**Patel Speech [No. 15893]**

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“Stump” speech for Dhru Patel in support of his candidacy to become the 2017 national president of DECA.

[remove a “script” from a jacket pocket or folder.]

ladies and gentlemen, today i would like to announce my candidacy for president of the united stA---

oops . . . [put the “script” back whence you’d taken it.] . . . wrong speech — sorry! [wait for laugh; as you take out your real script, clear your throat, and continue.] today i would like to announce my candidacy to become the 2017 president of deca. this is a lofty goal, and so i make this announcement with great humility and yet with great confidence, as well.

now, when i told my [chose one: folks/brother/ sister/father/mother] that i was going to throw my hat into the ring for this position, the response i got was a resounding, “are you ***crazy***??!!?”

“haven’t you already done enough for this organiza-tion,” [they/he/she] asked? “after all, haven’t you given three years of your life to this outfit? isn’t it enough that you’ve been an active member of deca since 2014 . . . that you’ve dedicated countless hours of your time to this organization in a variety of different roles? isn’t enough that you’ve served at one time or another as VP of Management, VP of Career Development, and VP of communications for the [name] chapter? isn’t enough that you served as the Oregon DECA representative at the Interna-tional career development conference and the parade of flags last year? isn’t enough that you’ve logged more than [estimate the number] hours driving and flying around the northwest helping to promote deca’s programs and strengthen local deca chapters?”

“isn’t that *enough* for you already?” haven’t you already done your share?”

and my answer to them was, “no . . . not by a long shot!”

i told [them/him/ her] that i wanted to do more . . . that I believed in my heart and soul in both the value *and* the values of this unique organization . . . and that i felt that i could contribute even more to it as a national officer.

you know, one of the things i value most about our wonderful organization is its commitment to the idea that *nothing good remains good unless it’s constantly being improved*. continuous improve-ment has been — from its very beginnings — one of the hallmarks of this organization, as it’s constant-ly refined its vision and tweaked its programming to

meet both the needs and the challenges of a rapidly-changing world.

as president, my goal will be to sustain and facili-tate this process of continous improvement, to build on what we’ve accomplished, and to help our organization transition effectively from our vision statement of 2017 and move toward creating and implementing a mission plan for the next five years.

there are so many areas in which i think we as an organization could make the good better.

i feel that we could improve communications all across the board, chapter to chapter, region to region, national to chapter, and so on. i think that this is especially true about the way we go about sharing best practices and innovative programming among our chapters. enhancing awareness of the ***impact*** program among deca chapters and regions would be one example of this.

I think we could make better use of modern technol-ogies in this regard, especially with respect to interactive video conferencing and a more robust program of web-based informational updates, train-ing programs, and member feedback.

i’d also like see how we might be able to improve our member-recruitment efforts throughout the coun-try, and become more effective at promoting the ad-vantages and benefits of deca membership to stu­dents at all levels, coast to coast.

and of course, we’ve got to continue to maintain, and even to enhance, our relationships with our patrons in washington. with a new administration taking the reins of government, i think this relation-ship-building will be of absolutely critical impor-tance to us over the next four years, and we can-not afford to neglect it.

these are just some of things i’d like to spearhead as your new national president. will i be able to accomplish such an ambitious agenda in a single year’s time? i don’t know . . . i hope so. But I’m also a realist, and i know that continuous improvement is not always an easy thing to achieve, especially in the short run.

but i’m prepared to try. you might say that i’ve been preparing for this role for four years now, and i believe i have the energy, vision, and organizational knowledge to successful fulfill the duties of deca’s president and to tackle a very aggressive program of continous improvement at all levels of our organization.

in any case, i want you to know that — were you to elect me as your president — i’d plan on taking an entire year off from my education in order to

devote all of my time, all of my effort, and the full commitment of my heart and soul to this job.

thank you very much.

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