WRITTEN EVENT STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, 2016

Research and report writing are important elements of modern business activities. Great care must be taken to assure that the highest ethical standards are maintained by those engaging in research and report writing. To reinforce the importance of these standards, all written entries in DECA's Competitive Events Program ***must*** submit this statement as part of the entry. The statement ***must*** be signed by the DECA member(s) and the chapter advisor.

I understand the following requirements are set forth by DECA Inc. for all Competitive Event entries containing a written component. These requirements are additional to the general rules and regulations published by DECA Inc. By signing this statement, I certify that all are true and accurate as they relate to this entry.

1. The contents of this entry are the results of my work or, in the case of a team project, the work of current members of this DECA chapter.
2. No part of this entry has previously been entered in competition.
3. This entry has not been submitted in another DECA competitive event.
4. Credit for all secondary research has been given to the original author through the project's bibliography, footnotes or endnotes.
5. All activities or original research procedures described in this entry are accurate depictions of my efforts or, in the case of team projects, the efforts of my team.
6. All activities or original research described in this entry took place between the 2015 Chartered Association Career Development Conference and the 2016 Chartered Association Career Development Conference.
7. I understand that DECA has the right to publish all or part of this entry. Should DECA elect to publish the entire entry, I will receive an honorarium from DECA. Chapters or individuals with extenuating circumstances may appeal the right to publish the entry to the executive committee of the board of directors prior to submission of the project for competition.

This statement of assurances must be signed by all participants and the chapter advisor, and submitted with the entry, or the entry will be given 15 penalty points.

_____ _____

Participant's Signature *Participant's Signature*

_____

Participant's Signature

_____

Print/Type Participant Name(s)

_____

Competitive Event Name *School* *Chartered Association (State/Province)*

To the best of my knowledge, I verify that the above statements are true and that the student's (students') work does not constitute plagiarism.

_____ _____

Chapter Advisor's Name *Chapter Advisor's Signature*

_____

Chapter Advisor's Email

Hole punch and place in front of the written entry. Do not count as a page.

PROJECT ORIGINALITY

In many written events, chapters have settled on a strategy that uses the same well-developed projects year after year. Succeeding chapter teams often take the previous year's successful project and seek to improve it. If that strategy works in achieving a chapter's goals and the experience teaches the principles of DECA, the strategy serves the chapter, the community and DECA well.

Chapters submitting entries for chapter team events, however, should be challenged to do more than update the previous year's written project. Project committees should avoid even reviewing the previous year's entry. Judges (whose assignment is to evaluate a project according to established guidelines) will be impressed by the originality of a chapter's project.

Plagiarism of projects judged previously will automatically disqualify a chapter from competition and eligibility for awards.