

Conflict of Interest Policy

Adopted June 2, 2011 at Board of Trustees Meeting

- I. Purpose: The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect the Nevada Association of DECA (NEVADA DECA) interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of NEVADA DECA or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.
- II. Definitions:
 - A. Interested Person: Any employee, volunteer, board member, or member with governing board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest or potential for personal gain, as defined below, is an interested person.
 - B. Financial Interest: A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:
 1. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which NEVADA DECA has a transaction or arrangement,
 2. A compensation arrangement with NEVADA DECA or with any entity or individual with which NEVADA DECA has a transaction or arrangement, or
 3. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which NEVADA DECA is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.
 - a. Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are greater than \$100.
 - b. A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the Board of Trustees or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.
- III. Procedures

- A. **Duty to Disclose:** In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with governing board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

- B. **Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists:** After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

- C. **Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest:**
 - a. An interested person may make a presentation at the governing board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.

 - b. The chairperson of the governing board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.

 - c. After exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee shall determine whether NEVADA DECA can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.

 - d. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in NEVADA DECA's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

- D. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy: If the governing board or committee has reasonable cause to believe employees, volunteers, board members, or members have failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the employee, volunteer, board member, or member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
- IV. Records of Proceedings: The minutes of the governing board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:
- A. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the governing board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
 - B. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.
- V. Compensation:
- A. A voting member of the governing board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from NEVADA DECA for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
 - B. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from NEVADA DECA for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- VI. Annual Statements: Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with governing board delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:
- A. Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,
 - B. Has read and understands the policy,
 - C. Has agreed to comply with the policy, and

- D. Understands NEVADA DECA is charitable and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

- VII. Periodic Reviews: To ensure NEVADA DECA operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:
 - A. Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information, and the result of arm's length bargaining.

 - B. Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to NEVADA DECA written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

- VIII. Use of Outside Experts: When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in Article VII, NEVADA DECA may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the governing board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.

I have read the NEVADA DECA Conflict of Interest Policy set forth above and agree to comply fully with its terms and conditions at all times during my service as a NEVADA DECA Board member. If at any time following the submission of this form I become aware of any actual or potential conflicts of interest, or if the information provided below becomes inaccurate or incomplete, I will promptly notify the NEVADA DECA Board of Trustees Chair in writing.

Disclosure of Actual or Potential Conflicts of Interest:

Board Member Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Board Member Printed Name: _____