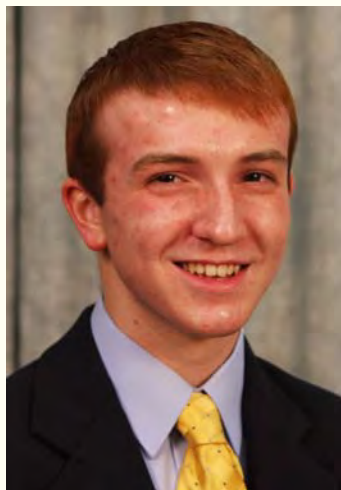


# State Leadership Conference Packed with Opportunities

**By Jenna Woitaszewski  
State Parliamentarian**

Where's the only place you can listen to motivational speakers, network with students from across Nebraska, compete against the brightest minds and attend action packed workshops? These experiences and more await you at the 2011 State Leadership Conference!

On April 7, over 2,000 members and advisers will fill Omaha for the start of the 49<sup>th</sup> State Leadership Conference. Get excited as Curtis Reynolds from Tri County sings the National Anthem. Then catch the action as Grant Baldwin inspires you to take control of your life in his keynote address. Keeping his message in mind, take the future of FBLA into your hands as you listen to 10 state officer candidates share their vision for Nebraska



**Curtis Reynolds**  
*National Anthem Singer*

FBLA on their journey for state office. After the opening session, be sure to personally meet the candidates at their campaign booths located in the Palace Foyer. This high enthusiasm area gives you the opportunity to hear candidate platforms and, who can forget, pick up some pencils and candy in the process!

The competitive events start at 4 p.m. with Accounting I and Help Desk leading the pack! Also at 4 p.m. keynote speaker Grant Baldwin presents his workshop, "So Much To Do, So Little Time," where you will learn how to balance school, a job, stress and life. Grant will walk you through establishing priorities and building your schedule around what matters most.

The action continues later that night when the state officer candidates answer questions submitted by your chapter at the Formal Caucus. This process can help you decide who will receive your chapter's votes! All of these exciting activities happen in just one day! If a little relaxing is what you are looking for, check out the Omaha Room for karaoke or take a trip to the CoCo Key Water Resort. With one day down, you can look forward to Friday for more competitive events, further campaigning and engaging workshops.

On Friday competitive events start early, tipping off at 8 am and continuing throughout the day. Last-minute campaigning takes place in the Palace Foyer be-

fore the final election of state officers takes place. Following the exciting competitive event action and the second general session, a Blue Jeans

for Business Leaders dance takes place for all members! Wear your \$10 SLC t-shirt and you'll be admitted free of

SEE SLC ON PAGE 3

## No Excuse for Missing SLC Keynote Speaker

**By Jenna Woitaszewski  
State Parliamentarian**

Excuses, excuses, excuses. No more excuses! Or at least that's what you'll be hearing at the 2011 State Leadership Conference. This year's keynote speaker, Grant Baldwin, has been making an impact in the lives of students for over eight years where he has delivered his "No More Excuses" message to 200,000 students in 40 different states. His comedy and humor will keep your attention, and his message will have you thinking about your life.

Grant understands that we all want to be happy, successful and enjoy each moment we have. After working with students for years, he noticed that students too often assume our future is not in our hands. During his keynote, Grant will encourage you to believe you can become anything you want when you take matters into your own hands.

Grant's message proves his point through his own life experiences. Growing up, he endured multiple divorces. It was then he discovered his passion for turning hardship into hope. Grant enjoyed



challenging and inspiring those around him to overcome obstacles and be something significant in life. Today, Grant is the author of the book, *Reality Check*, a guide for helping students transfer into the real world. He also has released a curriculum and other e-books for student use. When he isn't inspiring students, he's with his wife and three young daughters.

Prepare yourself to be inspired through comedy, storytelling and true inspiration as you listen to this year's 2011 State Leadership Conference keynote speaker, Grant Baldwin!

# 2011 SLC Seminars

## Thursday, April 7

### 3:45 pm—New Adviser Seminar

**Tennille Gifford, Kearney and Nick Jarzynka, Elkhorn**

Advisers new to the SLC, this workshop is for you! Don't miss this chance to discover everything you need to know about the SLC but were afraid to ask. Bring your questions!

### 4 pm—So Much To Do, So Little Time

**Grant Baldwin, Keynote Speaker**

School. Jobs. Stress. Relationships. How can you balance these responsibilities and pressures? Learn how to establish priorities and then build your lives around what matters most. You will come away with goals to implement now to create balance in your lives.

### 5 pm—The Champion Within: Have You Got It?

**Marti Wolever, Director of Scouting, Philadelphia Phillies**

Discover the leadership qualities that will inspire you to reach your potential! This session provides insight into a championship program and proven strategies to achieve championship results.

