

# DECA

Dayton Early College Academy

# CHANGES! LIVES!





PREPARING FUTURE  
COLLEGE GRADUATES  
**TODAY**  
TO BECOME THE  
LEADERS OF OUR COMMUNITY  
**TOMORROW.**

Dear DECA Friends:

No question about it...

## DECA CHANGES LIVES!

And this year we got to reconnect a group of living, breathing, working, achieving testimonials to that premise. This past school year marked many milestones, including the 10-year reunion of our first graduating class. Some members of the class have expanded their horizons in new cities. Many have proven that one can come quite a long way without ever leaving home.

Their reunion offered both a battery-recharging moment for DECA staff, as well as a chance for the alums to reflect on how DECA changed their life's paths. And while the moment offered a nice retrospective, plenty of life-changing examples unfolded right before our eyes this school year.

This was one of DECA's best years! We served 1,145 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, we increased enrollment by 10 percent, opened a new middle school facility downtown, constructed the DECA PREP Parent Center and saw substantial growth in most of our required test scores! DECA Middle opened in August and made the most of year one. Educators know Grades 5 through 8 are critical – some say the toughest—years in a student's education. DECA Middle faculty was ready with culture-building activities to ingrain DECA's core values into everyday life at the school. Administrators and teachers focused on skilled teaching and positive classroom structure. Parents engaged from Day 1. Even the last day of school was a celebration of what can be accomplished in one short year when everyone is committed to quality. DECA Middle is proud to be a civic-minded downtown neighbor helping renew our city.

Also in this report, we introduce new DECA PREP principal Aileen Ernst and deans Lane Clegg and Eddie Davis. Each brings a wealth of solid leadership experience and a host of great ideas to our elementary. They didn't wait for school to open to start new traditions. Aileen and her faculty visited the students at home, dropping off welcome bags the night before the first day!

Review closely the year-over-year academic growth by our students. Our carefully-planned interventions are getting results. Notably, we are making a very impressive gain in students' math skills as a result of doubling up seventh grade classes.

**A whopping 85 percent of our eighth-graders were proficient or higher in math, compared to the Ohio average of 54 percent.** Did you know how you score in math in the eighth grade is a very strong predictor for later college readiness? We can improve across the board, but DECA's progress is solid.

After 14 years, Matt Diggs stepped down as DECA Board of Trustees chair. His leadership was recognized by new chair Tom Bettcher and his fellow trustees and honored by a new scholarship. We look forward to see what the scholarship's inaugural winner, Xavier Henry, achieves in the future. In the meantime, we'll highlight some of the class of 2007, updating you on their post-DECA lives. As DECA supporters and advocates, share in our pride when you read about their accomplishments and sense of responsibility to "give back." The reunion's energy will stay with us for a long time. **Do not doubt that you are change agents for the Dayton community. We absolutely heard it in the testimonies of our grads. A DECA education changed their lives.**

With gratitude for every support you provided our learners this past year,



*Judy Hennessey*

Judy Hennessey, Superintendent and CEO



*David A Taylor*

David Taylor, Deputy Superintendent



# WHY

## DECA CH<sup>A+</sup>NGES LIVES!



DECA student caps on graduation day!

**WE KNOW** everyone's reality is considerably different. Many young Dayton learners experience childhoods so starkly different from those of their future competitors that they cannot catch up. Child psychologists document the toll a highly stressful, unstable environment takes on a young learner's brain. **We know that a quality school can make the difference for that child.** We know that students respond to high expectations when given timely supports to achieve their goals. We know DECA learners are prepared to take their seats on a college campus and graduate, **changing the trajectory of their lives.** Our data confirm this.

“THE HALLOWED AMERICAN DREAM IS THE GOLD STANDARD, WHERE EACH GENERATION PURSUES ITS OWN DEFINITION OF HAPPINESS UNFETTERED BY THE RESTRAINTS OF BIRTH.

—Author Nancy Isenberg

Nationally, the truth is that fewer students who grow up poor reach college. The Lumina Foundation reported in April 2017 that one in 10 will get a college degree, compared to 77% for children from upper income levels.\* For the previous decade, 11% was consistently reported. That's a downward trend of more than a percent. DECA is a concrete response to alter this trend.



