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David Dillman

## 14 Durango High School DECA Students Advance to Colorado DECA State Leadership Conference

December 7, 2015

Website: [www.durangohsmarketing.weebly.com](http://www.durangohsmarketing.weebly.com)

For Immediate Release:

Craig, CO December 8, 2014: On Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, Durango High School DECA qualified 14 of its members for the 2016 DECA State Leadership Conference to be held in Colorado Springs February 20-23, 2016.

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, Durango High School DECA won the Advanced Proficiency Award at the Western Slope Colorado DECA Districts held at the Colorado North Western Community College in Craig, CO. The award was determined by averaging all role play and examination scores from all participants, and DHS DECA scored the highest among competing schools. Additionally, 14 of the 30 DHS DECA students attending won their respective events and earned the right to advance to DECA's State Leadership Conference.

Listed in alphabetic order by event name are the state qualifiers from the Durango DECA Chapter:

- Anna Joslin in Apparel and Accessories Marketing
- Violet Witchel first in Business Service Marketing
- Mason Stetler and Jared Webster in Buying and Merchandising Team Decision
- Joaquin Valdez, Food Marketing
- Justin Cleary in Financial Consulting
- Jenna Beckley in Hospitality and Marketing
- Abby Scott and Paxton Scott in Marketing Communication Team Decision Making
- Lauren Biery Personal Financial Literacy
- Jack Beatie in Principles of Business Management and Administration
- Cord Arnold in Principles of Finance
- Harry Stienberg in Restaurant & Food Management
- Chris Blevins in Sports and Entertainment Marketing

Also recognized onstage was DHS DECA 12<sup>th</sup> Grader and Officer Charles McClung. McClung earned the highest exam score among all DECA participants.

"It was a fantastic experience because it was challenging and fun at the same time", said DHS DECA 9<sup>th</sup> grader Jack Beatie. "I'm excited to see where DECA takes me," Beatie added.

DECA assesses students with an exam in their content area and role play scenarios before judges from the Western Slope business community. DECA integrates authentic experiential learning methods into the classroom, preparing students for college and a career. DECA also applies learning, connects to business and promotes competition through its conferences. DECA students are academically prepared, community oriented, and professionally responsible while becoming experienced leaders.

More than 165 western Colorado high school students participated at the DECA Western Slope District Conference in 27 events. DECA, an organization for emerging leaders in marketing, management, finance, fashion, hospitality and entrepreneurship, has more than 8500 members statewide and approximately 200,000 members in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Germany.



Caption: Durango High School DECA Western Slope District Champions celebrate their performance at Colorado Northwestern Community College December 7, 2015 in Craig, CO.

Community business members, parents and students wanting to become involved should contact advisor Dave Dillman at 970-259-1630 Ext 2247 or via email at [ddillman@durango.k12.co.us](mailto:ddillman@durango.k12.co.us). More information on DHS DECA can be found at [www.durangohsmarketing.weebly.com](http://www.durangohsmarketing.weebly.com).