



Alina Hernandez '25 becomes District 7 Rep

WHO: Alina Hernandez '25

TITLE: District 7 State DECA Representative

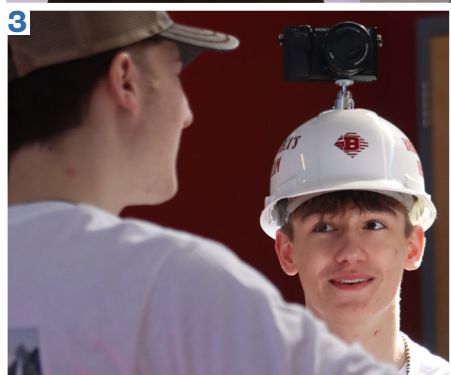
PROCESS: "The process was long and rigorous. It required work in advance such as submitting a visual resume, three letters of recommendations, answering questions, a grade check, and a one-hundred question test. Then at State you present your speech."

THE WIN: "During the award ceremony a wave of emotions came upon me. I had butterflies but, the moment they announced my name everything felt so surreal. I did not know whether to cry, scream or jump. All I knew was that this was the moment I had been longing for and all my hard work was finally paying off."

1. HUGGING IT OUT. After the two hour closing session, Ethan Piper '24, Jackson Tuck '23 and Alina Hernandez '25 share a group hug after not qualifying for Nationals in the Chapter of Excellence. Chapter of Excellence award was presented to the best chapter in Colorado, which the high school has won seven years in a row prior. "I felt defeated, but it was a learning experience because failure is key to success. It felt comforting knowing Ethan and Alina felt the same way. We are glad we just got to share this time together," Tuck said.

2. MY LAST MINUTE WIN. Brigida Lopez Padilla '24 stands on stage after winning second place at State in the Future Marketing Director role. Lopez Padilla had to teach her judge on the principles of marketing with a slide show and worksheets. "Oh my god, this was all last minute. I noticed at the hotel I forgot a couple things and had to re-do my slide show On top of that I had to print out some worksheets, plus practicing an hour prior to my presentation. I was terribly nervous," Lopez Padilla said.

photos by j.orozco



“IT WAS A TOUGH LOSS, BUT IT WON'T STOP US FROM COMING BACK NEXT YEAR FIGHTING HARDER. I AM SO GLAD I HAD THESE PEOPLE BY MY SIDE.”

ethan piper '24

3. RECORD PLEASE. Ethan Piper '24 puts on a DECA helmet cam at school to start recording his experiences at State. **4. DINNER TIME.** Hannah Hallais '26, Ethan Piper '24, Jake Schiek '25, Savannah Tuck '24, Alanah Merch '26 and Raleigh Puzio '25 pose for a photo while eating at Los Lagos restaurant. "It's a dinner so everyone gets comfortable with each other, because we're about to spend the next four days together," Tuck said. **5. CIRCLE UP.** Yulissa Nevarrez '24, Sarai Sanchez '25, Brigida Lopez Padilla '24, Cheyenne Tuck '24, Coby Puzio '24 and Aileen Mancella '23 sit around in the lobby sharing their experience at State. "Being surrounded by so people you just realize everyone has many similar experiences. It was our last night there and I feel like I connected more than the four days spent together," Nevarrez said.

photos by j.orozco



WE gotta FRIEND in the Business

DECA chapter competes at State conference in Colorado Springs

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DECA STUDENTS ATTENDED THE STATE CONFERENCE FROM FEB. 25 THROUGH MARCH 1 AT THE BROADMOOR HOTEL IN COLORADO SPRINGS.

SATURDAY
Students arrived at the high school at 11 a.m to wait for the bus to arrive. After two hours on the road students get dropped off at What-A-Burger and then ended up at The Broadmoor.

At night, the students dressed up to go out to eat at Restorante Del Lago.

"Going out to eat with everyone was so much fun. I mean we were all stuck in a bus for two hours and went to our hotel room to get settled. We just got to end the night eating good food at

a really nice restaurant. It's actually a tradition that has happened," Jacklyn Benzoni '24 said.

SUNDAY
Members get dressed up to meet their groups to compete with their written manuals between nine in the morning to five in the afternoon. Students had to wait until the next morning to get the results.

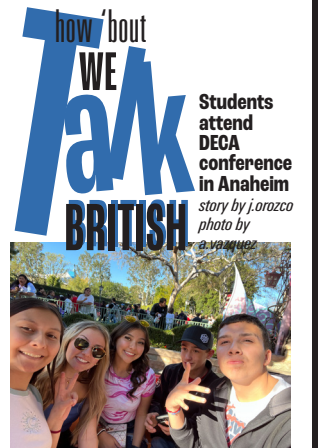
"I felt really good walking out of my presentation because I thought I did an amazing job and my judge was so sweet," Levi Johnson '25 said.

MONDAY
Groups who had written events woke up at 5 a.m. to see if they placed as finalists and get their new times to compete again. Others in role play events competed that day as well.

"Oh man, waking up early sucked. I wasn't even in school and I was waking up at the same hours to compete. The wait was long which just made my nerves go crazy to hear the results," Jacob Schiek '25 said. "Once we knew, then everyone in DECA joined in for a whole meal and it was so good."

TUESDAY
Students woke up early again to see which role plays were finalists. The awards ceremony began at two in the afternoon. All participants had to dress in their business attire to attend the event.

At the awards ceremony, Alina Hernandez '25 won the seat to serve as the District 7 Representative. Also, Vicky Lopez Padilla '24 won second place as a Future Marketing Director.



WHO: Jasmine Orozco '23, Alina Hernandez '25, Yithzel Sanchez '24, Ethan Piper '24 and Archer Vasquez '25 took a trip to the Western Leadership Conference during Thanksgiving break in Anaheim to strengthen their DECA leadership skills. Karena Langan, sponsor, won a scholarship so students could attend.

AT THE CONFERENCE: "It was a great conference as we learned a lot, and we got to go to Disneyland," Vazquez said. "I decided that we should tell people that we were exchange students from the UK. Some of us even talked in British accents. It made the trip memorable as lots of people believed us. I did break my accent once at Disneyland and the person running the ride looked very confused."

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