

# Chamber of Commerce Partnership

Community involvement and interaction with the business community are important to the growth and development of DECA members and chapters. One of the most valuable community partnerships that a DECA chapter can develop is one with the local Chamber of Commerce. A relationship with the Chamber of Commerce can also link DECA chapters with other helpful community organizations. A partnership with the Chamber of Commerce can create a valuable link between DECA members and the business community. This link provides myriad opportunities for both the chapter and its members. Possible activities include: mentorship and advisory relationships, judges for local competitions, internship and job opportunities, networking, community service projects, chapter fundraising, and community awareness, etc. Most importantly, a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce is far from a one-way street. While DECA needs the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber also needs DECA.

<i>DECA Needs</i>	<i>Chamber Needs</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentorship</li> <li>• Business Contacts</li> <li>• Community Service Opportunities</li> <li>• Work Experience</li> <li>• Public Relations</li> <li>• Incentive for Membership</li> <li>• More Active Members</li> <li>• Partnerships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involvement with Schools</li> <li>• Volunteers</li> <li>• Option to Get Involved</li> <li>• Shared Responsibility</li> <li>• Public Relations</li> <li>• Incentive for Membership</li> <li>• More Active Members</li> <li>• Partnerships</li> </ul>

## Action Steps for Success

1. Contact the local Chamber of Commerce to set-up a meeting with the Executive Director or Membership Director to discuss opportunities for partnership.
2. During meeting be sure to identify opportunities for the DECA chapter to assist the Chamber. Examples may include: assisting at special Chamber events, DECA members serving on Chamber committees, hosting a Chamber networking event, etc.
3. Select a specific DECA member to serve as the chapter's liaison to the Chamber of Commerce to maximize communication and establish a strong relationship.
4. Regularly attend chamber meetings and always look for additional opportunities to strengthen the partnership.

## Chamber of Commerce Partnership Recognition Award

All chapters developing a partnership with their local Chamber of Commerce will be recognized for their efforts during the State Career Development Conference. In order to receive recognition, chapters must develop a partnership by **February 15, 2012** and submit the enclosed Chamber of Commerce Partnership (Form T) during registration at SCDC.