

Hi, its been awhile. I hope you are well, I am fantastic, thanks for asking. Why? Because I just attended WRLC. For most of you that is an acronym that means nothing to you. WRLC (Western Regional Leadership Conference) is a DECA conference for the best of the west to join together DECA members for mock competitions and workshops. Today I will be sharing with you my experience and what I learned at some of the workshops.

With over 10 workshops, you could say my brain is overwhelmed with info; however, there were few workshops in particular that stuck out to me.

1) California State Officers- "Own Your Competition"

This was the only workshop that was led by DECA students! That being said, it made this workshop very relatable and worthwhile. They were not only witty and funny, but provided great info on how to successfully win your event.

A few tips I learned from this workshop:

- Always asked to be seated after introducing yourself to the judge
- Take on your role!
- Be confident and sell your product (ask the judge what they are looking for and give them options)
- Draw diagrams and graphs when applicable

2) Jennifer Branstetter- "Be Cocky and Hustle"

This workshop was all about entrepreneurship. She gave her own definition of cocky, saying that it is believing in your skill set and applying yourself with confidence. She explained how she worked for a huge corporate company (Microsoft) and then switched to building a company in a basement (Porch). This workshop inspired me to start small and believe in yourself and you can accomplish anything.

3) Angela Charles- "Set Yourself Apart From the Crowd"

In this workshop, we learned all about how to have a successful job interview.

A few of her tips were:

- Be honest
- Say an actual weakness, not that you are a perfectionist
- Be there 15-30 minutes early
- Dress accordingly
- Research the company

At the end, I learned a lesson that wasn't exactly taught in the workshops we attended--how grateful I am for Team 66. I have now learned the importance of trusting and respecting the individuals I have the pleasure of working with. However, I have learned that I want way more than that in my line of work. I want to work with people that inspire me, people that motivate me, and at the end of the day, people that I can laugh with, cry with, and express how excited we are to see eachother again tomorrow for another legendary work day. I know that most people in the "real world" don't like all the people they work with, but I'm extremely grateful for our Team 66 unbreakable bond. I am incredibly honored to have had this chance to attend such amazing

workshops, but more importantly spend time with some of the most empathetic and inspiring people in my life. Team 66 (Kerri, John, Tristen, Emma Claire, and Erin) have impacted my life in a remarkable way. I cannot wait to share our “product” with you all in February. I truly have a LEGENDARY DECA family and team.

Thanks for Reading.