YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN CHARGE
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Junior Editor's Report

Why I am Running for DECA President

By Dayanis Morales-Salgado – Norristown Chapter

The 2022-2023 school year has been my first year being a part of DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America), and I have grown to love it. You don't pick DECA; DECA picks you. Then, before you know it, you somehow end up at Disney World hanging out with all your friends and enjoying adolescence. But, of course, before you get to that stage, you need to go through a series of competitions and need a leader to help you achieve that. As a potential candidate for this position, I want to be able to improve the DECA experience to everyone and together be able to #ExperienceTheDifference.

What is DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America)? According to its mission statement, DECA "Prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe." Many people have come to think of DECA as only business and, therefore, boring. They create a stereotypical assumption which causes them to not be able to see the full scope of the organization. However, DECA is so much more than all business. It's not just another club; it's a family that comes together to succeed and create everlasting memories. Many non-DECA members have not experienced the spiritual journey that DECA embodies. Upcoming members and existing members need a leader who will represent them, help them grow as individuals, and help them make it to ICDC (International Career Development Conference), which is the culmination of the DECA year. I'd like to run for the position of Norristown Area School District (NASD) DECA President for the 2023-2024 school year because of my many abilities and passion for the club.

I decided to run for President; because in my everyday life, I set high standards for myself and strive for success. I know that I can help our chapter to do its very best with the dedication, love, and determination I am willing to put forth into making NASD DECA more recognized and united. I want to prove to those who give us a bad reputation that not all of us are who they think we are by getting involved in the community and bringing back a DECA Glass Award. While I have never had a leadership position, I know I will do a good job; because this past year, DECA activities have helped me develop my business and leadership skills. With a leadership position, many responsibilities and expectations are required; and I fully understand that. If I am elected as President, I know I will help the club and our members be more successful.

In the position of President, I will work to increase our membership with industrious individuals in order to have more representatives and attend competitions giving us more opportunities to win. An advisor could provide a member with as many exams and study materials as possible; but if the student goes home and does not have a comfortable study environment, due to personal reasons, their performance

may be affected. As a result, they will most likely not want to participate in upcoming competitions or events, ultimately deciding to not be part of DECA anymore. This is why I hope to be able to provide members with an environment that is welcoming and supportive, which includes giving them more time to do mock scenarios and practice, helping them to be more knowledgeable in their events. In addition, our school does not provide us with enough financial resources.

As a result, through chapter campaigns and fundraisers, I intend to increase our resources so we can further expand. Another goal is to have more team-bonding activities to encourage more interaction between upper and underclassmen since they are rarely in the same room together. Furthermore, I want to improve the DECA experience by having it run through the summer. This can mean many things: spending time together socially; performing community service; or having fundraisers, such as a car wash, to boost our profits.

As a capable student leader, I am willing to serve and grow our chapter!