

## FRANK VIGNOLA HONOR AWARD

The Illinois Foundation for Marketing Education will be awarding the Frank Vignola Achievement Award to a deserving and qualified student at the upcoming Illinois Career Development Conference.

Frank Vignola was a positive-thinking retailer, who worked tirelessly on behalf of DECA. He met a sudden and untimely death on December 26, 1983.

He spent most of his life working in stores; first as a store owner and then as vice president of a major music retailer. The years immediately preceding his death brought him great satisfaction; for during that time, he was national retail sales manager for Argus Publications, the firm that produces and markets those thought-provoking posters and booklets that we all know and admire.

Frank's favorite motto was "Keep looking up!" and that quotation symbolizes his ever-buoyant spirit and belief that everyone can improve, achieve, and become what they desire.

In his memory, the Illinois Foundation for Marketing Education established the Frank Vignola Achievement Award, which is given annually in the State of Illinois. The Award will be presented to the Marketing Education student who has made the greatest scholastic, social and career improvement during his/her course in Marketing Education. It is an award and not a scholarship!

Nominations are to be made by the student's marketing teacher and must contain a written recommendation by the DECA member's employer, as well as verification of scholastic achievement.

Nomination letters are to be emailed by January 23, 2026. Members must be in attendance at this year's ILCDC. Email to:

Nick Ioriatti  
President  
nick.ioriatti@gmail.com