## Friday, April 8

### 9 am—Putting It All on the Line

**Chris Tribulato, Director of Global Sales, DiGiorgio's Sportswear**

Be a risk taker! Learn how to take your ideas and turn them into a multimillion dollar business. To get ahead in America, you need to take educated risks to get your reward.

### 10 am—Changing the Game

**Blake Lawrence, Former UNL Football Player**

Blake shares his transition from Nebraska football player to business entrepreneur showing that when one door closes, another door opens. The game may change, but the drive is what matters.

### 11 am—Enhance Your Networking and Social Media Skills

**Jennifer Wilson, Convergence Coaching**

So you think you can network! Join in the fun while learning that networking is the "art" of meeting others to build rapport and develop relationships. Success and advancement in your career and life depends on your ability to network. The best leaders know how to connect with people.

### 1 pm—The Amazing Race: Preparing for College and Beyond

**Peter Raun and College Students**

High school has been great—but what about after it's over? Join these students for answers to your questions about college life as well as advice on applying to schools, making the grade, getting involved and finding time to sleep! Bring your questions to this lively discussion about life after high school.

### 2 pm—The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens

(Based on the best-selling book by Dr. Stephen Covey)

**Allison Schenker, Barbizon Lecture Programs and Motivational Speakers**

Come discover the 7 lifetime habits used by successful people through this series of interactive activities. During this fun-filled, action-packed topic, learn the importance of listening and teamwork. Learn how to prioritize, how to set goals and why cooperation is better than confrontation.

### 3 pm—From Rock Star to Rocket Scientist

**Allison Schenker, Barbizon Lecture Programs and Motivational Speakers**

Get a leg up on the ladder to success by learning how to chart a course for success through high school. What knowledge is necessary to increase future opportunities? What communication and technical skills will employers look for? What do colleges want? The path to success starts with the decisions you make now!



## Governor Heineman Signs Proclamation

*Governor Dave Heineman signed the Nebraska FBLA-PBL Week proclamation on January 19.*

*Witnessing the signing are Jessica Hansen, FBLA State Secretary; Curtis Reynolds, FBLA State Reporter; Governor Dave Heineman; Chris Reznicek, PBL National Parliamentarian and State VP of Communications; Tyler Wellman, FBLA State President and Josiah Hood, FBLA State Vice President.*

charge. Don't have the SLC t-shirt? No problem! A simple donation of \$2 earns you both entrance and the right to wear jeans with the donation going to the Nebraska Foundation. The order forms for the SLC t-shirt can be found on the Nebraska FBLA website. Print your order form now!

As an added highlight to this year's SLC dance, a dollar dance will be held with the FBLA State Officers. Bring an

extra dollar or two to the dance and share a dance with members of the State Officer Team!

Finally, the 2011 State Leadership Conference activities wind down on Saturday with the excitement of the Awards Program. All of your hard work and dedication will pay off when the entire delegation learns who will be representing Nebraska FBLA at the National Leadership Conference in Orlando. Set

your goal to be a top finisher and earn your ticket to this exciting conference!

Finally, a bitter sweet moment takes place as the state officers' terms switch and the new state officer team takes office as they prepare to lead Nebraska FBLA in the next year. These unforgettable experiences and more are jam packed into three life-changing days. Experience these memories for yourself at the 2011 SLC!

## Growing Leaders, Turning Ordinary Students into Growing Leaders

Nebraska FBLA advisers should plan to attend the *Growing Leaders* workshop on June 7, 2011, at the Youness Conference Center, Kearney, Nebraska. Dr. Tim Elmore, the author of the *Habitudes*® series, will lead Career Student Organization advisers through this one-day workshop.

Tim is the founder and president of Growing Leaders ([www.growingleaders.com](http://www.growingleaders.com)), an Atlanta-based non-profit organization created to develop emerging leaders. Tim's presentation will focus on the application of the four *Habitudes* books to career student organizations. The four areas of focus are:

**Habitudes #1:** The Art of Self-Leadership, we must lead ourselves before we try to lead anyone else.

**Habitudes #2:** The Art of Connecting with Others,

we must learn how to connect with others before we lead them.