DECA PREP Students



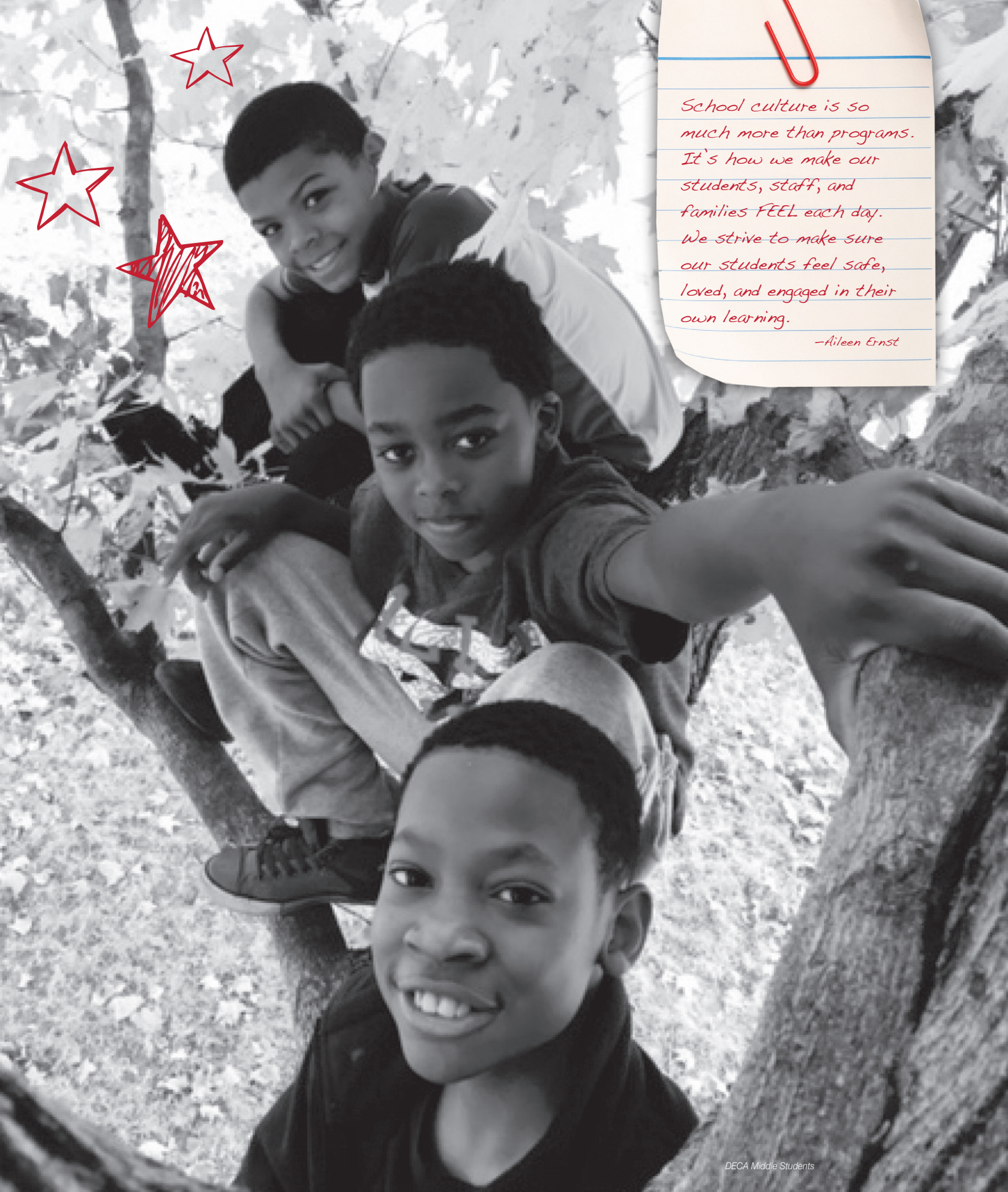
### HOW DOES DECA GET RESULTS?

Our school district is focused on college readiness from the day a kindergartener crosses the threshold at DECA PREP. We teach students to control their actions and to repair relationships when we break covenants. DECA students learn to study and appreciate our differences. Together as a DECA family, we reject myths about who we are and what we can become. We get the right people on the bus. And we work hard. **WE KNOW WE CHANGE LIVES!**



\*Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education and the University of Pennsylvania Alliance for Higher Education Democracy, 2017





*School culture is so much more than programs. It's how we make our students, staff, and families FEEL each day. We strive to make sure our students feel safe, loved, and engaged in their own learning.*

*—Aileen Ernst*

DECA Middle Students



# OUR STAFF

## IS CH<sup>A+</sup>NGING LIVES!

Aileen Ernst always knew she wanted to be a teacher. She grew into school leadership and was fortunate to learn from great administrators throughout her career. Aileen likes a challenge, especially when she can lead a school with an innovative spirit and the freedom to respond to students' and teachers' needs without a lot of red tape. Aileen, with degrees from both Ohio University and the University of Cincinnati, has taught kindergarten, first, third and sixth grades. She also had various roles outside of the classroom as a behavior intervention coordinator, assistant principal, and principal, having experience in both urban and suburban schools, large and small.

Aileen says, "The enthusiasm from the students, dedication from the teachers and staff, and pride that I see from everyone in the building is evident. It's that enthusiasm, passion, and dedication that drew me to DECA." She hit the ground running this summer, holding *Popsicles with the Principal* events to meet her new students and families, attending a national conference with a teacher team, and planning all facets of the new year.

