



Arizona DECA Council Information 2026-2027

Welcome to the 2026-2027 application of Arizona DECA's State Councils. There are five administrative councils that will aid in the betterment of Arizona DECA. Each state council will be led by State Officers, please read each council's goals/requirements.

The five councils are as follows:

COUNCIL	LED BY:
Leadership	State President, VP of Leadership Development
Career Development	VP of Career Development, VP of Alumni
Finance	VP of Finance
Public Relations	VP of Marketing, VP of Hospitality
Community Service	VP of Community Service

Each council shall be dedicated to help in the betterment of Arizona DECA and be focused on local chapters. The State Officers shall serve as the directors of the council, and have the full authority to remove council members if seen as necessary. Each council member shall serve one term or the length of their respective state officer's term.

Each council shall be composed of a team of no more than **five (5)** paid due members. It is up to the State Officers to determine whether or not candidates are qualified to be a part of the council. **State Officers will appoint your positions, you're just applying to be in the council.** Chapter office is **not** a required prerequisite but highly encouraged.

**If you have any questions, please contact Kendra Wilson (State President) at
kendra@arizonadeca.org.**



Leadership Council

Kendra Wilson State President kendra@arizonadeca.org	Shamitha Doki Vice President of Leadership Development shamitha@arizonadeca.org
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Goals and Responsibilities:

- Promote and integrate Arizona DECA events and initiatives.
- Aid in contributing to leadership conference
- Engage in developing connectivity between chapters statewide.

Positions Available:

- **Team Lead**
 - Responsible for the leadership of the council under the direction of overseeing state officers.
 - Maintains smooth and efficient meetings to allow for maximum efficiency and output.
 - Ensures that all goals are being met through close collaboration with other council members.
- **Vice Team Lead**
 - Assists Team Lead in all needed areas of work.
 - Fulfills the team lead role when the team lead is unavailable.
 - Serve as a bridge between coordinators to ensure alignment and collaboration across roles
- **Advocacy Coordinator**
 - Provide chapters with resources and guidance on how to advocate effectively
 - Stay informed on relevant legislation and issues affecting Career and Technical Education (CTE)
 - Connect with local legislation to advocate for Career and Technical Education (CTE)

- **Engagement Coordinator**
 - Aid in the coordination of member engagement initiatives at the state level, including the Leadership Passport
 - Develop and implement engaging activities such as the Goosechase.
- **Chapter Relations Coordinator**
 - Support chapter development by sharing best practices, resources, and success stories
 - Create online challenges for chapters to participate in
 - Foster a sense of community and connection among Arizona DECA chapters

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience as a chapter officer (President or VP preferred)
- Experience with technology
- Excellent leadership and networking skills
- High level of passion and dedication for DECA

Short Answer Questions:

- *Why are you interested in serving in the Leadership State Council?*
- *What skill or quality sets you apart as a leader?*
- *What does leadership mean to you, and how do you demonstrate it in your daily life?*
- *Tell us about a time you stepped up in a leadership situation. How did you handle the situation?*
- *If you could change one thing about Arizona DECA (conferences, initiatives, regulations), what would it be and why?*

To Members Considering Joining the Leadership Council:

Thank you for showing interest and looking into joining Arizona DECA's Leadership council! Your help would be greatly appreciated as we move into the upcoming year. We will ensure that this experience is valuable for you. We can't wait to get to know all of you and hopefully work together in the near future. If you have any questions, you can contact Kendra Wilson, Arizona DECA's State President or Shamitha Doki, Arizona DECA's Vice President of Leadership Development with our contacts listed above.



