

District & State Officer Experiences and Expectations

We asked 5 current and past officers about their experiences in district or state office.

- Lucious McDaniel IV (@LuciousIV) –
 - 2016-2017 District 7 President
 - 2017-2018 State President
- Emily Nguyen (@Em_ily_Nguyen) –
 - 2016-2017 District 4 VP of Media
 - 2017-2018 State VP of Leadership Development
- Mathew Hinojosa (@MathewDECA)
 - 2018 – 2019 District 1 President
 - 2019 – 2020 District 1 VP of Campaigns
- Nimisha Jain (@Nimisha908) –
 - 2016-2017 District 11 President
 - 2017-2018 State VP of Visual Media
- Shrey Addagatla (@shreyaddagatla)
 - 2019 – 2020 VP of Chapter Management

Here are their responses that give an insight on the workload and expectations for these roles:

1. What encouraged you to run for office past the chapter level and how did you get information on doing so?

- “I wanted to bring my chapter’s ideas for district/state improvement to action. My chapter/district advisor helped me learn more about the process.” – Emily
- “I loved how being a part of DECA made me feel and I wanted others to feel the same way.” – Nimisha
- “At my District Leadership Conference, I listened to each officer speak and I told myself that I want to be up there.” – Mathew

2. What is the purpose of your position(s)?

- “Currently, I serve as the President of Texas DECA where I am responsible for facilitating the teams progress in regards to setting and surpassing goals. This entails, writing numerous reports each month on the progress of Texas DECA and tracking key metrics.”
– Lucious
- “Being President of District 1 last year, I was tasked to work with the other district officers, as well as the district director in running the district. It was my responsibility to schedule and host the monthly president council meetings with the other district officers as well as the chapter presidents. I also had to keep chapters informed about all upcoming events and deadlines.” — Mathew
- “As the VP of Leadership Development, I am in charge of communications between the state level and district level.” – Emily
- “As the VP of Chapter Management, I’m the connection between chapter leaders and the state officer team in order to facilitate the creation of new chapters, spread awareness of resources, and ensure each chapter is operating at their fullest capacity.”
— Shrey

3. What were common tasks under your position?

- President of Texas DECA
 - Read and write reports that illustrate the progress of Texas DECA
 - Listen to the ideas of others to put together the best possible solution
 - Smile: By smile, I mean make sure that you have a positive attitude as much as possible, especially in times of adversity and/or struggles.
- Texas DECA VP of Media
 - Create flyers, videos, and designs for all publications
 - Plan media calendars for the month
 - Promote a positive brand for Texas DECA
 - Advertise resources through social media
- District Officer - connect with your district, successfully improve current problems within your district, and make sure that chapter members are heard

4. How many hours per week did you spend on average? How did this time commitment work out with other activities you are involved in?

- 5-6 hours per week for State Officers and 2-3 hours per week for District Officers

- “This definitely put a strain on my personal schedule as I am a full-time student athlete but the experience and relationships I have built thus far make it all worth it.” – Lucious

5. Who did you go to for help or advice?

- “I went to my district director a lot. She was incredibly open to my ideas and allowed to set a bunch of new things in place. I now go to my state director; he is always there to answer all my questions.” – Nimisha
- “I ask the other officers on our team first for help because our jobs are a team effort. If the task is more technical, I ask either our State Officer Coordinator Mrs. Dry or the Texas DECA Executive Director Mr. Shankle for advice. On occasion, I'll ask people from previous officer teams how to manage my role and other activities.” — Shrey

6. What was a challenge related to your tasks?

- “trying to get more chapter involvement. I overcame this by contacting the chapter presidents and ensured that the necessary information was passed from the district level to chapters.” — Mathew
- “taking a lot of ideas and putting them together to form one cohesive plan of action that everyone agreed on” – Lucious
- “time management” – Nimisha

7. What is a UNIQUE opportunity that you were given as a District or State Officer?

- “As a State Officer, I have had the opportunity to travel to places that I have never been to before like Washington, D.C. Also, I have received unique leadership training that most students my age don't get.” – Lucious
- “If I had an idea and I wanted to turn into reality, as long as it was feasible and I had a plan to do it, there was no stopping me.” – Nimisha
- “I have not only met but have become great friends with DECA enthusiasts all over the state and country. I meet them at conferences and leadership trainings, and then keep in touch with them throughout the year.” – Emily

Personal Advice:

- “Believe in yourself and be genuine. Things will get hard, but know that you WILL survive! And also, live in the moment. DECA provides its members with countless opportunities that many students can only dream about experiencing so appreciate all of the little things.” – Lucious
- “Run for office! It's worth the experience! Even if you don't win, you learn and network so much through campaigning!” – Nimisha
- “There’s a difference between wanting the title and earning the title. If you are passionate about DECA and serving its members, look into running for office and reach out to your advisor for information/support.” – Emily