



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 2017

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California Business Education Teachers and Students React to Governor Brown's Budget Proposal Eliminating DECA, Future Farmers of America and other CTE/CTSO Funding

In his 2017-18 State Budget released earlier in the year, Governor Brown proposed the complete elimination of funding for DECA—Emerging Leaders and Entrepreneurs, Future Business Leaders of America, SkillsUSA, HOSA – Future Health Professionals, FCCLA, Future Farmers of America and other programs in Career Technical Education (CTE) serving students throughout California. Also included in these cuts were the elimination of Partnership Academy Programs, the University of California Curriculum Institute for recognizing CTE courses for admission purposes, and critical programs driving California's leadership in information technology, entrepreneurship, agriculture, tourism, and STEM.

These programs have been funded by \$15 million in CTE Pathway monies that were provided to the California Department of Education for supporting statewide Career Technical Education activities and programs. The Governor's proposal for this year would eliminate these programs in order to redirect funding to the Community College Chancellor's Office to supplement programs already in existence.

"Governor Brown does not realize he is hurting students and the future of California by proposing elimination of Career Technical Student Organizations like DECA, Future Farmers of America, Future Business Leaders of America and other CTE funding in California" said Mary Whited, Board Chair of the California Association of DECA. "The loss of these components of Career Technical Education is a mistake and will devastate programs and teachers statewide for years. CTE programs remain vitally important to the economic well-being of our state, and this proposal eliminates highly effective programs that have been part of the backbone and ecosystem of California's economy. For every \$1 invested in CTSOs over \$10 is returned in student achievement, economic advantage, and community health throughout California. This is a terrible decision with no clear advantage or strategy to counter the loss of education opportunities to hundreds of thousands of students in middle level through university programs."

The California Association of DECA is a professional association of students, teachers, and parents with over 100,000 instructors, students, industry, and alumni affiliates of Business, Marketing, and Information Technology education in California.

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