Lane Clegg and Eddie Davis join Aileen as DECA PREP deans. Lane relocated from Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she taught kindergarten, first, second and sixth grades before spending her last two years as an assistant principal of instruction. She was a classmate of DECA Middle principal Charlie Bull in the Columbia University's Urban Principal Program. Lane will focus on new teacher support and coaching teachers to maximize their instructional skills.



Left to right: Eddie Davis, Aileen Ernst and Lane Clegg.

Eddie is a graduate of Capital University and holds both a Master's in Educational Leadership and an MBA. A Dayton native, he is emphatic about the need for college-focused goals for Dayton's young students. Eddie has been an administrator for the Jefferson Township Schools and Mound Street Academies. He looks forward to building relationships with DECA PREP families and positioning students to do their best in school through attentive, engaged behavior.



# SOLID ACADEMIC WORK IS CH<sup>A+</sup>NGING LIVES!

As we shared last year, The Ohio Department of Education's school report card is an attempt to fairly evaluate the effectiveness of more than 610 districts and 362 charter schools. But that's nearly impossible. The report card depicts school performance on a variety of indicators across grades 3-12. School personnel analyze the results to detect year-to-year

cohort growth and overall performance compared to other Ohio schools, traditional and charter.

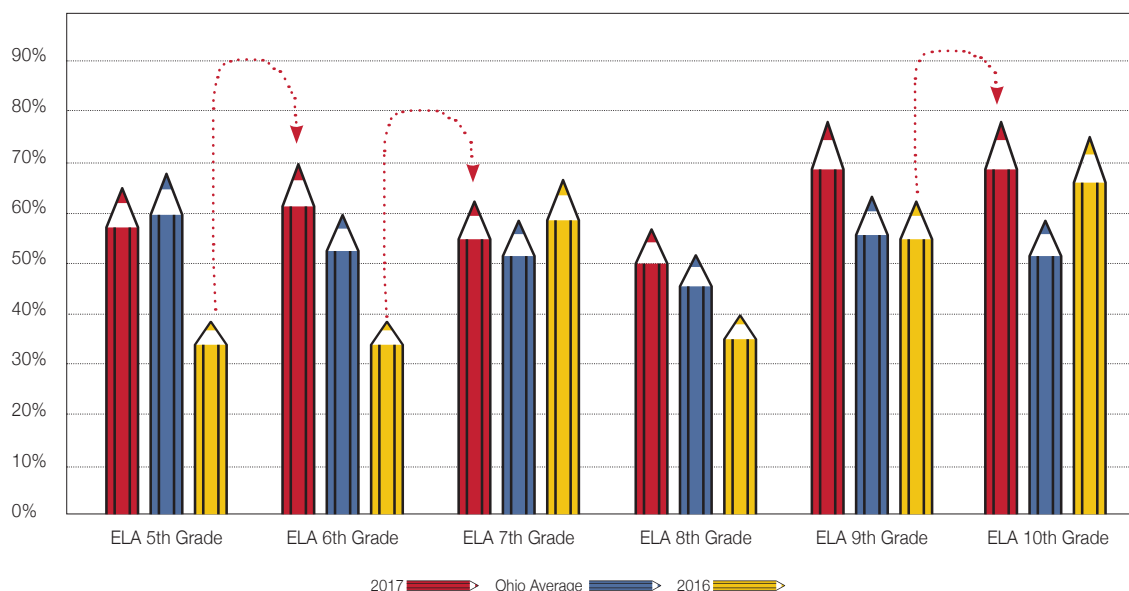
The report card contains a lot of information, namely student performance on the Ohio State Tests (OST). We narrowed the data to answer these three questions:



## HOW DID A GRADE-LEVEL COHORT PERFORM THIS YEAR COMPARED TO LAST YEAR?

To answer this question, one must look at both 2016 and 2017 results in the same content area for the same students. Look closely. We see areas of tremendous growth in the performance of students in English/Language Arts (ELA) from fifth to sixth grades and from sixth to seventh grades; DECA students outpace the state average in sixth through 10th grades.

English Language Arts OST (ELA) | *Grades 5-10*



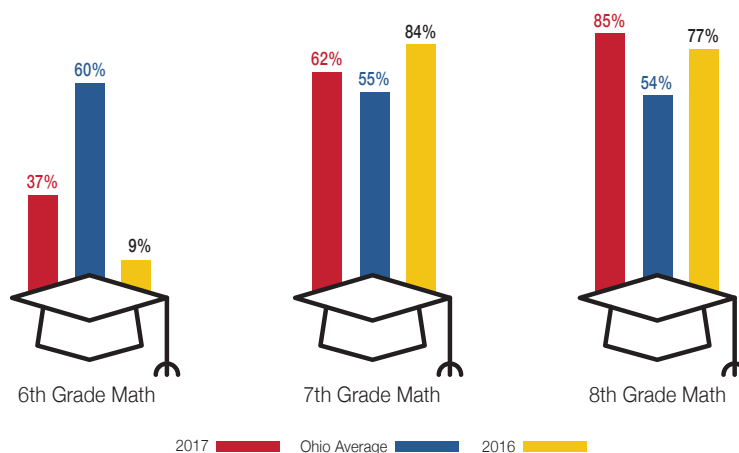




## HOW DID A GRADE-LEVEL COHORT PERFORM THIS YEAR COMPARED TO LAST YEAR?

In math, the most promising results are in the seventh and eighth grades: 85 percent of DECA Middle 8th graders passed the exam. Some research points to this score as an excellent predictor that students are on-track for college. Another positive was a 53 percent year-over-year increase by our seventh-graders, who scored 84 percent proficient this year.