**Habitudes #3:** The Art of Leading Others, we must discover how to lead and influence those around us.

**Habitudes #4:** The Art of Changing Culture, we must leverage leadership skills to positively transform culture.

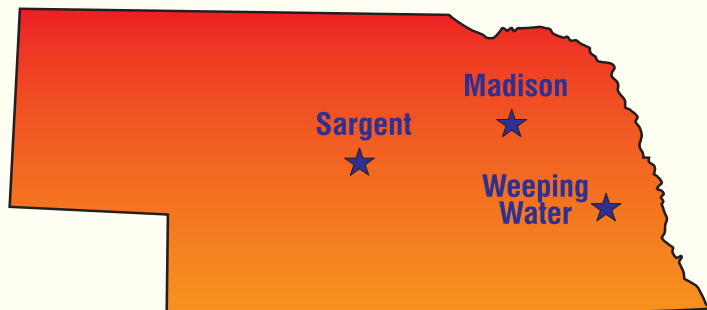
### Workshop Schedule:

**9:00 am**—Continental Breakfast and Networking  
**9:30 am**—Workshop Begins  
Lunch provided

**4:00 pm**—Workshop Adjourns

Each participant will receive the full set of all four *Habitudes* Books and Teachers Guides, a \$120 value, at the conclusion of the workshop. Register for this special pre-conference session at the NCE Conference Registration site, <http://www.nceconference.com/>.

## Welcome, New Chapters!



## NPower Leadership Conference

NPower is a premiere leadership development experience for Nebraska FBLA chapter officers and members.

NPower is...

Nebraska's youth leaders

Networking to

Influence community change and

Initiate positive action for the

Next generation

### Dates:

**July 6-8 OR July 11-13, 2011.**

*(Students may pick which 3-day session to attend)*

### Location:

The Leadership Center, Aurora, Nebraska

### Cost:

\$150 which includes lodging, meals and conference supplies

### Highlights from the NPower conference include:

- Experiential activities, including low-element ropes course activities,
- Mentor-mentee partnerships with students at conference,
- Focus on developing personal mission and goals, and
- Action plans to take information learned at conference home and share with other members.

NPower is organized in a very successful tier system that will allow students to focus on leadership areas with fellow students of their own age. The leadership training is organized for students entering Grades 6-8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 during the 2011-2012 school year.

**Web registration will be available soon.**



## Wellman's Wealth

Tyler Wellman  
State President

College. Scholarships. Those are two words that I'm sure all seniors are used to hearing. Underclassmen, soon enough those words will top your vocabulary, as well. Choosing a college can be very difficult. However, there are some tricks and steps to follow in order to make a wise decision.

The first step is to get started early. Don't be afraid to make college visits as a junior. The more familiar you are with the campus, the more information you will have to base your decision. After each visit, take time to look back and make a list of the positives and negatives for each college. A huge step is to apply. It is important to do this as soon as possible. Most online applications are free, so apply to all that you are considering. Applying early makes you a first choice for scholarships. Narrowing your choice down can be extremely difficult. Be sure to take everything into consideration when doing this. Talk to someone who is currently at the college and ask them what they like/dislike, as having a second or third opinion is always helpful. Review your pro/con list and make another visit if you still have questions.

When it comes down to it, only you can decide. If you are stuck between two, try using this question that my guidance counselor asked me, "If you had to get in your car and drive off to a college right now, without thinking about it, which one would you choose?" Then, whatever you choose may be your answer.

Another huge factor that influences almost every student is money. This is not something that should affect your decision, but too many times, it does. Nevertheless, there are ways around this issue. There are millions of dollars in scholarships that do not get awarded each year. The biggest tip I can provide is to apply, apply, apply! Use the Internet and search because there are scholarships for everyone, even freshmen can apply. Be sure to get started early. You may see a one hundred dollar scholarship and think, "This isn't worth much. It's a waste of my time." But what if it only takes an hour to complete? I do not know of a job that will pay a high school student \$100 per hour. If you do, please tell me because I am very interested! One last tip, the scholarship opportunities do not stop once you start college. After your first semester, a whole new plethora of scholarships will be available. Be sure to talk to the financial aid department at your college to get more information.

With the school year coming to an end, good luck to all of you seniors as you finish your college process. For you underclassmen, be sure to get started as soon as possible. Have a good rest of the year, and I cannot wait to see you all at SLC in April!

## Tally It Up!

Submit your chapter's community service hours to Jessica Hansen, State Secretary, by March 10. — Goal is 42,000 hours!

## Paying It Forward: The Value of Internships

By Karthik Krishnan  
FBLA National Treasurer

As a student, it is worth your while to partake in internships during your years in high school. The experiences that you will gain during these years will be invaluable to your success in the work world. Now some of you may ask, why now? The answer is obvious: at this time in your life, you don't need to.

This is two-fold: By obtaining an internship, you will be far ahead of the rest of your classmates. This will make you stand out by the time college applications roll around. Secondary to this is that you don't need money at this point in your life. You are most likely dependent on your parents, and therefore, can afford to take a year of no salary to build your résumé. That way when it comes time to apply for a job, you have something to talk about and experiences to back up your college degree.

Internships provide an opportunity to experiment and pursue careers that match both academic and personal interests. You may walk into an internship with an insurance company and realize that telesales isn't a field that interests you in the least. On the other hand, you can find an internship at an accounting firm and realize your passion for marketing. This knowledge of your interests will easily become invaluable



during your years in college and even afterwards.

