



As we look forward to the challenges of a new school year, I wanted to take a moment to briefly recap the accomplishments of last year which was one of GA DECA's best. We marked our international student participation with our first 1st place winning team (Hospitality & Tourism Operations Research), and three 2nd place student winners in Entrepreneurship Written and Internet Marketing Events. We also had two 4th place, one 5th place, four 6th place, one 7th, and one 8th place finishes. This is quite an accomplishment with over 6% of the eligible GA student attendees winning top ten positions in international competition.

Several more finished as finalists plus others had top ten finishes in portions of their respective event competitions. Several individuals and schools received due recognition for their accomplishments including four major scholarship awards. South Forsyth High School was recognized as the largest high school chapter in the entire DECA program with 675 members. Finally, Georgia is now the fourth largest DECA chapter in the country, improving its overall membership numbers 15% over last year, moving up from sixth. Over 10,150 students participated in GA DECA across the state this year, and attendance at both the regional and state competitions, set records.

You should also be aware that the GA DECA Foundation has distributed over \$23,000 to 32 Chapters in the last year and a half. All of this is a tribute to the marketing education advisors across the State, to Rhonda Samples, GA DECA Executive Director, to each of the students for their commitment and dedication, and to each of the corporate and personal contributions to the GA DECA program. Congratulations again to all and thank you again for your support.

We invite you to check into the new GA DECA website (www.gadeca.org) and the link to the Foundation. There is a lot of new information available, plus I will be updating the GA DECA Foundation website and our new Facebook page about activities, tips on some sources of potential Chapter revenue, and updating both business partner activity and personal donors.

Regardless of your relationship with GA DECA, support of its Foundation will enable us to continue to build our revenue base and meet our over all goal of becoming self-sufficient. We will shortly be announcing some of our plans for this year, so check-in regularly for updates.

There is a link for donating to the Foundation on the website, and in case you would desire to mail a donation, the address is as follows:

Georgia DECA Foundation, Inc
P.O. Box 1835
Dahlonega, GA 30533

With your assistance, we look forward to supporting advisors and students in their efforts to further strengthen GA DECA in the year ahead.

Bob Armbruster
Georgia DECA Foundation President