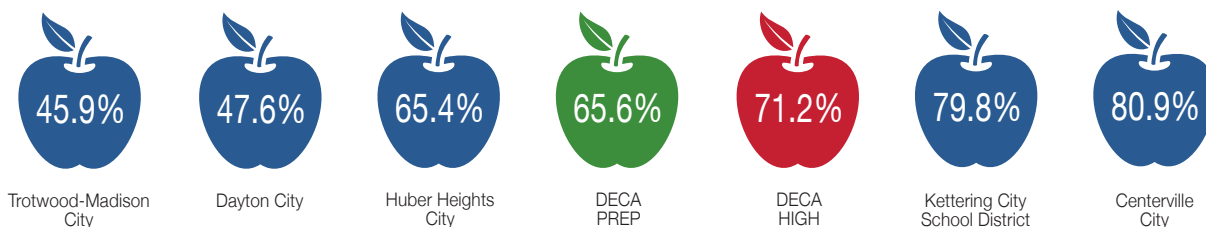
### Math OST | *Grades 6-8*



## HOW DOES DECA'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE COMPARE TO LOCAL DISTRICTS AND OTHER CHARTER SCHOOLS?

Widely considered the most useful aspect of statewide testing, the **performance index (PI)** reveals a composite index of how well students performed on the complete battery of K-12 state-mandated tests. Scores are weighted according to the various levels above and below proficiency. The higher the PI, generally the more students passed the tests at the higher levels.

### Performance Index Score | *Local Districts vs. DECA*



Note: Legally, DECA PREP and DECA Middle comprise one school district. DECA High is a separate fiscal entity.



## ARE DECA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MASTERING THE CONTENT OF THEIR CLASSES?

The “end-of-course” exams (OSTs) are given to measure students’ mastery of individual courses. DECA High students exceeded the average state passage rate in every area, with the exception of Algebra. The students also took tests in Algebra, American History, Government and Biology.

### End of Course OSTs | *DECA 2017*

# MORE THAN A DECADE OF DECA CH<sup>A</sup>NGING LIVES!

In August, DECA welcomed back its first graduating class. The weekend included the customary hugs and lively recounting of funny stories about one another and their teachers. But there was more, something uniquely DECA and joyful. Remember, these were the first students in Ohio to attend an early college high school!

DECA '07 grads have found their way in the world. Strengthened by a network of close relationships with their former teachers, they tackled college with the zeal of personal missions and the quest for careers that excite them. While the inaugural class was small, they have made us proud. Their perspectives are profound, as you will read below.



DECA grads enjoying photos taken during their high school days.

## VICTORIA UNDERWOOD

Bachelor of Science, International Business,  
Wright State University  
Working on a Master of Arts in International  
Comparative Politics at Wright State University

*DECA helped me prepare for the insane juggling of college-life and real-life. At DECA, it was good to ask questions - to learn, to progress. I hadn't had that experience at a previous school.*

## CHRISTINA COUNCIL

Bachelor of Science, Marketing, Finance and  
Psychology, University of Dayton  
Associate Shopper Insights Manager for Unilever,  
in New York City

*Being a DECA student gave me a leg up for college and the ability to complete a triple major in marketing, finance and psychology. DECA was invested in our success; they guided us along the way.*

## KRISTAN BAKER

Bachelor of Science, Communications Studies,  
Ohio University  
Currently works as an Enterprise Customer  
Success Manager for Clarizen, San Francisco

*DECA has been the big differentiator for me. Lessons learned at DECA helped me in college, drove me through hard times after college and drives me to keep trying.*

### LANCE RYAN BROWN

Bachelor of Arts, History, Miami University  
University of Dayton School of Law,  
2nd year

*Ten years later I still think about DECA - the accountability they expected from each of us. It reminds me of the duty I have to myself, my community and my school.*

### ANTHONY STAUP

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and Government, University of Dayton  
IT Security for T. Rowe Price living in Baltimore  
Maryland | Army National Guard

*I literally don't know where I'd be if I didn't go to DECA. We were told from the moment we got there, we were going to college. I know I wouldn't be where I am today without them.*

### KASANDRA MAXWELL

Master of Science, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Wright State University  
Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering, University of Dayton  
Associate Electronics Engineer at Wright Patterson Air Force Base

*Everything I learned at DECA - and their willingness to let me have my own ideas - helps me to continue pursuing my dreams.*

## THANKS FOR INVESTING IN ME!

### CHRISTIAAN COLSTON

Master of Arts, Applied Behavioral Science, Criminal Justice and Social Problems, Wright State University  
Bachelor of Arts, History, University of Dayton  
Caseworker for Montgomery County

*Never limit yourself. If no one has gone before you, you can be the first. Always have hope.*



“DECA CHANGED MY LIFE. IT CHANGED MY PERCEPTION OF WHO I COULD BE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT MY LIFE WOULD BE LIKE WITHOUT DECA.”

