

Samarth Malhotra is your new Vice-President of Philanthropy, and he is absolutely thrilled to be serving as an officer for Illinois DECA. Samarth has a very interesting background. He was born in Papua New Guinea, an island near Australia, and lived there for the first three years of his life. He later moved to Australia for about three months, and then made his way to Illinois. He has one sibling who is in Medical School at Ohio State University. When he was young he enjoyed chess and was in fact a third and fifth place national champion in the K-3 division. He also enjoyed reading and his favorite book remains *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. His favorite subject when he was young was math, but it is now Social Studies. He particularly enjoys studying U.S. History because all insights gleaned from history are applicable to the present.

He became involved in DECA as a freshman at Downers Grove South High School and he loved every moment. As a freshman he placed second in Entrepreneurship and qualified for ICDC. This year, he worked with the chapter advisors in his school to raise membership. As a result of his efforts, membership for DECA reached the highest levels in Downers Grove South history with over 100 members. He was elected chapter president of the organization and is responsible for the weekly meetings at his school. In addition to DECA, Samarth is involved in various other activities. He is a member of the varsity tennis team, math team, and chess team at his school. He is also a member of the leadership group Rush Corps which helps freshman students adjust to high school life. In his free time he loves to visit roller coaster theme parks, watch sports, watch T.V. shows, and work out with Power 90. He has visited Cedar Point three times and in his opinion it is one of the best places in the world (behind the State Career Development Conference in Decatur of course). His favorite T.V. shows include Burn Notice, White Collar, Royal Pains, Parks and Recreation, How I Met Your Mother, That Mitchell and

Webb Look, Peep Show, Big Bang Theory, House, 24, and basically everything. He accurately describes himself as a “couch potato.” He is also an ashamed Cubs fan (they will win next year), a Bulls fan, and a Bears fan. He highly recommends the work out Power 90 as an engaging workout that provides stress relief for scrawny kids like him because it is a good workout for those who are not yet able to handle P90X or P90X2.

His personal philosophy, taken from the movie Talladega Nights *The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*, is “If you ain’t first you’re last.” These words drive him to work hard in school and the activities that he is involved in to “aspire higher.” Working with the desire to be first allows for a sense of personal satisfaction even if his goals are not met. He is interested in a career in business particularly in accounting and desires to become a CFO or CEO.