

Siddharth Moghe

DECA Testimony

No other organization has impacted my life in such a unique and profound manner as DECA. When I participated in the State Conference as a sophomore, I realized that each of the role-plays and scenarios required me place myself in the position of a leader. I believe that the ideals and values instilled through DECA prepare an individual for the future, where they can apply these leadership skills to a vast array of areas. I can say with complete confidence that DECA has made me a stronger student, presenter, and leader.

A prime example of DECA's true power is its multifaceted and interdisciplinary structure. My best friend and I worked together and wrote a DECA business plan centered around marketing a microbial fuel cell for private customers. Here, I found a way to combine the business knowledge I learned in my accounting class, with the sustainable values emphasized in my AP Environmental Science class.

I honed my speaking skills through the oral presentation, and I enjoyed combining the technical, analytical, and communicative skills while writing our proposal, and it was through this process that I realized that I wanted to further my study in the field of sustainable business. The Oregon Employment Department in a 2008 Employer Survey cited Interpersonal, Problem Solving & Critical Thinking, and Leadership skills under Skills that Employers want. By competing in Entrepreneurship Written at the State and International level, I improved each of these vital skills.

DECA also serves as a platform for allowing students to achieve their true leadership potentials. As the former State President for Oregon DECA, I have come across countless chapter officers working hard in their local chapters, organizing fundraisers and practices for the state and international conferences. My state officer team and I also had the opportunity to network with state officers from across the nation at the Emerging Leader Summit.

A vote in favor of this bill will ensure that students across the state of Oregon will have the means to pursue and discover their true passions and potentials. With the Oregon organization consisting of over a thousand dedicated members, aid will only make the organization stronger and extend DECA's expansive impact to more aspiring individuals.