

# Spotlight on DECA

February 2013

Alumni Edition

Volume 36, Issue 4

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## State Career Development Conference

Sarah LaBean, Chair



It's that time again for the State Career Development Conference! It's a weekend where there is potential to change the lives of many high school students but also make new alumni connections and friends. It's a weekend where all of the high school student's preparation and classroom learning gets put to the test.

Michigan DECA needs your help to make this conference happen and to be a part of this amazing weekend. For the conference, we need you to help out with a variety of duties whether it's working the booth, helping an event, judging, distributing the math/econ testing and much more. We would like you to consider spending the weekend in Grand Rapids, to help high school members from all over Michigan participate in the same experience that you remember. This is a time to catch up with old friends, your DECA advisor and meet some new people too! I know for myself personally this will be my last SCDC for a while as I will be moving to Nevada so it's a time have some lasting memories before I go!

During this conference we work hard and have some fun, but we are always coming away from the conference feeling we have done something amazing because in reality we have. Don't let this conference pass you by!! Registration information is on page 2, and the registration form is at the end of the newsletter. Remember: fully paid Life Members don't have to pay a registration fee, just the hotel costs!



A Publication of Michigan DECA

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Dave Wait, State Director

Articles and letters welcome for publication

The policy of the Michigan Association of DECA is that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, gender, marital status, weight, sexual orientation, sex or disability be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination, during any program, activity or in employment.

# State Career Development Conference Registration Information

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*Registration Deadline:*  
**March 1, 2013**

*March 15-17, 2013*  
*Amway Grand Plaza Hotel: Grand Rapids, MI*

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## Housing

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All hotel reservations must be received at Michigan DECA by March 1. They are to be prepaid and sent with the registration form included in this packet. Send your registration information and conference fees to Michigan Alumni DECA. Listed below is the complete registration information.

1. All rooms will be held for arrival after 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 2013, and departure by 1:00 p.m. on Sunday March 17, 2013.
2. Each individual is responsible for their own incidental room charges.
3. No reservations will be accepted unless accompanied with full prepayment. Payment must be received, (not postmarked), by Michigan Alumni DECA by March 1, 2013.
4. You must be a paid Alumni Member to attend.
5. No refunds will be issued for cancellations.
6. Room keys will be distributed at the Alumni desk on the second level. Room keys are not to be picked up at the front desk.
7. **No registrations will be accepted after March 1.**

### Room Rates

Quad (4 per room) \$82.00 per person for two nights.  
Triple (3 per room) \$98.00 per person for two nights.  
Double (2 per room) \$121.00 per person for two nights.  
Single (1 per room) \$240.00 for two nights.

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## Conference Registration Fee

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The non-refundable registration fee for the State CDC is \$40.00. This fee includes two meals and registration materials. As in the past, there is no registration fee for fully-paid Life Members.

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## Financial Assistance to Alumni Members

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Michigan Alumni DECA is pleased to announce that it will offer financial assistance to Alumni members attending the state conference. This assistance will be 10% off your lodging and registration fee for every year you have assisted, as an Alumni member, at a state conference up to a maximum 50%. Use the registration form to compute how much you may deduct from your conference costs.

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## Alumni Conference Activities

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Some of the activities the Alumni members will be assisting with at the conference include: administering competitive events, judging, recruiting members, coordinating the award sessions, coordinating the dances, selling items at the dances, selling DECA related items, and distributing T-Shirts.

# ICDC: Anaheim, California

**Brandon George**, Board Member

It's that time of year again when the Michigan DECA office slowly starts preparing for the International Career Development Conference! This year's ICDC will be held in BEAUTIFUL, Anaheim, CA on April 23- 28! Alumni members have the great opportunity to attend this conference just like they do any other conference to help with the behind the scenes work of ensuring the conference is an absolute success! I remember going to Anaheim as a state officer and it being one of the best conferences that I had been to. Anaheim has wonderful weather and is tons of fun as well!

During the day alumni members will be busy assisting with any conference activities and will be a part of the night watch to ensure our members are where they need to be during curfew. There will be time set aside for alumni members to kick back and relax a little bit as well. The best part about going to Anaheim is going to the wonderful world of Walt Disney! Alumni will have the opportunity to attend the parks as well.

I plan on attending ICDC this year in Anaheim to give back to the organization that gave so much to me! I hope to see you there!

## Running for Michigan DECA Board of Directors

**Rosalind Dixon**, Board Member

Running for Board of Directors can be not only a learning experience, but also a rewarding experience. While serving on the alumni board, you are given the opportunity to make a difference in current high school students' life while encouraging them to make a difference in the business world. During your year in office you will learn how to prepare for conferences, run events and how to use your networking skills that you learned during high school.

Not only is this an opportunity to give back to a organization that has helped you prepare for your future, but an opportunity to show what you can do for Michigan DECA. When at the State Career Development Conference swing by our booth and learn what we are really about, we would love to have you make a difference in present DECA members and Alumni's lives including your own. For more information on running please feel free to check out our page on the Michigan DECA website!