You will develop skills like teamwork and communication that will give you the competitive edge over the students who just walk out of college with a degree in hand. And even more than that, you are building your network with industry professionals who could mentor you or even hire you full time. I won't tell you how many times I have heard of people who started out as interns and were offered a job after they got out of college.

Internships help students become viable, experienced job applicants when seeking employment after graduation. So pay it forward: block out some of your time to make room for experiences that will truly put you ahead of the curve and make you more employable.

## Break Barriers

### Attend the 2011 SLC Dance

- Bring a \$2 donation and wear jeans to the dance.
- Wear your 2011 SLC t-shirt and attend the dance FREE!
- Join the dollar dance with the state officers.
- Bring a few extra dollars to earn a turn dancing with the 2010-2011 State Officers!

All proceeds to the  
Nebraska FBLA Foundation.



## Chapters share reading literacy ideas.

### Adams Central

The Adams Central chapter started the Dr. Seuss Read-To program a few years ago. Members visit the five elementary schools during Dr. Seuss week to read books to the students, as well as have a Dr. Seuss-related activity. It is a great learning experience for both the members and the elementary students.

### Blair

Blair FBLA has donated books to all new babies born at the local hospital. Each book included a personal message written by an FBLA member about the importance of reading to children. Blair has also conducted reading projects at the elementary schools as well as book drives for elementary children.

### Dundy County Stratton

The Dundy County Stratton FBLA Chapter conducted a Summer Reading Program at the Dundy

County Library during the summer. The members have also been reading to elementary children, listening to the elementary children read and giving books to the hospital for newborns to encourage family reading time.

### Elmwood-Murdock

Basing their project from the Nebraska Career Education Model, Elmwood-Murdock FBLA members researched and purchased books about careers for the elementary career center.

### Johnson-Brock

Each year during March or April, Johnson-Brock FBLA members organize a reading program with the K-6 classrooms. Members are assigned a particular grade and either read before school or during designated classroom time once a week for the month.

### Pleasanton

Pleasanton FBLA members have been working with elementary students using



Josiah Hood  
State Vice President



At the State Leadership Conference it is important to dress for success. Whether you are in a testing event or a performance event, it is important to adhere to the SLC dress code.

Let's face it, FBLA dress is conservative. While some fashions may be in "style," they may not be that appropriate for the conference. For both ladies and guys, business professional would be the type of attire to wear.

Business professional for ladies means a matching suit jacket and knee-length (or longer) skirt or pants, long sleeve or short sleeve blouses, and closed-toe dress shoes or dress boots (with long pants or long skirts only). Business professional for gentlemen could be a suit jacket and coordinating dress pants, collared dress shirt with tie, dress shoes and matching belt (black with black, brown with brown).

Some general guidelines to keep in mind are to stick with conservative colors, patterns and styles. Effective colors for suits include all shades of gray, blue (except light blue for males) and beige. If you have any doubts about any of your clothing choices "rule it out!" Let's continue to set an example for each other and represent Nebraska FBLA in the best way possible!

iPod Touches to build vocabulary and work on reading skills.

### Sandhills

As a reading literacy activity, Sandhills FBLA members listened to the first graders read their "Friday Books." In addition, members also read to the first graders.

### Sandy Creek

Sandy Creek FBLA held its first annual book drive. They encouraged the entire school to donate new and used books that were given to the local Giving Tree.

### Syracuse

In December, Syracuse FBLA members listened to fourth graders give book projects on a book they read. Members also assisted the class in their celebration of reaching their reading goal. Each student earned a balloon for each book report or page goal met during the month. The FBLA members helped the fourth graders turn Principal Mike Wentz into a "Big Red Reading Elf"

by filling his costume with the balloons.

### Tri County

For Tri County's "Financial and Reading Literacy Week," the chapter held a book drive and collected over 200 books! They also helped elementary and high school librarians by doing small library tasks, like changing out due date slips. Members rounded out the week by working in teams and reading to the whole elementary. It was a fun activity for all!

### Twin River

Entrepreneurship was connected to reading literacy activities where Twin River FBLA members were given quizzes that involved reading. The members then were asked to show their comprehension by completing questions to determine if they possessed entrepreneurship characteristics. These reading literacy activities tied into Twin River High School's goal of reading comprehension and entrepreneurship career exploration.

# PLEDGE

Pledge is published three times a year  
(August, December, March)

by the

Nebraska Future Business Leaders of America.