Career Development Council

Eion Shygy Vice President of Career Development eion@arizonadeca.org	Jason Videc Vice President of Alumni jason@arizonadeca.org
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Goals and Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with the Vice President of Career Development and Vice President of Alumni to find innovative ways to promote competition and connections within the chartered association.
- Create test, case study, written event, corporate challenges, virtual business challenge, and stock market game resource materials accessible to members.
- Advocate for the association by engaging with business and community leaders through outreach and one-on-one meetings to promote DECA's mission.
- Leverage alumni relations to cultivate strategic career pathways by assisting in event planning and outreach, aiding chapters in their alumni base growth, securing judging for events, and fostering long-term professional collaborations

Available Positions:

- **Team Lead**
 - Responsible for leadership of the council under the direction of the overseeing State Officer.
 - Provide leadership and expertise in all competitive areas to lead the development of resource materials.
 - Track and maintain smooth and efficient meetings to allow for maximum efficiency and output.
- **Vice Team Lead**
 - Assists Team Lead in all needed areas of work, including but not limited to, development of resource materials.
 - Oversees the council in the absence of the Team Lead.
 - Ensure that council members effectively complete assigned tasks.

- **Competitive Excellence Coordinator (2)**
 - Responsible for developing and implementing resource guides to advance the knowledge of competitors for competitive events.
 - Provide members with expert guidance on how to become stronger competitors in respective competitive events.
 - Focus on prepared events, roleplay events, case study events, virtual business challenge, stock market game
 - Assist Vice President of Alumni with outreach for advocacy initiatives.
- **Operations Coordinator**
 - Interview and connect with industry professionals to share judging opportunities with them and showcase career paths after high school
 - Make guides on mock competitions
 - Make guides on judging specific to each event or sector
 - Assist with planning alumni luncheons at events, and securing judges for competitions.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Previous experience in DECA competitive events
- Skilled writer
- Ability to connect with alumni and industry professionals
- Effective outreach and event planning skills
- Reliable communication, time management skills, and work ethic

Short Answer Questions:

- *Why are you interested in serving the Career Development Council?*
- *What are your top 3 positions in the Career Development Council if elected and why?*
- *Describe your competition experience in your years in DECA. What did you learn and how will you use this experience and other skills for the advancement of the council?*
- *What are some areas where you believe Arizona DECA can improve in competition and utilizing its alumni base/connections? What are some ideas you have to help?*
- *If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?*

To Members Considering Joining the Career Development Council:

Thank you so much for expressing interest in the Career Development Council. This is a collective of motivated individuals ready to strengthen Arizona DECA's focus on professional and competitive growth. For those of you looking to mentor others, leave a legacy of connection, or inspire success in people, we welcome you. Helping others grow and thrive creates a community based culture that can bring our association to the next level, and we're truly looking forward to building a team rooted in passion, purpose, and progress. This year, we're not just preparing for competition, we're building champions. From elevating event prep to forging alumni connections, your role is vital in crafting the roadmap to ICDC victory and beyond. Together, we'll empower members to rise, compete, and conquer the international stage. We're beyond excited to get to know each of you and hopefully work together this year to advance career development across our state. If you have any questions, you can contact Eion Shyjj, Arizona DECA's Vice President of Career Development, or Jason Videc, Arizona DECA's Vice President of Alumni, with the contact information listed above.



Public Relations Council

Haylee Braha Vice President of Marketing haylee@arizonadeca.org	Westley Scott Vice President of Hospitality westley@arizonadeca.org
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Goals and Responsibilities

- Create aesthetically pleasing posts
- Generate content ideas
- Collaborate with chapters
- Unify Arizona DECA

Available Positions:

- **Team Lead**
 - Responsible for leadership of the council under the direction of the overseeing State Officers
 - Share expertise in all competition areas and act as a guiding hand in all processes and developments
 - Maintains smooth and efficient meetings to allow for maximum efficiency and output
 - Oversees the completion of tasks assigned to all members of the council by the State Officers
- **Vice Team Lead**
 - Assists Team Lead in all needed areas of work
 - Fills in for the Team Lead whenever and wherever they are unavailable
 - Ensures that all goals are being met through close collaboration with all other team members
- **Hospitality Coordinator**
 - Making posts more appealing and marketable
 - Helps create ideas that contribute towards a more hospitable DECA experience within the social media

