



ALP ONGUC VP OF LEADERSHIP

Hello, Ohio DECA! My name is Alp Onguc, and I am incredibly excited and honored to serve as one of your Team 83 Vice President's of Leadership. DECA has given me so many opportunities to lead and make an impact, and has helped me grow beyond what I thought was possible. This year, I want to help make those same opportunities more accessible to every Ohio DECA member, regardless of their chapter size, experience, or background.

As a state officer, one of my biggest priorities is strengthening the connections between members and chapters. Ohio DECA is composed of over 8,000 members with different expectations and strengths, and I believe that we are at our best when we learn from one another. Through expanded Connect Calls, our statewide GroupMe, chapter outreach, and other opportunities to engage beyond conferences, I will work to make the chapters of Ohio DECA better in all aspects of competition and professional development.

I am especially excited to work alongside Aiden and Sekhar on Team 83's Innovations initiatives. Our work is centered around three C's: Connection, Competition, and Content. Through **Connect**, we will grow opportunities for members around the entire state to communicate and learn from each other. Through **Competition**, we will start a state-wide competitive mentoring system and match members who want mentoring with members who have prior competition experience. Through **Content**, we will develop simple, accessible guides on matters in competition, leadership, DECA, and overall involvement.

Competition has significantly impacted my own experience in DECA. I started off just as lost as any other first-year DECA competitor. It was not until I was able to get mentored by an upperclassman friend (and former state officer) that I started to improve in DECA. I am also aware of the difficulties of knowledge transfer in chapters and the substantial amount of knowledge and experience that leaves with each graduating class. I plan to implement a state-wide mentorship program which facilitates the movement of this information, enables DECA members to improve competitively, and connects members across Ohio. In addition to these programs, it's crucial for us as Team 83 to always remain an available resource for members whom we represent, and we hope to accomplish the following goals:

- Fostering a collaborative environment for members and chapters across Ohio DECA
- Implementing a more far-reaching connective communications network throughout the state
- Developing and sharing resources in a concise, simple format to increase accessibility

Throughout my DECA experience, I have come to realize how much deeper an individual contribution or triumph becomes when shared, especially with another member eager to achieve. I seek to work on building a thriving competitive environment in Ohio DECA, where members never feel unprepared as they progress through their DECA journeys. I am beyond excited to witness all that Team 83 has in store for Ohio DECA.

I invite you all to please share all of your ideas with me, regardless of how small. I am accessible through Instagram (**@deca_alp**) or my email aonguc@ohiodeca.org. Ohio DECA is your association, and I am here to help realize your potential. I can't wait to serve you all and help build the next generation of DECA competitors.

*Alp Onguc
VP of Leadership
Team 83*