### CURTIS REYNOLDS

Nebraska FBLA Reporter

### BEVERLY NEWTON

Nebraska FBLA Chairman

301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 94987

Lincoln, NE 68509

Phone (402) 471-4865

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[www.nebraskafbla.org](http://www.nebraskafbla.org)



# Curtis' Concepts

Curtis Reynolds  
State Reporter

Post-Conference Depression – you know, that gloomy feeling you have for days and weeks after a conference? As the Facebook group with the same name states, Post-Conference Depression is “a rare subtype of clinical depression.” While there is no over-the-counter prescription to prevent this type of depression, your chapter can take a few simple steps to finish the year on a high note!

An initial step to take after returning from the SLC would be to preserve your chapter’s fantastic memories. Use all of the pictures and video taken at the conference and put them into a slideshow to share with other students, family members and school administration. Another option – for those technologically-accident-prone people – would be to make an old-fashioned scrapbook. Use pictures, conference bulletins, nametags and all of the campaign materials to make interesting collages. Both the scrapbook and slideshow can be saved for years and make for superb recruitment material in the fall.

After your chapter has safeguarded all of the conference memories, consider planning a few FBLA events for the end of the year. Just because SLC is over does not mean that your chapter can’t do a community service project or social outing. A spring trash pick-up or a chapter movie night makes great end-of-the-year activities that will keep members active. Also, an Awards Banquet, as many chapters hold, is an ideal way to thank and recognize all of the hard work of your chapter members. Start a tradition of presenting “Outstanding Member” awards in each of the grades or even come up with your own custom awards! Along with food, a recap of the year’s activities, an installation of officers and some senior farewells, the Awards Banquet will make for an entertaining night for members and their parents.

Finally, once school is out for the summer, choose to keep your FBLA chapter active. Some chapters utilize the summer months to get a head start on their community service projects, while others use it to have social activities. With the seniors graduated, it is also an ideal time to start “chapter bonding” and get an early start on recruitment for the following year! If your chapter can accomplish these effortless tasks, your members will overcome the post-conference depression and feel energized for the rest of the school year!

## 2011-2012 State Officer Candidates

### President

Amy Chin  
Columbus Lakeview  
JR Gillaspie, Waverly  
Marissa Hernandez  
Bellevue West

### Vice President

Patrick Cook, Bellevue East  
Ngan Dao, South Sioux City

### Secretary

Shyanne Thompson, Minden

### Treasurer

Ashleigh Teten, Syracuse

### Reporter

Sally Moore, Fillmore Central

### Parliamentarian

Trevor Sorensen, Minden  
Brianna Turek, Wood River

# Why PBL?

By Katie Weander  
Nebraska PBL State  
Ambassador of FBLA

In high school you joined FBLA. Why? For the social aspect? For the community? For the career ambition? For the chance to enhance your understanding of the business world, to grasp new concepts and grow in familiarity with the world today?

As your partner organization, Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) strives to maintain these ideals. In the PBL family, you will grow in your knowledge of the business world. Former Nebraska FBLA members have become regional and national officers in PBL.


The service projects you do today will help you at the collegiate level as well. During the holiday season, the North Platte Community College PBL chapter provided gifts to those staying at the Liberty House. This chapter teamed up with First National Bank to raise even more money for the project.

Last semester, Midland


University contributed their talents to Fremont Middle School in presenting 12 different countries to over three hundred students at the 5th Annual International Business Day, partnering with McDonald’s. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln chapter hosted speakers such as Blake Lawrence, former Husker football player and founder of Hurdat Social Media.

As FBLA members you strive to be the best you can be—to find that college where you will grow and be able to embrace each opportunity to become the business leader you aim to become.

Join us in PBL, and “Break the Barriers” you once feared. Embrace the aspects of FBLA you loved and learn to grow in new facets. Meet business contacts that can and will provide you internship experiences. Grow your network, continue the partnerships you loved in high school and take the step into your future.




## FBLA State Leadership Conference T-Shirts




Orders must be mailed or faxed to Pat Hinkle at 402-293-4149 or emailed to [hinklepat@gmail.com](mailto:hinklepat@gmail.com) by **Wednesday, March 16, 2011.**

Student Name							
Phone							
School Name/ Adviser Name							

**FRONT**



**BACK**



\*\*\*Designed by Shayla Konz from Twin River\*\*\*

Item Description	Color	S	M	L	XL	2XL	Price	Total
Gildan Short Sleeve T-Shirt <small>100% Pre-shrunk Cotton. 6.1 oz.</small>	Black						\$10	
***Please add \$2.00 for sizes 2XL***							Total	

\*\*\*100% of Proceeds Benefit the Nebraska FBLA Foundation Trust\*\*\*

Please Make Checks Payable to **Bellevue West**  
Mail To: **1501 Thurston Avenue**  
**Bellevue, NE 68123**

All Payments Must Be Turned In By March 30, 2011

# BREAKING THE MOLD



## OUTSTANDING MEMBERS

### **Katherine Kotas, Adams Central**

Katherine devoted countless hours to FBLA the past two years showing her dedication and support of our chapter. She is an amazing member who shows others what FBLA is all about.

