

DECA Scholarships and Recognition

DECA acknowledges the achievements of individual chapters and members through several recognition programs and scholarships awarded annually. With so much being accomplished throughout the year in DECA chapters around the globe, programs were established to help bring forth the much-deserved attention that these chapters or members deserved. These awards and scholarships not only provide a spotlight on the achievements but a spotlight in front of thousands of members as well, earning stage recognition at the International Career Development Conference.

First off the national Marketing Education honor award is for seniors who have exhibited academic excellence and for their leadership and involvement in DECA. For all of you seniors out there start thinking about what you can do to make an impact and be a positive influence on your chapter or state/province. Go online to get some information about the program and ask your marketing teacher what you can do. Another great way for your local chapter to get recognized is through the chapter awards program. It will provide recognition on three levels, the gold, silver and bronze levels. The chapters will be determined by the number and type of activities a chapter completes in each of these categories: membership, chapter standards, promotion/public relations, chapter activities and DECA Week. Each of these categories gives your chapter the opportunity to make a difference. DECA Week is a great time to get your chapter involved and allows you time to plan a week full of activities to increase membership, create sales projects and give back to the community.

DECA's Merit Award Program (MAP) is a great way for students to get recognition in avenues outside of the competitive event structure. It is set up so that individual members can engage in a graduated program of competency based self-improvement activities. The program helps to "map" you through a

self-directed path for exploring marketing and increasing marketing expertise. With MAP students receive recognition on the local, state and national levels.

Scholarships are yet another great opportunity for you to be recognized on many levels for your efforts and receive money for college. DECA awards over \$250,000 worth of scholarships annually to students just like you. To get more detailed information about the scholarship applications and deadlines ask your advisor for information. DECA provides approximately 60 scholarships a year along with several others given out by the National Advisory Board members. Scholarships are obtained by being a member of DECA and some may require involvement with the company sponsoring the scholarships. To get a full list of the NAB you can check on the website under Business Partners. You can also receive scholarships within your competitive event by placing in the top 10 at the International Career Development Conference. By doing well in competition you can be rewarded with national recognition and scholarship money.

Each year you are presented with the opportunity to take advantage of these awards and scholarships. Apply for yourself or present them to your chapter, give yourself and others around you the chance to be recognized for their hard work and effort. All information on awards and scholarships is usually distributed by November. So talk to your advisor about your opportunities and for further information you can contact DECA Inc. at (703) 860-5000.