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Students Honor Pioneering MA Woman Legislator and Judge
Education group focused on leadership, career preparation and service selects former legislator and judge, Martha Ware, as role model for youth

Boston, MA – Nearly 100 members of DECA, an international student organization focused on leadership, career preparation and civic and social consciousness, will gather at the Massachusetts State House Friday morning to learn about the process of state and federal government and the importance of getting involved. In recognition of those lessons they – along with Senator Bruce Tarr and representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Education, Senator John Kerry's office and Representative Jim McGovern's office - will recognize a pioneering, former Massachusetts Legislator and Judge, Martha Ware.

Ware is a former member of the Massachusetts House of Delegates and judge – and among the first women in the history of Massachusetts to hold those offices. In addition to her many professional accomplishments, Ware has been a life-long champion for education. She has also committed her time and talent to a wide range of community service programs.

"Judge Ware's lifetime of service and accomplishment are an inspiration, for me personally, and all DECA members. Particularly in a year marked by our first (viable) woman candidate for president, it is appropriate for us to say thank you for her paving the way," said Jacqueline Gonski, a state officer for Massachusetts DECA and a senior at Stoughton High School, in Stoughton, MA.

"This is quite an honor for me," Ware said from her home. "I've spent a good measure of my life trying to make the Commonwealth, and our nation, a better place and it makes me feel good to see that DECA is preparing these students to take up that mantle."

Gonski and 1,300 of her fellow DECA members are gathered in Boston this weekend for DECA's North Atlantic Region Leadership Conference (NARCon.) The event prepares the high school students to assume leadership roles in their schools, communities and future careers. Throughout the conference the students will participate in workshops that focus on leadership, career pathways

and planning for DECA's program for the year. Ware's award will be presented as part of NARCon's Government Workshop Track.

Rather than "teaching to the test," DECA programs incorporate real world experiences and business partnerships to teach students about leadership, focus them toward careers and instill a civic and social understanding. Their model, in practice of over 60 years, is exactly in line with the education and workforce needs identified by many of America's leading corporations and education reform foundations.

(http://www.americaspromise.org/uploadedFiles/AmericasPromiseAlliance/Issue_Spotlight/Home_Page_Issue/ECEP%20Workforce%20Brief.pdf)

"The 'real world' opportunities that I've had with DECA are unmatched by any other I experienced in high school - or in my first year of college," said Davide Montoni, DECA's North Atlantic Region Vice President. "They've opened my eyes to see not only what I want to do with my life, but how to get there," Montoni continued.

About DECA

DECA's nearly 200,000 members are enrolled in high school and college marketing programs in all 50 states, U.S. Territories, Canada, Mexico and Germany. DECA partners the education and business communities to provide today's youth with contemporary workforce skills, leadership training and an appreciation for their social and civic responsibilities. DECA is 501 (c)(3), not-for-profit organization that prepares high school and college students for careers in marketing, management and entrepreneurship.

For information on the North Atlantic Region Leadership Conference or DECA, please contact John Fistolera at 703/860-5000 or cell 703/371-9264. You can also visit DECA's web site at www.deca.org and www.deca.org/narlc.html.

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