



M.J. DeBenning Scholarship

Awarded Annually to Oklahoma Marketing Education and DECA Members.

Mention the history of Oklahoma distributive education and one person comes immediately to mind — M. J. DeBenning. DeBenning presided over the incorporation of distributive education into the Oklahoma CareerTech System, and he was one of its staunchest defenders.

DeBenning began his career in education as an elementary teacher in Jessie, Oklahoma. Next, he spent 10 years as a teacher and administrator in the Seminole school system before leaving education in 1937 to manage an auto supply store.



After returning to teaching in 1939 at Konawa, DeBenning began his long career in distributive education. He served as dean of men and teacher coordinator of vocational distributive education at Northwestern Oklahoma Junior College. In 1941, he became an itinerant instructor and teacher trainer in the College of Business at Oklahoma State University, then Oklahoma A&M. He became assistant state coordinator of distributive education at the State Board of Vocational Education in 1942 and was soon promoted to coordinator. He also served as assistant professor in OSU's College of Business.

During his long tenure in distributive education, DeBenning served as a visiting professor and consultant to 14 of the nation's largest and most prestigious universities. He also devoted years of service to the Distributive Education Clubs of America. From the organization's beginning in 1947 until his retirement in 1973, DeBenning never missed a national DECA career development conference. After retiring, he was fundraiser for the Oklahoma CareerTech Foundation until 1986.

Mr. DeBenning was inducted into the Oklahoma CareerTech Hall of Fame in 1997.

The purpose of the M.J. Debenning Scholarship is to encourage continued involvement in DECA and/or marketing education by providing financial assistance to current members of DECA for participation in the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) or a higher education scholarship. Scholarships will be awarded based on need, DECA involvement, and advisor recommendation. The number of scholarships awarded each year will be determined by the availability of funds.

Scholarship Award Process Guidelines:

OPTION 1: Members of the Oklahoma State Action Team and all first-place award winners from the current year's DECA Career Development Conference are eligible to apply for assistance with ICDC expenses. The scholarship may be used to fund expenses for travel, registration, national officer expenses, or housing at ICDC. Amount awarded for ICDC expenses is \$150.

OPTION 2: Members of Oklahoma DECA in good standing are eligible to apply for the continuing/higher education scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Preference will be given to students who are applying for higher education scholarships to pursue a career in marketing, business and/or education.

Scholarship Award Selection Committee:

The award selection committee will be comprised of three of the five individuals listed:

- State DECA Advisor
- State Program Administrator for BMITE
- Business and Industry Representative
- DECA Alumni
- CareerTech State Advisor (i.e. BPA, FFA, SkillsUSA, HOSA, FCCLA, TSA)

Scholarship Award Timeline:

Applications are due March 14th. Notification of awards will be delivered by email no later than March 31st.

Checklist for Submission:

- Completed Application Packet _____
 - Instructor Recommendation _____
 - School Principal/Guidance Official Student Data _____
- Copy of transcript(s) _____
- Administrator Letter of Recommendation _____

Applications must be submitted by March 14th via email to the following:
Pamela.Porter@careertech.ok.gov

MJ Benning Scholarship Award Scoring Rubric

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Awarded	Notes
Grammar (spelling, punctuation, etc.)	5		
Served as a local DECA officer	10		
Served as a state DECA officer	10		
First Place DECA Award Winner	10		
Pursuing a career in teaching marketing or business	10		
Recruited at least five new DECA members	10		
Recruited/reactivated new local DECA chapter	5		
Other activities, honors, and awards	5		
Community involvement	5		
Justification/need for scholarship	20		
Instructor recommendation	5		
Administrator letter of recommendation	5		
SUB-TOTAL	100		
GPA Points Added:			
4.0+	5		
3.5-3.9	4		
3.0-3.4	3		
2.5-2.9	2		
2.0-2.4	1		
Less than 2.0	0		
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE	105		

Evaluator Comments:

M.J. DEBENNING SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

**Note: Applicant must be a high school senior to be eligible for a higher education scholarship with a preference given to individuals intending to pursue a degree in marketing, business and/or education. Applicant must be a marketing management student and an active member in good standing of DECA.*

Applications must be submitted by March 14th via email to the following:
Pamela.Porter@careertech.ok.gov

PERSONAL: (Please type or print)

Name _____
Last First Middle

Address _____
Number Street

City/Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Name of High School _____ Year of Graduation _____

School Address _____
Number Street

City/Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

SCHOLARSHIP TYPE AND AMOUNT REQUESTED: (Please select one)

OPTION 1: _____ DECA ICDC Expenses Amount Requested: \$ _____ (\$150.00 - \$500.00)

OPTION 2: _____ Continuing/Higher Education Scholarship Amount Requested: \$1,000.00

MARKETING AND DECA INFORMATION:

How long have you been a member of DECA? _____ Advisor's name _____

DECA Activities

DECA Offices Held

DECA Awards or Special Accomplishments

Marketing Courses Taken

How has Marketing Education and/or DECA directed your career plans? Identify your career goals.

How have you contributed to growing Oklahoma DECA? Include number of new members recruited and if you have recruited/reactivated a new DECA chapter.

ACTIVITIES: (Other than DECA)

High School Activities and Offices Held

Honors/Awards

Community Involvement

JUSTIFICATION:

Explain why you are applying for the scholarship. Explain why you need the funds requested (i.e. is there another source you could utilize for the funds being requested). Note if you receive free/reduced lunches.

What special qualifications do you possess that you feel warrants your receiving the M.J. DeBenning Scholarship award?

Date _____ Signature _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____

INSTRUCTOR RECOMMENDATION:

Instructor Name _____
School Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____
Area Code and Phone _____

Special Instructions: Please pay particular attention to the following questions as they are very important to the student you are recommending.

1. CHARACTER OF STUDENT. Please indicate in the space below how you feel about this student's character. How is the quality of his/her work? Volume of work? How is he/she as a worker? Is he/she loyal and dependable? Does he/she show maturity and professionalism in his/her work?

2. SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS. In school, the best students accomplish more, assist more, create more, learn more, teach more and are recognized more than others. What has this person done to cause you to make this recommendation for this scholarship?

3. How would you rate this student's attendance record on a scale of 1 - 5? (Select one)

- 1 - Poor
- 2 - Below average
- 3 - Average
- 4 - Above average
- 5 - Excellent

4. How would you rate the over-all performance of this student on a scale of 1-5? (Select one)

- 1 - Poor
- 2 - Below average
- 3 - Average
- 4 - Above average
- 5 - Excellent

Instructor Signature _____

Date _____

This Space Reserved for School Principal or Guidance Official

Name of School

Address of School

Scholastic and Test Record of:

Full Name of Applicant

a. Applicant ranks _____ in school class of _____ (numerical rank)

b. General ability of student: _____ Excellent _____ Very Good _____ Average

c. Average grade point achieved by applicant:

High School: 9th grade _____ 11th grade _____ College (if renewal) 1st year _____
10th grade _____ 12th grade _____ 2nd year _____ 3rd year _____

Other: _____

Indicate: _____ 4.0 System _____ 5.0 System

_____ Other (Specify) _____

Signature of School Official

Title

Date

Signature of Applicant

Date

******* SPECIAL NOTE *******

Submit the following along with your application:

- 1) Letter of recommendation from your School Administrator that includes character, potential, and other pertinent information; and
- 2) Transcript of your high school grades.