15871 **Dhru Patel**

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, I want to welcome all of our voting delegates, business associates and other students to today’s luncheon. I am honored to speak to you all today, and I’d like to take a few minutes to tell you why I am the best candidate for your next Executive President of DECA, Inc.

To begin with I have extensive experience with DECA. I have been an active high school DECA member at Henley High School in Klamath Falls, OR from Sept. 2014 to the Present. My accomplishments included holding several chapter officer positions of VP of Management (2015-2016) and VP of Career Development (2016 – 2017). I was the Oregon DECA VP of Communications (2016 – 2017) and the Oregon DECA state officer, VP of Communications February 2016 – February 2017. I must say that I have lived, breathed, and even slept DECA during my time with the organization. But, every moment of service has been very exciting for me.

I’m very proud of my DECA Accomplishments. I served as the Oregon DECA Representative at the International Career Development Conference and the Parade of Flags (2016). I served as the Oregon DECA Representative at the Oregon Leadership Institute as a Workshop Facilitator (2016). And, last but not least, I served as the Oregon DECA Representative for the Western Region Leadership Conference as an Association Speaker (2016). I am currently and Oregon State Officer and 3 year DECA member. I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve as the Executive President of DECA.

Let me tell you about my platform. First, I want us to **Excel** and to embrace the transition between DECA Vision 2017 to DECA Vision 2022.I plan to dedicate my term to implementing and sharing DECA, Inc.’s vision and goals. My 2016-2017 Executive Officer Team’s objectives include **a**dvancing the progress of DECA’s Program of Leadership.

Second, I want to **Extend** the Executive Officer Vlog Series, engaging video updates from the Executive Officer Team and increase the frequency of informational updates. I want to engage the President’s Council and Regional Association’s Councils, usinginteractive video conferences among the Executive Officers and Association Officers to provide opportunities to share meaningful ideas and connect with fellow associations. I want to increase attendance of Regional Association’s Councils and provide access to a platform for Association Officers wanting to connect with each other using methods such as GroupMe. I want to implement the **IMPACT Program,** which is a platform where Association Officer Teams can showcase the impact they have made on their members by submitting videos and digital media. I want to utilize these things to raise awareness to the updated, more inclusive program

Lastly, I want to **Expand,** to continue to develop DECA’s membership divisions, and by doing so increase Student, Alumni, and Professional memberships, promote chapter campaigns, and promote the expansion of a middle school DECA outreach program. In addition I want to provide information and access to all available DECA resources so we can inform DECA members of obtainable opportunities, such as the President’s Council and Regional Association’s Councils, the Executive Officer Vlog Series, and Social Media. I also want to make them aware of the accessible DECA resources such as the Leadership Program, Elevate, the President’s Council and Regional Association’s Councils, Scholarships, and Internships. I want us to be active in connecting with the National and Congressional Advisory Boards on behalf of all 220,000 DECA members, fostering relationships with professional and government leaders. And, as part of that initiative I would advocate for DECA, Inc. and Perkins CTE Funding in Washington, D.C. One thing I feel is very important for you to know is that I would be taking a gap year if I am elected as Executive President".

Being Executive President for DECA, Inc. is a very important next step for me as this organization is of utmost importance to me. I would be honored to be elected by all of you.

Thank you