—Christiaan Colston



Christiaan Colston is a young woman who knows how to get things done. She knew her parents expected her to go to college but she didn't always feel confident that she could get there. She says DECA positioned her for college success. When she enrolled at the University of Dayton, she was prepared academically and could juggle the work load.

But according to Christiaan, DECA's unique out-of-the-classroom requirements were equally important. “We didn't just talk about things; we did them. We applied our knowledge,” she said. “The life experiences trumped the rest. In college, when it was time to arrange your own internships and to step out on your own, I had already been there.”

Now with a Master's Degree, she is a case worker with Montgomery County. She communicates both passion for her work and a deep empathy for her clients. She also makes time to mentor a group of young girls. “Someone invested in me,” she said. “Now I give back.”

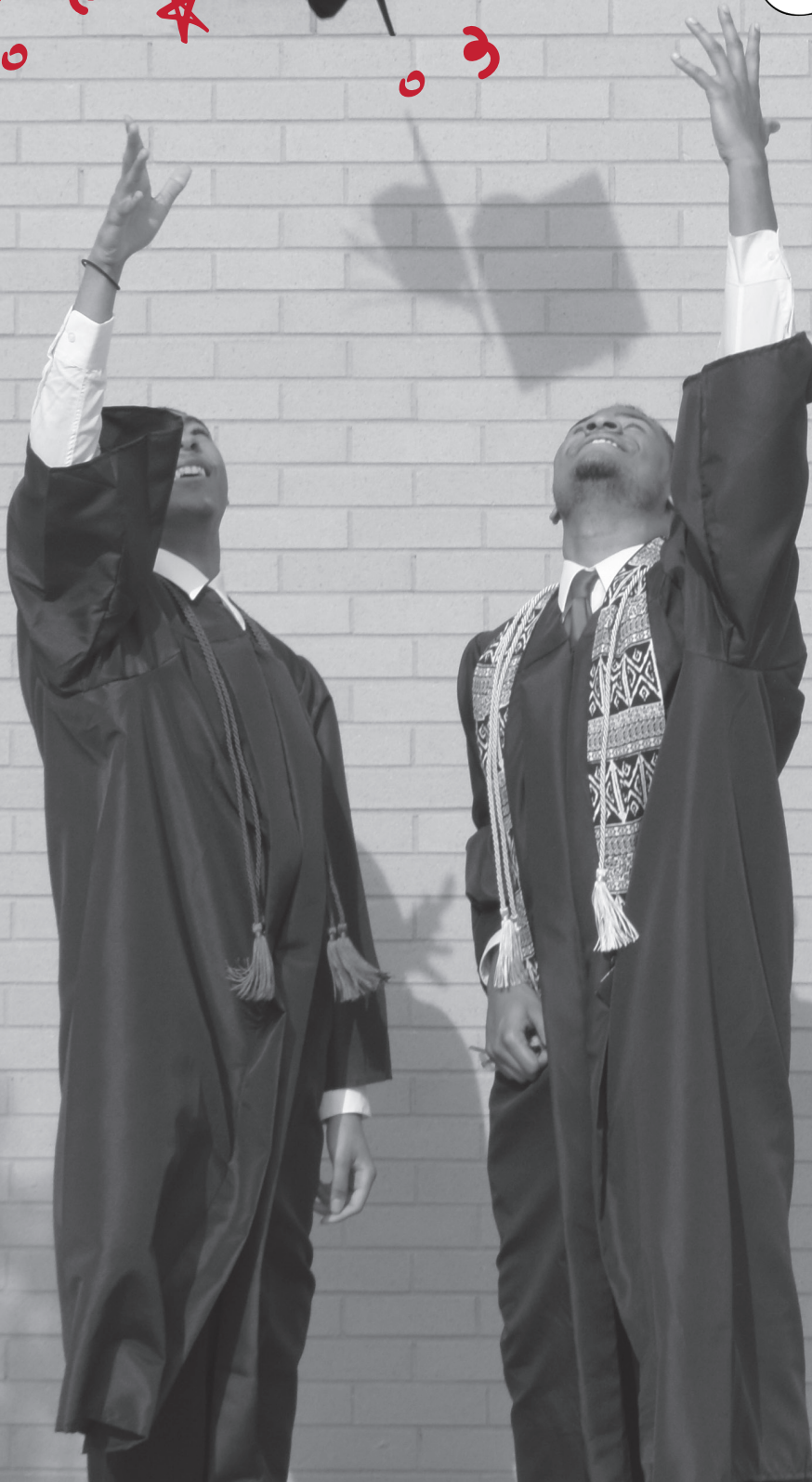
While some of her classmates returned from the East and West coasts, Christiaan enjoys her life in Dayton with her family and close friends nearby. She says Dayton has a lot to those willing to get out of their comfort zone. “Our generation will make the Dayton community better. There are young professionals doing some great things,” she adds.



