

DECA State

Weekly Report 2/19/18 to 2/25/18

Over the course of my time in ISM, I have had the opportunity to interact with many people, ranging from professionals to ISM students. Along with this, I developed the skill of networking and talking formally about a complicated subject to a professional. This skill came to the test this past week when I competed in the DECA state competition.

I have previously discussed my involvement in DECA at the district level, comparing the district level to the state level competitions is like comparing a kiddie pool with a natatorium. Before I discuss what transpired in the competition, I must first discuss what happened outside of the competition. For starters, I am the Vice President of Social Relations for my chapter in DECA, and as soon as we arrived at the location the event was being held, I took the initiative to lead my chapter in the chaos of thousands of kids that we had entered. After dealing with the horrific monstrosity that was the elevator traffic, I settled into my hotel room. In the room, I once again took charge as I was the oldest, calming down the sugar-filled freshman.

The next day, however, was the one everyone was nervous about as it was competition day. Personally, I studied for a few days for my event, Retail Merchandising Series, but I was nevertheless nervous on the possibility that I might have utter failure. However, I soon overcame this fear by reminding myself that I have experienced much more stressful professional situations before, and this roleplay with another professional would not be too bad. So I walked in with a smile and got a perfect score on a roleplay, which is unheard of. Almost.

Despite my perfect score, I did not advance to the International Competition as my test grade brought my grade down. However, I do still believe that ISM helped me in this daunting

endeavor. As such, I am applying for ISM II next year, but I am not quite sure what field I would like to try. I would love to learn about physics, but I also wish to expand my scope and try a new field. Either option has its benefits and drawbacks, but we will see what the future holds for me. No matter what, I am certain that I will continue to learn more skills and experiences in the class.

Until next week,

Sahil Jain