### 2012-2013 Board of Directors

Sarah LaBean  
Perry High School '09  
Slabean@umflint.edu

Jaime Domina  
Midland Dow High School '09  
dominaj@mail.gvsu.edu

Brandon George  
Three Rivers High School '10  
georgeb@northwood.edu

Rosalind Dixon  
Woodhaven High School '09  
dixonr24@northwood.edu

Ramsey A've  
Advanced Technology Academy '08  
rave@lssu.edu

Geoff Hester  
Rochester Adams High School '07  
geoff.hester@adp.com

# Recommended Read

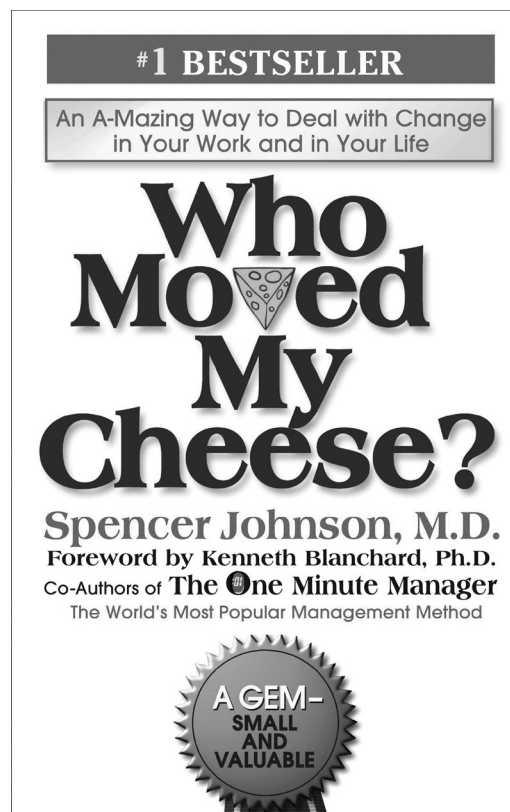
**Geoff Hester**, Board Member

How do you react in the face of adversity? Do you often have difficulty adjusting to change? I am spotlighting this self-empowering story “Who Moved My Cheese?” by Spencer Johnson in this newsletter to assist students with upcoming challenges they will face in their future careers.

This business fable is used by many corporations, governmental agencies, small businesses, hospitals, churches, and schools to portray important life lessons in a simple setting. Some corporations that currently utilize “Who Moved My Cheese?” when training and improving their work force include the following: Apple Computers, General Motors, and AT&T. These companies recognize that important life lessons such as “Adapt to Change Quickly” and “Enjoy Change” are as applicable in the workplace as they are in personal lives.

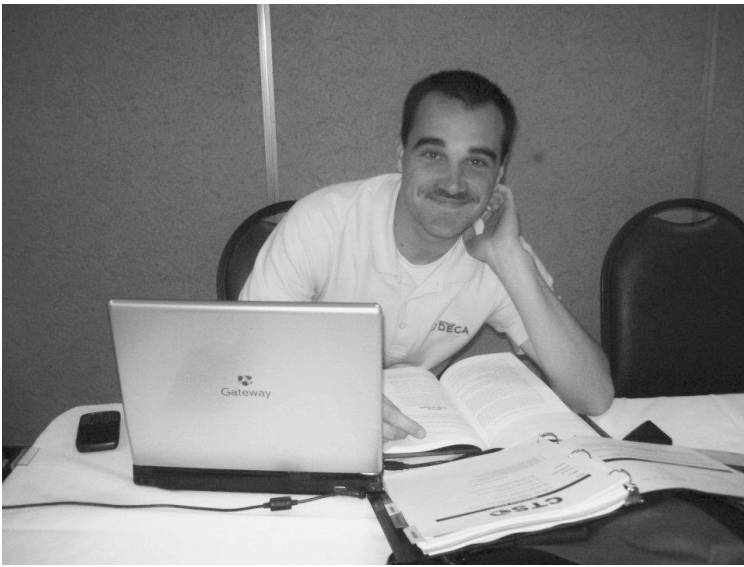
The purpose of this story is to showcase the positive side of change and forces the reader to reflect on past experiences that could have been dealt with differently. I am currently working in sales, and face adversity and challenges on a daily basis. I read this book when traveling on business and was able to apply the lessons it teaches almost right away. I often found myself fighting change, which frequently resulted in negative outcomes. This story has helped me to embrace change and work to create a positive outcome regardless of the difficult situations I find myself in.

I encourage anyone and everyone to take a look at this interesting story that is easy to read and can be applied to almost every aspect of someone’s life. You can find “Who Moved My Cheese?” at any major book distributor. The average retail on this product is about \$15.00. This story takes a very short time to read but could change your perspective on adversity for a lifetime.



