

PRESS RELEASE



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Foothill DECA Takes Home Many Awards at State Conference

60 Students Compete at the State Career Development Conference

[Anaheim, California, February 28-March 3, 2019]: Foothill High School DECA students in Pleasanton competed at the State Career Development Conference in Anaheim, California from February 28th through March 3rd and earned 73 awards total, with multiple students placing in more than one category. There were a total of 13 overall (including a combination of a presentation or two, a test, and/or a written report) 1st-4th-place winners who earned a spot to compete at the International Career Development Conference in April in Orlando, Florida.



Foothill DECA Chapter Photo at California SCDC

**All Photos Courtesy of Student Photographer*

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The following Foothill students will be advancing to the International Career Development Conference in Orlando.

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| Ananth Kumar | Business Services Marketing – 1 st |
| Rhea Nirkondar | Business Growth Plan – 2 nd |
| Noelle Simmons | Business Growth Plan – 2 nd |
| Rithvik Sunku | Hotel and Lodging Management – 1 st |
| Grace Kim | Integrated Marketing Communications Plan – 2 nd |
| Isabella Pang | Integrated Marketing Communications Plan – 2 nd |
| Simone Pereira | Integrated Marketing Communications Plan – 2 nd |
| Trinity Chang | Integrated Marketing Communications Plan – 1 st |
| Kylie Maeda | Integrated Marketing Communications Plan – 1 st |
| Jacob Bolano | Integrated Marketing Communications Plan – 1 st |
| Mihir Weling | Quick Service Restaurant Management– 1 st |
| Nathan Williams | Sports & Entertainment Marketing – 4 th |
| Dylan Zhou | Sports & Entertainment Marketing – 4 th |
| Sidhi Dhawan | Business Law and Ethics -- 6 th |
| Keyana Bahadori | Business Law and Ethics -- 6 th |

Brandon Ricci, Director of Technology said that “DECA has helped me in all aspects of life to become an emerging leader in the business world. Coming to high school, not knowing what I wanted to do with the next 4 years of my life, DECA was the perfect place to be. DECA created a family-like atmosphere for a kid who didn’t know where to go and that is something I will always be thankful for.”



Competitor at SCDC from Foothill DECA, Keyana Bahadori said “State SCDC was better than NorCal because students get to network with more people which is something that DECA taught me.”

Tadeh Sarkis won CA DECA Alumni of the Year (pictured in the middle). Foothill DECA is very fortunate to have passionate and dedicated alumni, advisor, and chaperones.

Ananth Kumar said "Although it was my final state conference as a competitor, this year's State Career Development Conference was one of the best ones yet. Not only did more than 10 competitors from Foothill qualify to compete at the international conference in April, but Foothill DECA grew closer as a whole. From Disney adventures to long bus rides to birthday



celebrations, this year's SCDCC was definitely one to remember."

Mihir Weling, Co-President of Foothill DECA said "There's always some anxiousness going to a DECA conference, but as my last state conference, this one felt a bit more sentimental. I'm incredibly proud and grateful to be a part of this Foothill DECA family. As a result of our talented officer team and member's hard work, everyone at this conference surpassed my expectations. I'm looking forward to competing at ICDC!"

Jacob Bolano, Vice President of Chapter Management for Foothill DECA said "I think that Foothill DECA performed well at states. Many of our competitors enjoyed the experience and 25% of competitors qualified for ICDC. I had a fun break from school and look forward to competing at ICDC with my partners."



Kylie Maeda, Administrative Assistant for Foothill DECA said “This year’s state conference was one I will never forget and I am so thankful to have taken part in this incredible event. Through the guidance of my peers and my advisor, Mrs. Raaker, I have learned so much about what it means to be a leader. DECA has opened up many opportunities for me and this conference was a great way for students to expand their communication and competition skills.”

Rithvik Sunku, Co-President of Foothill DECA said “DECA became an outlet to apply my classroom learning while growing as a leader and a business professional in the process. Given that this conference was for most of our seniors the end of their DECA journey, I am confident that they are well equipped with the skills needed to succeed in the next chapter of their life – skills that many think are unattainable for high school students.”



Through this conference Foothill DECA has grown as a chapter and progressed to develop our competitive skills and integrity.



Foothill DECA Chapter Photo

DECA is a career technical student organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

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