★

### **Brooke Vogt and Allison Miller, Arlington**

Both Brooke and Allison made our chapter's Vollerama night a great success!

★

### **Julie Slama, Auburn**

Julie, a ninth grade student new to FBLA, has been instrumental this year in several projects and has been chosen to attend SLC in April.

★

### **Zach Flies, Blair**

Zach is a dedicated member and officer who is assisting local business owners with their web pages. He is an excellent and patient volunteer who shares his knowledge and expertise.

★

### **Marco Ortiz, Crete**

Marco has been an active member and officer the past three years and is planning to attend UNO majoring in International Business in the fall.

★

### **Aaron Baney Dundy County Stratton**

Aaron is a senior and the chapter's vice president. He has helped with the scavenger hunt for the food pantry and the community's Halloween activities.

★

### **Cody Brown Elmwood-Murdock**

Only a sophomore, Cody has immersed himself in FBLA activities including chairing a project to create a website promoting Elmwood's 125th birthday.

★

### **Sally Moore, Fillmore Central**

Sally Moore is a sophomore member who is serving as president of our chapter.

She has been instrumental in making many of our projects successful.

★

### **Monica Murillo, Gibbon**

Monica is an outstanding leader at Gibbon FBLA chapter, serving as the co-chairperson and chairperson respectively for the successful Money Smart Week and Go Green Week campaigns.

★

### **Stephanie Teten, Johnson-Brock**

Stephanie did an outstanding job as committee chair in organizing and presenting an American Enterprise Day presentation to the K-6 classrooms.

★

### **Ginger Miller Lyons-Decatur Northeast**

Ginger is an outstanding member because she makes posters, participates in fundraising events and community service projects and is always ready to help.

★

### **Bernard Turnbo Omaha Northwest**

"Nardo" coordinated our efforts to increase membership by visiting all the classrooms in the building to encourage students to join.

★

### **Laura Komenda Raymond Central**

Laura has been extremely active this year while co-chairing the American Enterprise Project, completing three BAA applications and participating in almost every FBLA activity.

★

### **Melanie Cadwallader, Sandhills**

Melanie is the reporter of our chapter and does a great job getting our activities in the school newsletter. She also chaired our Hugs for Heroes Valentines activity.

★

### **Trevor Sorenson, Minden**

Trevor is our chapter's outstanding member! He puts in a lot of extra time for our FBLA and goes the extra mile to get things done.

## Accelerating with Amy

Amy Chin  
State Treasurer



Number two pencils, Scantron sheets, shaky hands and a quiet room full of tables. These signs can mean only one thing: SLC objective tests.

Nebraska FBLA will be offering many objective (written) tests for the State Leadership Conference's competitive events program. Taking tests may seem boring or even frightening to you, but believe it or not, you can turn objective tests into an enjoyable experience if you have the right attitude.

First, you need to select events that interest you. While all events have a business focus, subtopics include English, math, technology, sports and even FBLA itself! In addition, try to pick events that correspond to classes that you receive high grades in – for example, if English is consistently your highest grade in school, you may excel in events like Business Communication, Proofreading and Spelling.

Next, be sure to take plenty – or at least a few – practice tests. Ask your adviser for some tests from the official FBLA study guide or go online to <http://www.fbla.testfrenzy.com> to download more practice tests. Taking these tests can help you get a feel of what will be on the "real-deal" that you take at the SLC.

Once you're at the conference itself, make sure that you have plenty of number-two pencils and a calculator if you are taking a math-related test. If you've forgotten to bring number-two pencils, just stop at the state officer candidate booths – you'll be sure to find some there! If you have never been to the SLC convention center before, use your free time to find your testing rooms so that you know where you are going when the time comes.

When the time finally comes, relax! Walk into the testing room with number-two pencils, electronic devices turned off, appropriate business attire and a confident attitude. Sit next to members that you don't know (as a conference rule, you are not supposed to sit by students from your own school) and get to know them before the test starts. This will help you to relax, and you may even make a new friend in the process. Listen to all directions carefully, and when instructed to begin, attack those Scantron bubbles. Good luck!

### **Amanda Fike, Sandy Creek**

While serving as chapter president for two years, Amanda has taken her leadership to the next level. She is working on the BAA Awards and leads many school and community service projects.

★

### **Ashleigh Teten, Syracuse**

Ashleigh, a junior and chapter secretary, is organized and does a great job of tracking membership points. At UNL's American Business Competition, she placed first in Advanced Accounting and Personal Finance.

### **Heather Collins, Tri County**

Heather is an outstanding FBLA member, consistently helping out at FBLA events. She brings a positive and fun-filled attitude to all meetings.

