

Special Awards

Selina Song

Business Acumen

As Irvington DECA President, I have furthered business education and taken initiative in my own entrepreneurial ventures. I led 14 officers to organize weekly competitive workshops to make Irvington the #1 chapter in CA by ICDC qualifier count and the largest club on campus. Not only do I oversee all club operations, managing annual \$200,000 cash flow, but I also have managed 13 mentorship groups, created monthly checkpoints for competitive events, and led club bondings for 232 members.

I co-founded Diamond Consulting, a pro-bono consulting program helping local small businesses revamp their digital footprint for Covid-19 recovery. I oversaw the recruitment of project managers and management of 9 businesses over the course of 3 years. I helped Fridaze Clothing, a Asian-owned business, launch their new silk pet clothing line, and with our business channel profitability analysis, provided recommendations for new Amazon listings, which was successfully implemented.

I founded and led the National Economics Challenge program for the past 3 years. I created an accessible economics curriculum from scratch and led 3 instructors to teach biweekly sessions. I guided 4 teams to State Finals, represented Irvington as the only student run team in National Finals, and grew to 32 members. In addition, on February 9, I was nominated by my advisor for the California DECA Chapter Leader of the Year award, given to 1 student per school.

I have strong technical economics and business knowledge as well. Through the Pioneer Research Program, I wrote a 23 page peer-reviewed research paper on COVID-19's impact on firms with differing offshoring levels under Dr. William Lincoln, Professor at Claremont McKenna. I ran Excel regressions for econometric analyses and applied economic theory to real world events, and was ultimately published in the *Pioneer Research Journal* with <2% acceptance rate.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

As the first female Computer Science Club President at Irvington High, worked to increase accessibility to STEM education and uplift minority groups. Hosting tech talk events with female guest speakers and outreach focused on "beginner-friendly" interdisciplinary programs has increased the ratio of new female members in Computer Science club from 10% to 45% over 3 years. By improving our outreach efforts through instagram and mailing list, I grew the club to 190 registered members, with 40+ attending sessions each week.

In addition, I developed our first Machine Learning program, leading a team of 4 program managers to create curriculum. I also taught AP Computer Science A test preparation courses and collaborated with the AP CS A teacher to offer extra credit opportunities through attendance at prep sessions. I spearheaded a middle school mentorship program with the local middle school coding club. I've also taken a rigorous STEM course load, which has grown my skills in 3D printing, soldering, and CAD in Principles of Engineering. I'm also an avid learner with success in competitive math, as an AIME Qualifier in 2021.

As a Digital Media intern under the Starling Lab for Data Integrity, a collaboration with Stanford Engineering and the USC Shoah Foundation, I researched and produced info video on the cryptographic process for verifying data authenticity in journalism. I wrote a 13 page paper on the blockchain verification process and Web 3.0. Through coding bootcamp, I learned about Natural Language Processing, Javascript, and AI training models.

Leadership/Governance

When elected as the first junior president of my school's Mock Trial team, we had 20 members, no coaches, and no team awards in our three years of existence, competing against schools with elective classes dedicated to mock trial, and multiple full time attorney coaches. To combat this elitism, I enhanced accessibility to civil and legal knowledge. Expanding Mock Trial beyond law, I coordinated visits to all four drama classes, recruiting experienced actors as witnesses.

I doubled club membership through publicity and role expansion by creating a JV team. As the point-person in competition, I led an 8 person officer team, facilitated coach communication, and organized inter-school scrimmages. I kickstarted the 1st Boot Camp for grades 6-12, recruiting from drama classes, and gained 34 regular attendees. In February 2023, our team qualified to the Semifinal round in the Philip A. Harley Mock Trial Competition, which is the first time Irvington has been in the top 4 in Alameda County out of 16 schools with ~30 students per school team since our founding in 2014, making this a record-breaking result. With my team, I have left a legacy of belonging and service, elevating Mock Trial beyond a school club into a cohesive unit.

I'm involved as a leader in my school community, as I serve as the President of 3 clubs: DECA, Mock Trial, and Computer Science Club.

Community Engagement/Organization

I am a passionate volunteer and leader in mental health and disability awareness in my community. As Chair of the School Site Wellness Committee, I designed and publicized the revamped school Virtual Wellness Center to get 400+ views monthly during distance learning. I organized movie night bonding events with 20+ attendees and led fundraising to purchase new furniture and iPads for the physical Wellness Center with a \$5000 county grant. I oversaw 30+ student & parent volunteers on workdays to renovate the space. I also collaborated with administration, community health partners, and startups, to set up mental health and fitness services online that connected 30 students to regular online counseling. I integrated mental health into the school PE curriculum by working with PE teachers by drafting content introducing the wellness center and the value of effective coping mechanisms. For outreach, I spearheaded a video tour project of the reopened Wellness Center in collaboration with Peer Resource and student government that now has 5,500+ views on instagram.

As Operations Lead at FCSN, I created the 2021 and 2022 Fundraising Gala website and curated a sponsorship list, raising over \$350,000 to reopen existing centers. Led team of 11 Zoom teachers to

instruct volunteers and staff members during distance learning. Managed 10+ sponsorships worth \$12,000. Served as assistant emcee for the 2021 Talent Show with 600+ attendees.

Community Advocacy

As a student representative to the district Board of Education, I advocated that mental health related absences be excused, adopting a bill passed in Oregon districts. Existing absences due to burnout or stress were often covered up as physical "sick" days, perpetuating a narrative that mental health was something to hide. Although we faced administration pushback claiming the excuse would be abused to skip school, I garnered community support by emphasizing that tracking data would flag excessive absences for early intervention, adapting to new perspectives with agility. I also educated the public about the resolution through transparent community forums and Q&A sessions that prioritized honesty and integrity. Once the resolution was passed, it legitimized mental health in community conversations and streamlined the referral process for further evaluations and medication.

Creative Arts

My pieces were exhibited in the 2022 Florence Art International Exhibition at the San Jose Museum of Art. For the past 6 years, I've been taking 2 hour weekly classes at the Florence Art Studio. I've created an AP 2D Art and Design Portfolio focusing on how others' judgments influence one's self view.

On the Wellness Committee, I've also organized a mural design contest to add art to the space, with 10 submissions, coordinated judging with administrators and staff, and led a workday volunteering to paint a self-care mural on the walls of the center. Art is a vessel for communication, where I begin a dialogue and the viewer completes it. In each piece I create, I am able to cultivate the creativity that encourages people to open their hearts and be vulnerable, to better understand others and themselves across the barrier of language. To give back, I've also mentored younger students at my art studio, providing feedback on their pieces after my own lessons.

Education

As VP of Programs at Fremont Debate Academy, I've expanded debate and public speaking education and youth civic engagement at the elementary and middle school level. I led a team of 6 Directors of Regional Programs to manage 25+ programs internationally and communicated with Arkansas and North Oregon programs on monthly calls. I created a Public Speaking Series to reach homeless/underserved students on Youtube. As 19-20 Hirsch Elementary Program Lead, I coached Hirsch Novices to co-champion the 2020 FDA International Tournament out of 50+ teams. I ran an 8 week program w/ 30+ students, communicating with school staff, PTA, and students' parents.