



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 Executive Council 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* CTSO Advisor (BPA, FFA, SkillsUSA, HOSA, FCCLA, TSA)

Scholarship Award Timeline:

Award recipients will be notified via email by March 31st annually.

Checklist for Submission:

- Completed Application Packet
 - Instructor Recommendation
- Copy of Official transcript(s)
- Administrator Letter of Recommendation

Applications must be submitted via email to the following:

James.Gordon@careertech.ok.gov

M.J. DEBENNING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

**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 student and an active member in good standing of DECA.*

Applicant Information

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: Ok Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Grad Year: _____

High School/Tech Center: _____

Advisor Name: _____ Email: _____

Years in DECA _____ Scholarship type requested: _____

Marketing Courses Taken:

DECA Offices Held (local, state, national):

DECA Activities:

DECA Awards or Special Accomplishments:

How have you contributed to growing Oklahoma DECA? Include new members or chapters that you may have helped recruit.

How has marketing education and/or DECA directed your career plans? What are your career goals?

How are you involved in your local community?

Other High School Activities and Offices Held:

Other Honors / Awards Received:

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?

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Instructor Recommendation

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

School Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: Ok Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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?

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?

Instructor Signature: _____ Date: _____

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		Committee Notes
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		