★

### **Jackie Engstrom, Twin River**

Jackie, a four-year senior member, plays a large part in our chapter's success. She shows positive leadership qualities by motivating others and providing assistance with monthly activities.



# Hansen's Happenings

Jessica Hansen  
State Secretary

Food drives, face painting at an elementary carnival, Rake-n-Run and cell phones for soldiers. Community service projects like these will help Nebraska reach our goal of 42,000 hours of service, which breaks down to 8 hours per member. Will your hours help us reach this goal?

With the State Leadership Conference just around the corner, it's time to remember all of your projects that you have completed in the past year. Any service projects completed after the 2010 State Leadership Conference can be included on the Tally It Up form.

The form is quick and easy to complete. First, you need to state the name of each project followed by the date the project took place. To figure out how many hours your chapter volunteered, multiply the number of students participating by the number of hours worked on the project. For example, a chapter with 25 students that worked 2 hours on trash pickup completed a total of 50 hours.

When you are ready to submit your hours, the form can be found on the Nebraska FBLA website under the SLC Registration Information link. Once completed, please email the form to me at [secretary@nebraskafbla.org](mailto:secretary@nebraskafbla.org)

Always remember to push yourself to give back and live by the inspiring words of Norman B. Rice, "Dare to reach out your hand into the darkness, to pull another hand into the light."

## DYNAMITE ADVISERS

### Shawn Mulligan, Adams Central

Mr. Mulligan has brought the Adams Central chapter to new levels this year. He supports each and every member in all of their ambitions and is always willing to lend a hand. He also recently helped us organize the largest blood drive in our tri-county area. We collected 163 pints! Mr. Mulligan is definitely a dynamite adviser!

### Celeste Rogers, Sandhills

Mrs. Rogers has been the Sandhills adviser "forever," and she has helped us understand the importance of giving back and volunteering our time. She is a great role model and encourages us to always do our best and get involved.

### Susan Wellman, Syracuse

Mrs. Wellman has led the Syracuse FBLA chapter for 15 years. She continues to push her members to the next level. Her students have continuously been successful due to her hard work and great leadership!



## National Leadership Conference

June 26 – July 2, 2011

Orlando, Florida

### June 26

Air travel from Nebraska to Orlando

### June 27

Tour Disney theme parks on your own

### June 28

Tour on your own

**2 pm** Conference activities begin

**7 pm** NLC Opening Session

### June 29

National Leadership Conference Competition

### June 30

National Leadership Conference Competition

**5 pm** Nebraska Meeting

### July 1

National Leadership Conference Activities

**7 pm** Awards of Excellence program

### July 2

Return to Nebraska

**Package price will include airfare, ground transportation, 6 nights' lodging and Nebraska pin.**

**Check the FBLA website at [www.nebraskafbla.org](http://www.nebraskafbla.org) for complete pricing information as it becomes available.**



## Pledge Farewell Address

*As this year comes to an end,  
We want to share how we've become friends.  
You elected us to be your leaders,  
And for three issues, you've been our Pledge readers.*

*The journey began with four days in June.  
SOLA (State Officer Leadership Academy)  
had us in "officer-shape" soon.  
The floods of Nashville could not hold us back,  
As Nebraska brought home many a plaque.*

*The sound of country music filled our ears,  
While we made friends that will last through the years.  
Our "five-star" hotel was "Simply the Best,"  
With the Best Western, we were truly impressed.*

*Once back in Nebraska, things were going smooth,  
After months of planning, we were in the FLC groove.  
Members attended the workshops galore,  
They learned many things, like obtaining the floor.*

*NFLC in Des Moines was a blast,  
It won't just be a part of our past.  
We learned how to make cotton pickers at John Deere,  
And being the largest chapter, we let out a cheer!*

*We had memories a plenty, but we're not done yet,  
SLC is still coming, you'll like it, we bet.  
That being said, our thanks for your support,  
Keep "Breaking Barriers" and you won't fall short.*

**2010-2011 Nebraska FBLA State Officer Team**



# Success Stories

## Adams Central

Every minute of every day, someone needs blood. There are 1,440 minutes in each day, 43,200 minutes each month, and approximately 518,400 each year. With numbers such as these, it is obvious that every minute counts. On January 26 Adams Central FBLA hosted the largest blood drive in its tri-county area. By hosting events such as this, people's lives were changed. From the volunteers to the donors to the recipients, Adams Central FBLA is able to successfully impact the minutes that make up each day.

It all started with volunteers. The FBLA members took charge when it came to preparation, set-up, running and taking down the blood drive. During the week prior to the event, members helped recruit donors. Whether it was family, classmates or even teachers, no one was left unnoticed. The chapter's 190 registered donors set the bar high for the success that this event could bring; however, the volunteers' work didn't stop there. Greeters, escorts, canteen workers and both assembly and disassembly crews were needed. While some members used these shifts to get a break from school, others saw it as a way to indirectly help someone in need of a blood donation. Over 30 members served as volunteers.