- Uses experience and knowledge of hospitality to create social media posts—and other necessary forms of marketing—that encourage further engagement
- **Creativity Coordinator**
 - Supply new posts ideas when asked
 - Keep track of deadlines and post calendar as well
 - Stay informed on trends in order to inform council members and state officers of ways to get the most engagement
- **Video Content Recruiting Coordinator**
 - Generate and create video content ideas that highlight local Arizona DECA Chapters
 - Create posts on Instagram reels that align with DECA core values and also promote the organization to students
 - Maintain a constant uploading stress consistent uploading schedule for video content

Preferred Qualifications:

- Know how to use Capcut, Canva, or any other social media/ editing software (If you don't have any experience with these applications please be willing to learn them.)
- Have a good creative eye (Be able to keep a consistent theme, create visually pleasing posts, good writing and communication skills, good experience with social media)
- Be able to provide ideas and discuss/work as a team

Short Answer Questions:

- *Why are you interested in serving with the Public Relations Council?*
- *What are your top 3 positions in the Public Relations Council if elected and why?*
- *What are your personal goals if elected?*
- *What skills do you bring to the table?*
- *If you could pick your favorite item of clothing, which one would you pick and how does it relate to you?*
- *Design an original Instagram post for the Arizona DECA account promoting this year's Fall Leadership Conference. Your submission should reflect this year's branding and theme and include a caption and a brief explanation of your design choices.*
 - *Applicants will be evaluated on creativity, branding consistency, communication, professionalism, engagement strategy, and overall alignment with the Arizona DECA brand. Graphic design experience is not required. (Photo and textbox submission)*

To Members Considering Joining the Public Relations Council:

Thank you for showing interest and looking into joining Arizona DECA's Public Relations Council! Your help would be greatly appreciated as we move into this upcoming year; we will ensure that this experience is worth it. We cannot wait to get to know all of you and hopefully work together this coming year. If you have any questions, you can contact Haylee Braha, Arizona DECA's Vice President of Marketing or Westley Scott, Arizona DECA's Vice President of Hospitality with our contact information listed above!



Finance Council

Nithil Balamurugan
Vice President of Finance
nithil@arizonadeca.org

Goals and Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with 20+ companies, organizations, and institutions (by reaching out to at least 200) to secure sponsorships, scholarships, and partnership opportunities for SCDC and Arizona DECA
- Generate guides, templates, and content for chapter fundraising, operations, events, and financial planning
- Promote financial literacy education and expand scholarship access within the Arizona DECA community

Available Positions:

Team Lead

- Responsible for the leadership of the council under the direction of overseeing state officers.
- Share expertise and provide guidance for coordinators and the vice team lead to meet their responsibilities.
- Work with everyone to ensure state goals are efficiently delegated and outlined for the council to achieve in a timely manner.

Vice Team Lead

- Assists Team Lead in all needed areas of work.
- Fulfills the team lead role, responsibilities, and duties when the team lead is unavailable.
- Verifies & ensures that all checkpoints and milestones are being met on time through the smooth collaboration of council members.

Partnerships Coordinator

- Research and identify businesses, organizations, and institutions who might be interested in partnering with DECA through sponsorships, scholarships, or speaking opportunities.
- Locate & reach out to companies for specific opportunities based on competitive event clusters, scholarships, or partnership tiers/levels.
- Document partner outreach and outcomes to build a resource that future councils can continue to develop.

Chapter Growth Coordinator

- Locate & plan out multiple fundraising ideas to create successful templates for popular fundraiser planning for chapters.
- Encourage chapters to share fundraising events & manage their fundraiser reporting, showcase, and spotlight with Arizona DECA.
- Formulate an action plan for a professional dress fundraiser through researching ideas.

