



AIDEN JOHNSON PRESIDENT

Hello, Ohio DECA! My name is Aiden Johnson, and I am incredibly excited and honored to serve as your Ohio DECA President. DECA has had a tremendous impact on my life. When I first joined DECA, I never imagined how much it would challenge me, grow my confidence, and give me opportunities to lead. This organization helped me find my voice, and this year, I want to help make those same opportunities available to every Ohio DECA member.

One of my biggest priorities as a state officer is strengthening the connections between members and chapters across Ohio. With more than 8,000 members, Ohio DECA is filled with students who bring different experiences to the organization. I believe we become stronger when we are better connected. So, through Connect Calls and our statewide GroupMe, I want to help make Ohio DECA feel less like a collection of individual chapters and more like one connected association.

I am especially excited to work alongside Alp and Sekhar on Team 83's Innovation initiatives. Our work is centered around three C's: Connection, Competition, and Content.

Through **Connection**, we will create more opportunities for members across Ohio to communicate, collaborate, and connect. Through **Competition**, we will develop a statewide competitive mentoring system that connects members looking for guidance with experienced competitors who can help them grow. Through **Content**, we will create accessible resources covering all things DECA. With my focus being on Connection, I am continuing to work on the Connect Calls and GroupMe. All Connect Calls will be late 1st Semester - early 2nd Semester leading up to State CDC. Stay tuned for a schedule coming soon on Instagram!

However, our job as state officers goes far beyond competitions and conferences. Team 83 is a resource that members can turn to throughout the entire year. I want every member to know that their ideas, questions, and experiences matter, regardless of the size of their chapter or how long they have been involved in DECA.

Throughout my DECA experience, I have learned that DECA is about so much more than winning a competition. It is about the people who encourage you, the experiences that push you outside your comfort zone, and the opportunities that help you become someone you never thought you could be. I want to help create those experiences for you.

Ohio DECA is your association, and your ideas are what make it better. Whether you have a big idea or a small suggestion, I want to hear it. Please reach out to me through Instagram (**@deca_aiden**) or through my email **ajohnson@ohiodeca.org**. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve you, and I cannot wait to see what we accomplish together as Team 83.

Let's make this a year of connection, growth, and opportunity for every Ohio DECA member!

Aiden Johnson
President
Team 83