DECA WAS THE **1<sup>ST</sup>** OHIO EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL. THERE ARE NOW 16 IN OHIO AND MORE THAN 450 NATIONALLY.



# GREAT JOB!



**DECA**

Left to right: Damon Alexander and Omari Gaskins celebrating their graduation! Both started college: Damon at the University of Dayton and Omari at The Ohio State University.



# TOGETHER PARENTS & TEACHERS CH<sup>A+</sup>NGE LIVES!



The Dr. Judy A. Hennessey Parent Center located at 200 Homewood Ave.

From the day we opened our doors, parents have been our respected partners and have played a role in the governance of DECA. From the Board of Trustees to the monthly parent community meetings, DECA PREP parents know the road to college requires a committed “village.”

The DECA PREP Parent Center began as a hopeful, but unlikely dream. Now when you drive by 200 Homewood Avenue in the Five Oaks neighborhood, you’ll see a radically different campus. DECA PREP’s unique Classroom Parent Communities (cPc) have a new meeting space. Two buildings are linked with above-ground connectors and a two-story addition in the middle. DECA PREP capitalized on a one-time grant opportunity for Ohio high-performing charter schools with shovel-ready projects to increase enrollment. The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission awarded the school \$777, 567 for the project, with a mandate for an equal amount in local funding. We thank DECA PREP donors, including parents, who made this possible.



On September 10, students, parents, teachers and supporters gathered to celebrate the opening of DECA PREP’s Parent Center. The event acknowledged the efforts and hard work of many people and the impact the new facility will have on DECA’s youngest learners. The DECA Board of Trustees dedicated and named the new building the **Dr. Judy A. Hennessey Parent Center**.

Mr. Matt Diggs, Chairman Emeritus, spoke on behalf of the Board of Trustees. “While many people made the dream of DECA possible, it was Dr. Hennessey’s vision, wisdom and insight that brought DECA from, a small, tentative start-up charter school to an effective, results oriented K-12 school district with more than 1,000 students. Judy has been our North Star, and has made a difference for so many young people and their families. **She has kept DECA focused on the essentials: excellent teachers, superb leadership, engaged parents and student-centered learning.** Grit has become the appropriate word to describe DECA. Judy Hennessey is the very personification of grit, perseverance, hard work, determination and courage. Because of Judy Hennessey, and her tireless efforts, we stand before you today.”



Tom Bettcher, DECA Board Chairman, Paul Striebel, Lead architect for the project and Dr. Hennessey.



# WHAT YOU CAN DO TO CHANGE LIVES!



To provide students with our unique “wraparound” support services, DECA must close a nearly \$2,000 spending gap per student. The State Legislature increased funding per charter school student by \$10 for the 2017-18 school year, from \$7,681 to \$7,691 per student. Gap funding – the cost to educate a DECA student, minus state funds – comes from foundations and individuals who see the value of their investment in Dayton children.

Consistently, **more than 80 percent of DECA students will be the first in their families to go to college.** First-generation college grads tend to locate close to home. *We all know the labor pool in our community must become better educated, more skilled technically and ready for workforce demands in a changing, more competitive market.* DECA is producing college-ready grads who can increase the education level and talent in our local community when they complete their college degrees.

Please consider taking the next step in helping. Share your time, talents and experience with our learners. Visit us at **[daytonearlycollege.org](http://daytonearlycollege.org)** to let us know you’re interested.

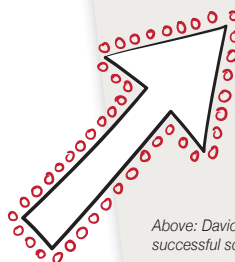
We also need your financial support. We promise every dollar contributed will impact our students. Donations can be made directly to Friends of DECA. We invite your membership as a DECA Champion.

## **DECA** Champions Annual Giving Levels

Extraordinary.....	\$20,000
Inspired.....	\$10,000
Bold.....	\$5,000
Proud.....	\$2,500
Loyal.....	\$1,200



MAY YOU BE PROUD  
OF THE WORK YOU DO  
THE PERSON YOU ARE  
AND THE DIFFERENCE  
**YOU MAKE**

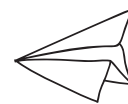


Above: David Taylor and Terry Grimes, DECA PREP Music Teacher celebrating a successful school year with a DECA PREP student.



