

7-Eleven Sponsors National Franchising Competition For High School Students

The IFA Educational Foundation's annual Student Franchising Competition will be sponsored by 7-Eleven. The annual competition, which is carried out in concert with Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), reaches more than 5,000 DECA high school chapters throughout the U.S., the Virgin Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, Germany and Korea.

As part of the annual competition, students receive posters and educational materials about franchising and work with DECA advisors to complete a Franchising Project around the theme, "Organizing a Franchise Business". Outstanding projects are submitted to state DECA organizations and the winners go on to be judged at DECA's international competition in the spring. This year, DECA's international career development conference will take place April 27 through 30, in Anaheim, CA. The international winners will receive scholarships and trophies, such as those sponsored by IFA and 7-Eleven.

"We welcome 7-Eleven's sponsorship of this annual competition which helps expose thousands of high school students to how franchising works in the U.S. economy and around the world," said Foundation Chairman Dick Rennick, CEO, American Leak Detection.

"The partnership between DECA, the IFA Educational Foundation, and 7-Eleven is an excellent example of business and education working together to invest in the next generation of business owners and entrepreneurs. We welcome 7-Eleven to the National Advisory Board and look forward to building a great partnership at the local, state and national levels," said Ed Davis, Executive Director of DECA Inc.

For nearly 60 years, DECA has served as the premier student organization preparing young people for careers in marketing, management and entrepreneurship. DECA's co-curricular program of activities partners the education and business communities to provide meaningful and contemporary learning opportunities for high school and college students. DECA's competitions and scholarships create a launching pad for further academic and career exploration. DECA has nearly 200,000 members in all 50 states, the Virgin Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Canada, Germany and Korea.

IFA is the world's largest trade group representing business-format franchising. Founded in 1960, IFA represents franchised small businesses spanning 75 different industries in more than 100 countries. Overall, more than 14 million jobs, \$369 billion in payroll and more than \$1.15 trillion are generated by business-format franchises in the United States.

