Friends of DECA

Melissa Ball, CEO Ball Office Products  
Nominated by: Atlee High School

Melissa has been a dedicated parent volunteer while her daughter was a member. She was always willing to chaperone, judge, and assist in any way. Since her daughter’s graduation, Melissa has continued to support both Atlee and VA DECA. She judges at local & state competition, supports fundraising efforts, and assists VA DECA with acquiring judge materials. We thank Melissa for her dedication to ALL of our VA DECA members!

Mark Jones, President, Jones Printing Services, Inc.  
Nominated by: Nansemond River High School

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful working relationship with Jones Printing Services, Inc. We are working directly with one of our former marketing students who is the Bindery Supervisor – Kenn Duncan. Our DECA members have been having project boards printed for the past five years for State & International competition. Our faculty and staff receive desk calendars each year. During CTE month note pads are given out to the students, faculty and staff. We appreciate everything Jones Printing Services, Inc. does to work with our program.

Lindsey Burris, Math Teacher  
Nominated by: Tazewell High School

Burris – as she is known to our tribe – ALWAYS attends our DLC and SLC with us as a chaperone. She is the BEST hands down . . . willing to help in any way. It is like having another parent to help watch out for our students, in addition to Mrs. Cline. At school, our DECA members can always go to her for help in any capacity.

Jonathan Mensink, Director, Marketing and Promotions, Norfolk Tides Baseball  
Nominated by: Tabb High School

Jonathan Mensink has been a strong supporter of Virginia DECA for many years, especially in Hampton Roads. He was on the implementation team for DECA Day with the Norfolk Tides, now in its 8th year. During DECA Day, he provides students with a wealth of information about daily operations, his journey/job duties, and valuable tips for working in Sports/Entertainment. He has also been a DLC and SLC judge where he truly enjoys judging the project categories. He is also willing to mentor students in presentation skills and idea development.

Karen Boone, CTE Teacher  
Nominated by: Orange County High School

The Art of OCHS DECA can be described by Karen Boone. Each year OCHS DECA creates display boards for SLC and ICDC. In her Tech Transfer course, students review our display boards and Mrs. Boone ensures the boards are top notch using her artistic and professional eye. Having our boards printed in house saves our chapter about 50% of the cost we previously had to spend. Mrs. Boone collaborates her classes and DECA for field trips, teaching, judging our Shark Tank event and also aids in the success of the SBE, The Hornet Hideout. Her students create designs for apparel and other merchandise. We are fortunate to have Mrs. Boone as a CTE teacher, professional member and Friend of DECA.

Jane Petty, Vice President, Branch Marketing Community Relations Director, Burke & Herbert Bank  
Nominated by: Annandale High School

Jane has made herself available to our chapter through speaking engagements to our chapter, as well as through finance training materials she has provided. Jane has also donated her time to the district-wide competition in the capacity of student event judging. Thanks to Jane Petty for being a real DECA Friend

Deborah Carper, Retired Marketing Teacher & DECA Advisor  
Nominated by: Sherando High School

Deborah Carper invested 18 years of her career to marketing students at Sherando High School. Deborah’s countless hours and assistance to prepare DECA members and assure they were successful, in the classroom, through DECA competitive events and outside the classroom are why she is a true Friend of DECA.
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Deborah Peresie, Library Media Specialist  
Nominated by: LC Bird High School  
Ms. Deborah Peresie has been a constant supporter of our DECA Chapter. Over the past four years she chaperoned our field trip to the Richmond Flying Squirrel’s Education Day and has been a judge at our DLC. This year she judged at the State Fair DECA competition and last year enthusiastically volunteered to judge at SLC. We are grateful to have her support and appreciate her valuable time and advice as a Friend of DECA!

Matt & Jocy Vuiller, Assistant Principal  
Nominated by: Patrick Henry High School  
Mr. & Mrs. Vuiller are Friends of DECA by providing ongoing assistance with competitive events by serving as judges and chaperones at SLC for the past five years. Prior to competitions, they assist our preparation by being consultants on written events and participate in oral presentation practices. We are very fortunate to have Mr. & Mrs. Vuiller as Patrick Henry’s Friends of DECA.

Sarah Roussos, Owner Green Alchemy Herb & Mercantile Co  
Nominated by: Rock Ridge High School  
Sarah has been a DECA champion, helping our chapter enhance our entrepreneurship curriculum. She has been a classroom presenter, conducted workshops and has judged at DLC. She is partnering with our chapter to develop a training program to support students in a neighboring county, an underserved population that struggles with truancy, food insecurity, homelessness and poverty. Sarah is helping our students understand how to support this population by empowering them with the tools to successfully create their own business. Sarah is not only a Friend of DECA, she is a champion for those who need support in developing career skills.

Greta West, Digital Experience Specialist  
Nominated by: Broad Run High School  
Mrs. Greta West is a Friend of DECA because she is always there for us! As our school’s technology specialist, she helps by having technology at all our meetings, helping students with presentations, helps students with the poster maker (and we make a lot of posters!). She has attended every SLC with us, on behalf of her daughter (this year will be year three). She packs her van up to the roof, meets us at the hotel, listens to presentation and role plays and is our honorary DECA Mom for the entire weekend. Everyone adores her and appreciates everything she does! She is a true Friend of DECA.

Thanks you for everything you do for our students!