## A true **DECA** leader—Mathew O. Diggs, Jr.

“AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DEMONSTRATES A STRONG WORK ETHIC, INTELLIGENCE, LONG-TERM FOCUS, LEADERSHIP, HUMBLENESS, RESPECT OF HIS PEERS, A SENSE OF GIVING BACK AND...HUMOR



DECA Trustees recognized the contribution of Matt Diggs, Chairman Emeritus of the DECA Board, by establishing a \$10,000 tuition and books scholarship, renewable for four years, to a DECA senior who exemplifies the qualities Mr. Diggs has demonstrated through his board servant-leadership.

Mr. Diggs, the former CEO of Copeland Corporation, has literally saved DECA at certain points in our history. He has lobbied legislators, written large personal checks, inspected multiple buildings to find a home for DECA PREP, and has attended more meetings on our behalf than we could count. It is not an overstatement that Matt Diggs kept the doors open at DECA through some tight financial crises.

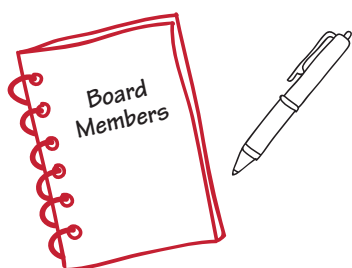
You may ask why a retired executive who could do anything with his talents and money cares about DECA. Those who know him know the answer: he believes in DECA students and

teachers. He knows students' capabilities and he has devoted his time and influence to assure DECA's sustainability.

The first Matthew O. Diggs, Jr. Scholarship was awarded to Xavier Henry. Xavier will represent Matt's legacy well as he enters Miami University this fall, majoring in psychology.



*Xavier Henry receiving the Matthew O. Diggs, Jr. Scholarship*



**Thomas E. Bettcher** | Chairman  
Retired CEO  
Emerson Climate Technologies

**Ronald F. Budzik** | Vice Chairman  
Retired Vice President  
Mead Corporation

**Matthew O. Diggs** | Emeritus  
Chairman  
Retired CEO  
Copeland Corporation

**Michael E. Carter**  
Senior Advisor to the President  
Sinclair Community College

**Annesa Cheek**  
Vice President, Organizational  
Development, Schools and  
Community Partnerships  
Sinclair Community College

**David Gasper**  
President  
Assisted Patrol

**Jane Haley**  
Chairman  
Gosiger, Inc.

**Heather Jackson-Chapman**  
RN/DECA Parent  
Kettering Health Network

**Michael McQuiston**  
Partner  
The Connor Group

**Jacqueline Phillips**  
Director, Human Resources  
and Administration  
United Way of Greater Dayton Area

**Vince Russo**  
President/CEO  
Aerospace Technologies  
Associates

**Kevin Scroggins**  
Pastor/DECA Parent  
Blessed Rock Church

**Thomas P. Whelley, II**  
Partner  
Dinsmore & Shohl LLP

**Patrick Donnelly**  
Professor, University of Dayton  
Ex Officio

**Judy A. Hennessey**  
Superintendent/CEO  
Ex Officio

**David Taylor**  
Deputy Superintendent  
Ex Officio

**Nicholas Martin**  
Treasurer  
Ex Officio



DECA's Sponsor:  
**The Thomas B. Fordham  
Foundation**



# DECA'S FINANCIAL GOAL IS CH<sup>A+</sup>NGING LIVES!



## Operations

Recurring revenue from government sources reached \$10 million for 1,100 students. We knowingly incurred an operating (recurring) loss of about 3% of recurring revenue. Positioning DECA and DECA PREP for increased enrollment, opening DECA Middle, addressing delayed maintenance projects, and adding necessary administrative services are the major reasons for the increased expenditures. We planned this loss for a reason; negative cash flow will recur in FY2018.

## Facilities and Capital Expenditure

- Facilities projects totaling \$2.3 million in improvements have been undertaken over several fiscal years.
- This initiative was enabled by IFF debt, an Ohio Facilities Construction Commission grant, (vital) private donations, and the use of financial reserves.
- We now have three school facilities to effectively serve the growing K-12 college preparatory needs of our community.
- \$1.5 million long-term mortgage, comfortably within our debt capacity was finalized.

Financial reserves of about one month's operating expenses have fallen lower than our goal and will be restored to a two-month level over the next several school years.

## OPERATING FUNDS

	FY 2016	FY 2017
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$1,201,770</b>	<b>\$1,244,994</b>
<b>Recurring</b>	Consolidated	Consolidated
Revenue	\$8,371,805	\$10,791,006
Expenditures	\$8,735,416	\$11,161,213
<b>Balance</b>	<b>(\$363,611)</b>	<b>(\$370,207)</b>
<b>Non-Recurring</b>		
Revenue	\$1,566,597	\$1,263,446
Expenditures	\$1,159,762	\$770,361
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$406,835</b>	<b>\$493,085</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$1,244,994</b>	<b>\$1,367,872</b>

\*Note: Fiscal Year 2017 does not include the Building Project.



