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DECA State Officers Elected

Sixteen public high school students were recently named state officers for the [Missouri Association of DECA](#). The students were elected and installed during the Missouri DECA Fall Leadership and State Officer Election Conference held Oct. 16-17 in Lake Ozark, Mo. The annual state conference was attended by more than 600 high school marketing students and their teachers.

The 2011-2012 executive state officers include: **Michael Richardson**, president, David H. Hickman High School, Columbia; **Emily Miranda**, vice president, Blue Springs High School, Blue Springs; **Cara Hartwig**, reporter, Blue Springs High School, Blue Springs; and **Sam Wright**, Secretary, David H. Hickman High School, Columbia.

The 2011-2012 district vice presidents include: **Laura Votruba**, District 1, Park Hill High School, Kansas City; **Audrey Schutte**, District 2, David H. Hickman High School, Columbia; **Mallory Keller**, District 3, Belton High School, Belton; **Nathan Watson**, District 4, Pleasant Hill High School, Pleasant Hill; **Noel Sandoval**, District 5, California High School, California; **Mary Disney**, District 6, Emil E. Holt Sr. High School, Wentzville; **Da'Shaun Scott**, District 7, McCluer North High School, Florissant; **Andrew Paniello**, District 8, Parkway South High School, Manchester; **Megan Ball**, District 9, Rockwood Summit Sr. High School, Fenton; **Taylor Norcross**, District 10, Nevada Regional Tech Center, Nevada; **Shane Smith**, District 11, Hillcrest High School, Springfield; and **Kristofor Kranjec**, District 12, Fredericktown High School, Fredericktown.

The newly elected executive officers were determined on the basis of their written test, screening and nominating committee interview, and number of ballots cast by the voting delegates after delivering their campaign speech during the election session. Serving as a state officer provides DECA members the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and professionalism that is essential for a successful career.

[DECA](#) is an international association of high school students studying marketing, finance, hospitality and management. The state affiliate of the DECA Inc. organization is the Career and Technical Student Organization for Missouri. Missouri DECA ranks sixth in the nation in membership with more than 9,100 members. There are 12 DECA districts and 177 DECA chapters in Missouri.