student Spencer Hotovec.

The Urbandale Community School District congratulates these 22 students for their outstanding demonstration of 21st century skills during the State DECA Competition and wishes the best of luck to the 10 UHS students headed to the National Competition next month. To learn more about how Urbandale is transforming education, visit: UrbandaleSchools.com

About Iowa DECA

Iowa DECA is a Career & Technical Student Organization which prepares emerging leaders & entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality & management in high schools and colleges around the globe. In 1957, Iowa DECA received its charter from National DECA in Oklahoma City, OK. At the time, Iowa had five charter chapters— Council Bluffs, Sioux City, Iowa City, Algona and Hampton. The total membership of these 5 charter chapters was 86. Iowa DECA currently has 30+ chapters throughout Iowa and is divided into 3 districts with each chapter coordinated and supervised by a Chapter Advisor. Iowa DECA is affiliated and governed by DECA Inc. which is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit student organization with more than 200,000 members in all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Canada, China, Germany, Guam, Hong Kong, Korea, Mexico and Puerto Rico. The United States Congress, The United States Department of Education and state, district and international departments of education authorize DECA’s programs. For more information about Iowa DECA visit: <http://iadeca.org>

About Urbandale Community School District

The Urbandale Community School District includes portions of Des Moines and Urbandale, Iowa. The district serves over 3,900 students in six elementary schools, one middle school and one comprehensive high school. The Urbandale district supports an increasingly diverse student population where 51 languages are spoken. Building on the existing foundation of excellence in education, Urbandale is transforming education throughout the district. By implementing innovative [Quality/Continual Improvement](#) strategies that create learning environments that more fully engage, challenge and motivate students, Urbandale is taking transformation from theory into practice. Urbandale prepares students for becoming lifelong learners and is a school district that brings learning to life for everyone. To learn more, visit: UrbandaleSchools.com and follow on Twitter [@UrbandaleSchool](#).

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