# SPOTLIGHT on Mike Parr

Geoff Hester, Board Member



Mike Parr is the epitome of how one can successfully move throughout the ranks of an organization and obtain many different experiences and leadership roles. Since joining Michigan DECA in September of 2005, Mike has served as a competitor, Chapter President, State Vice President, and currently as the State Officer Coordinator. Through his participation, Mike believes the best parts have been the ability to meet so many wonderful people from around the Nation and Canada, developing his public speaking abilities, professional writing, and his overall professionalism. It is because of what he learned as a younger member, that he now has the ability to play a role in preparing the next generation of leaders to become successful and involved members in society.

After graduating from Lincoln Park High School in 2008, Mike has taken a serious approach to his education by furthering it in every way possible. In December of 2012, he graduated from the University of Michigan-Dearborn with a Bachelor of Arts (Majoring in Political Science with minors in Communication and History). In January of 2013, Mike decided to attend the Rackham School of Graduate Studies at the University of Michigan in pursuit of a Masters of Public Administration. After completing his Masters program, Mike plans on beginning Law School to pursue a dual Jurist Doctorate and Masters of Business Administration, all in hopes of one day obtaining his dream job of President of the United States.

Involvement within the community is extremely important to Mike and can be seen through the vast number of organizations he is involved in. Mike has dedicated countless hours to volunteering and serving as a leader within organizations such as the Lincoln Park Goodfellows, Michigan Suburbs Alliance's "Millennial Mayor's Congress," the City of Lincoln Park, Lincoln Park Citizen's Patrol Watch, Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce's Fantasyland, Lincoln Park Community Improvement Commission, Lincoln Park Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Wayne County Citizen Corp Council and the Lincoln Park Neighborhood Watch Program. With all those responsibilities, Mike still makes sure to find time to be a basketball and soccer official working as an independent contractor with the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) when time permits.

When asked what his biggest accomplishment in life was, Mike believes without a doubt that it was being able to complete kindergarten through 12th grade without ever missing a day of school (besides for school related activities). Mike demonstrated complete dedication, determination, and commitment towards accomplishing this task in obtaining 13 years of perfect attendance proving that if you set a goal, dedicate yourself to achieving that goal, anything is possible.

Want to learn more about Mike Parr? Feel free to network with him by adding him on face book or contacting him via email at [Gmparr714@gmail.com](mailto:Gmparr714@gmail.com).

# Membership Form

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**Life Membership: \$100.00**

*Michigan Alumni DECA members have the option to invest in a Life Membership. A Life Membership means just that - you're a member of Michigan Alumni DECA for life. No more membership dues. No more annual checks. Nothing to worry about. Life Members also have their State Conference registration fee waived - currently a savings of \$40 a year!*

**Life Membership Installment: \$25.00**

*With the installment plan, you can work toward your Life Membership over the course of five years. One payment of \$25.00 is due each year for five years. At the end of that time, you get all the benefits of a Life Membership.*

**Annual Membership: \$15.00**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Former Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Scholarship Donation** (Optional)

Yes! I'd like to contribute to Alumni DECA's fund that provides travel scholarships to DECA members that qualify to compete at the International level.

**Amount:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Michigan DECA is a 501(c)(3) educational association affiliated with Eastern Michigan University. Donations are tax-deductible.

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## Payment Options:

Check enclosed - Make checks payable to "Michigan Alumni DECA"

Please bill my Visa/MasterCard/Discover/American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Verification Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(three digit code from back of card)

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**Mail to:** Michigan Alumni DECA  
Eastern Michigan University  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Or Fax to: 734.487.4329

Questions? Call 734.487.DECA



MICHIGAN

DECA

# State Conference Registration Form

Deadline: **March 1, 2013**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Former Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee is \$40.00 per person. (There is no fee for fully paid life members.)

Room Rates are for two nights (Check option preferred)

Roommate Requests:

\_\_\_\_\_ Quad (4 persons per room) - \$78.00 per person

\_\_\_\_\_ Triple (3 persons per room) - \$94.00 per person

\_\_\_\_\_ Double (2 persons per room) - \$115.00 per person

\_\_\_\_\_ Single (1 person per room. Max discount is \$70.00) - \$230.00

Lodging Expenses \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + Registration Fee \_\_\_\_\_ = Subtotal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**How to figure your discount:** State Conferences you have assisted with as an alumni member:

\_\_\_\_\_ times 10 = \_\_\_\_\_ % times the above subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ discount (Max. discount is 50%)

I plan on arriving at \_\_\_\_\_ (time). I would like to assist with \_\_\_\_\_.

Michigan Alumni DECA will need assistance on Friday afternoon. If it's possible, please try to arrange for arrival before 3:00 p.m. This is not required but merely a request. Thank you.

I would like a Board of Directors application.

**Method of Payment:**  Check/Money Order Enclosed. *Make payable to Michigan Alumni DECA*  
 Please bill my Visa/MasterCard/Discover card:

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Verification Number: \_\_\_\_\_

(three digit code from back of card)

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