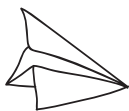
## Revenue by Source

- ← 68%.....State Funding
- ← 13%.....Federal Grants
- ← 11%.....Donations
- ← 5%.....Nutrition
- ← 3%.....Other Grants



## Expense by Category

- ← 72%.....Instructional and Support Services
- ← 11%.....Special Projects\*
- ← 10%.....Shared Services
- ← 7%.....Other



## Performance

As part of our sponsorship contract with the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, we are required to set and measure our progress toward specific goals. The performance measures listed below reflect the 2016-2017 school year for DECA PREP.

Primary Academic Indicators	Rating	Calculation
Performance Index (PI)	Falls Far Below	65.5%
Value Added (VA)	Exceeds	7.63
K-3 Literacy Improvement	Does Not Meet	3.6%
Performance v. Local Market (PI)	Exceeds	Top 20%
Performance v. Local Market (VA)	Exceeds	Top 20%
Performance v. Statewide Charters (PI)	Exceeds	Top 20%
Performance v. Statewide Charters (VA)	Exceeds	Top 20%

Secondary Academic Indicators	Rating	Calculation
Value Added: Overall	Exceeds	7.63
Performance Index: Overall	Falls Far Below	65.5%
Value Added: Disabilities	Falls Far Below	-1.05
Value Added: Lowest 20%	Exceeds	2.31
AMOs	Falls Far Below	62.7%

Financial Measures of Success Current Year	Rating
Ratio of Assets to Liabilities	Exceeds
Days Cash	Meets
Enrollment Variance	Exceeds

Financial Measures of Success Prior Year	Rating
Multi-year Ratio of Assets to Liabilities	Audit Pending
Cash Flow	Audit Pending
Total Margin and Aggregated Three Year Total Margin	Audit Pending

DECA PREP's full report card is available online at [www.reportcard.education.ohio.gov/Pages/School-Report.aspx?SchoolIRN=012924](http://www.reportcard.education.ohio.gov/Pages/School-Report.aspx?SchoolIRN=012924)

Operations/Governance Primary Indicators	Rating	Calculation/ Notes
Records Compliance	Exceeds	100%
On-Time Records Submission Rate	Meets	100%
Financial Records Submitted Monthly	Exceeds	100%
Annual Audit	Exceeds	FY 2015 and 2016. Two consecutive years of no findings, findings for recovery, noncompliance citations, questioned costs, or material weaknesses.
LEA Special Education Performance Determination (most recent annual)	Exceeds	ODE 2017 Special Education Rating Meets Requirements

Operations/Governance Secondary Indicators	Rating	Calculation/ Notes
Five-Year Forecasts Submitted by Deadline	Meets	Submitted 5/23/2017 and 10/26/2016
Pre-opening Assurances Documentation	Meets	Complete 11 business days before the first day of school
Annual Report	Does Not Meet	Submitted to parents and sponsor 11/7/2016
Safety Plan and Blueprint Submitted to OAG (last three years)	Meets	Updated 6/23/2016
Family Survey Results	Exceeds	98% parents were satisfied that services provided are sufficient to meet needs.







## CORE VALUES

- PUT STUDENTS FIRST
- DEMAND SUCCESS
- INVEST DEEPLY IN RELATIONSHIPS
- DO WHAT'S RIGHT
- PROVE EDUCATION CHANGES LIVES
- FIND JOY



The first *Lives Changed Luncheon*, held on May 2 at UD's River Campus, could only be characterized as amazing! So moved by the testimony of Chuck Wilkes, DECA graduate and Ph.D. candidate at the University of Michigan, our presenting sponsor PNC, signed up for next year. The mother of DECA senior Dezanee Bluthenthal cried when watching a video detailing her daughter's tough journey to UD as part of the new Flyer Promise program.



Guests contributed more than \$160,000 in gifts and pledges, a testament to DECA's students who go to college and complete their degrees at nearly five times the national average for first-generation students. Due to their generosity, we'll be able to continue direct services to students—from ACT prep classes to college visits to Saturday boot camps.

Dezaneé Bluthenthal hugging Danya Berry, DECA Operations Director

- Mother of a DECA student





-  Website: [DaytonEarlyCollege.org](http://DaytonEarlyCollege.org)
-  Facebook: [Dayton Early College Academy](https://www.facebook.com/DaytonEarlyCollegeAcademy)
-  Twitter: [@decaprep](https://twitter.com/decaprep) | [@decamiddle](https://twitter.com/decamiddle) | [@DECA\\_HS](https://twitter.com/DECA_HS)

*Devon Richardson, 4th grade teacher presenting an award to a DECA PREP student  
Cover: Dezanee Bluthenthal, Class of 2016, currently attending the University of Dayton*



DECA PREP  
200 Homewood Ave.  
Dayton, OH 45405  
937-610-0110



DECA Middle  
110 N. Patterson Blvd.  
Dayton, OH 45402  
937-528-6808



DECA High  
300 College Park  
Fitz Hall, Third Floor  
Dayton, OH 45469-2930  
937-229-5780