

“Kid, you’ll move mountains! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So...get on your way!”

A quote by Dr. Seuss describes the ‘go-getter’ attitude of Josh Clayton, Illinois State-Vice President.

Representing Naperville’s District 203, Josh strives to fulfill DECA’s guiding principles of being academically prepared, community oriented, professionally responsible, and an experienced leader as he enters his sophomore year at Naperville Central. In addition to his passion for DECA, Josh is a member of Central’s Junior-Varsity Soccer Team, Student Advisory Council, and the Vice-President of his DECA chapter. His friends describe him as charismatic, dedicated, outgoing, and a team-player. As a freshman Josh had the extreme privilege to compete at the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida, after placing third at State in the ‘Principles of Hospitality’ individual event. He believes that DECA is not just an organization, but a professional environment where anyone can make a difference, strive to be their very best, and ultimately, grow as a leader. Josh knew from the moment he stepped into DECA, that business was something he wanted to pursue. As one of your state officers, Josh plans to install innovative means of communications between DECA members and the State Action Team through enhancing *iConnect*, updating state website features, and producing an enhanced promotional video. Josh believes DECA is an organization that ‘Makes a Difference’, he plans increase volunteer options and stress community outreach programs; allowing members to be civically aware. A strong support-system, dedication, and a positive attitude are what Josh feels it takes to be successful. With a strong sense of community and an avid believer in integrity, Josh feels that it’s not the things you know, but the people you know, that will really push you to unseen heights. “It’s about finding something that you love, and that you’re truly passionate about, and overcoming anything to pursue your goals. DECA is something I’m passionate about, and I can’t help but get involved in this life-changing organization.” Josh challenges all Illinois DECA members to take advantage of the opportunities DECA provides and to truly Aspire Higher this year in DECA!