Financial Literacy Coordinator

- Researching key financial literacy tips and scholarships tailored to DECA members to outline content, posts, and more.
- Looking into specific financial expenses, costs, and fees for chapters during DECA conferences and creating budget guides with helpful advice or information.
- Encouraging, coordinating, and promoting DECA entrepreneurs to sign up and participate in an SCDC market day opportunity.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience as a chapter officer (VP of finance or treasurer preferred)
- Decent experience with technology & email professionalism
- High level of passion and dedication for DECA and fundraising
- Researching & networking skills (or willingness to learn them)
- Ability to set and meet target deadlines
- Attendance at DECA Drop-ins

Short Answer Questions:

- *Why are you interested in serving in the Finance State Council?*

- *Everyone on this council can send an email. So can a machine. What can you do that we can't get anywhere else?*
- *If you could bring three businesses to Arizona DECA as partners, which three, and why do you think each one is a good fit?*
- *Most of our 200 outreach attempts will be ignored. Tell us about a time you kept going after something stopped being fun, or after nobody was watching. What kept you going?*
- *What's something you've done that nobody asked you to do? Optional: after you submit, send me a short email or DM (@nithilxdeca or nithil@arizonadeca.org) telling me what you'd want to get out of this year.*

To Members Considering Joining the Finance Council:

Thank you for showing your interest in joining the Arizona DECA Finance Council! Your help would be greatly appreciated as we move into this upcoming year, and we will ensure that this experience is valuable for you. We can't wait to get to know all of you and hopefully work together in the near future. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel more than welcome to reach out to Nithil Balamurugan, Arizona DECA's Vice President of Finance using my contact listed above.



Community Service Council

Tazbah Spruhan

Vice President of Community Service

tazbah@arizonadeca.org

Goals and Responsibilities:

- Promote Arizona DECA Community Service Events amongst chapters and members to enhance participation rates
- Suggest ideas for additional state-wide community service events
- Practice the skills of networking, communication, and civic engagement
- Reach out to your community to check on any opportunities for service
- Understand purpose and application of community service

Available Positions:

- **Team Lead**
 - Responsible for leadership of the council under the direction of the overseeing State Officer
 - Share expertise in all competition areas and act as a guiding hand in all processes and developments
 - Maintain smooth and efficient meetings to allow for maximum efficiency and output
- **Vice Team Lead**
 - Assists Team Lead in all needed areas of work
 - Fills in for the Team Lead whenever and wherever they are unavailable
 - Ensures that all goals are being met through close collaboration with all other team members
- **Secretary**
 - Record meeting minutes and take notes

- Keep track of deadlines and important dates for the Community Service Council
- Assist VP of Community Service with the Pay It Forward initiative

- **Events Coordinator**
 - Research and set up opportunities for community service council to volunteer together
 - Contact organizations for potential opportunities for large chapter community service event
 - Build partnerships with nonprofit organizations and service hosts.

- **Fundraising Coordinator**
 - Research fundraising opportunities to raise money for the MDA
 - Assist VP of Community Service with setting up fundraisers
 - Collaborate with local businesses for sponsorships or donation matching.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Interest in community service
- Passion for helping others
- Reliable communication and time management skills

Short Answer Questions:

- *What are three qualities that make you a strong leader, and how would you use them within the Community Service Council?*
- *What motivates you to serve your community, and how do you want to inspire others to do the same?*
- *Describe a time when you took initiative to solve a problem or help someone. How did it impact you?*
- *What is your favorite thing about your community and how does that inspire you to serve it?*

To Members Considering Joining the Community Service Council:

Thank you so much for your interest in joining the Community Service Council. This isn't just a team. It's a movement of changemakers ready to make a real impact across our state. Whether you're passionate about leading, planning, volunteering, or simply making someone's day better, there's a spot for you here. Serving others is one of the most powerful things we can do as leaders, and I'm beyond excited to build a team that's committed to kindness, creativity, and community. I cannot wait to get to know each of you and hopefully work side by side this year as we grow Arizona DECA's impact together. If you have any questions please reach out to Tazbah Spruhan, Arizona DECA's Vice President of Community Service, with the contact listed above!