Those next impacted were the courageous donors. Overcoming a fear of needles, nurses or maybe even the smell of blood is never easy. Along with conquering what may seem the impossible, those who donate also have to make some changes to their daily schedule before and after giving. When one gives blood, one must be fully hydrated and have a system full of vitamins. It's amazing how much water one can actually drink in a day! Following their donation session, the amount of energy a donor is able to successfully use is greatly limited. Even though donors must give a portion of their day to give blood, almost everyone finds it worth the time. By giving just one pint, each individual saves three lives.

Out of 190 registered donors, 161 pints of blood were collected. Because of that achievement, 483 lives can now be saved. Every minute counts. With one awesome sponsor, a chapter full of eager members and 190 members from the community, Adams Central FBLA made a difference. By successfully hosting this one blood drive, the chapter was able to impact the minutes that make up each day, and that is what really counts.

## Auburn

Brownville: the oldest inhabited pioneer town in Nebraska. Situated on the western bank of the Missouri River, Brownville is a peaceful and historic settlement made up of friendly people and small, yet successful businesses.

On November 10, 2010, Auburn FBLA members, headed by Teresa Hahn, took a field trip to Brownville to tour the local businesses for Entrepreneurship Week. The first stop was The Lyceum, where members were provided breakfast of juice, coffee and yummy muffins.

The Lyceum, owned and managed by Jane Smith, is a tourist-friendly cafe and used-book store. Originally started in

# Woitaszewski's What-Not's

Jenna Woitaszewski  
State Parliamentarian



Future Business Leaders of America. As you can see, business is an important part of our organization. After all, our mission is to strengthen students for careers in the business world. But what does a business career really entail? Are business careers the people who wear a suit to work and sit at an office desk all day long? Of course not! There are millions of careers in business, and I'm sure there is one that can fit you.

Business careers include a wide array of fields. Human resources, management, accounting, marketing, and many, many more! If you enjoy math class, consider a career in finance. Bankers, financial planners, insurance agents, investment brokers and real estate agents all deal with financial information on a daily basis.

If math class wasn't your thing and art was your forte, then consider a marketing job. Advertisement is always a huge industry for business students to consider! You could create the next big company's logo! If you are like me and enjoy working with people, then human resources could be your calling. Human resource is arguably the largest industry in the business profession. You could do anything from working with company unions to ensuring fair treatment in the work force.

Business careers are endless and a business degree can land you nearly any job in the workforce. Never count a business career out. It is commonly said that many of our careers haven't even been created yet, and the business industry is just the same! By being a member of FBLA, you are already a step ahead in the business world. With your FBLA experience in hand, you are sure to "Break Barriers" in the business world!



1857 as the Brownville Literary Lyceum, the restaurant/bookstore was reopened in 2004. The Lyceum is very popular among the local Brownville citizens, as well as out-of-town visitors.

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# Success Stories

After the warm welcome and delicious breakfast, FBLA members headed to the River Inn, a floating bed-and-breakfast owned by Jane Smith's husband, Randall and managed by Rockport native Linda Shamburg. The River Inn is a luxurious river boat complete with 18 cabins, a lounge and an upper deck. Mr. Smith opened for business a few years ago, and since then, it has been an extremely popular attraction for tourists.

Mr. Smith explained to the students that the River Inn is also very popular among the local population; the boat can be chartered for parties, dances and weddings. The Inn, which has entertainment and music of many different sorts for guests, is not Mr. Smith's only enterprise, however. He also owns "The Spirit of Brownville," the local excursion boat. During the summer, the smaller boat is used for dances and parties, as well as the locally famous public dinner cruises. It is the only public excursion boat on the Nebraska bank of the Missouri River.

Next, the students visited the Whiskey Run Creek Winery, where Ron Heskitt took members on a small tour. In 1866, the winery was actually a brewery – the first brewery in Nebraska, in fact. A cave on site, used mainly for wine tastings and parties today, was the location for storing the beer. The barn was built in 1904, two years before the brewery went out of business. Mr. Heskitt bought the land and opened the Whiskey Run Creek Winery in 2001. Today, he owns seven and a half acres of grapes and produces between thirty- and sixty-thousand bottles of wine per year.

For lunch, the group revisited The Lyceum, and then was off to the Antiquarium, a gigantic used-book store owned and operated by Tom Rudloff. The Antiquarium was started by Mr. Rudloff and his sister when they went to a book sale at Duschane College in Omaha. A lot of books were left over, and Mr. Rudloff was told that he could take them and try to sell them himself, and so he did. The Antiquarium, which smells wonderfully of old books, opened in 2007 and has everything from science fiction novels to the works of Enlightenment philosophers. The students spent time browsing the books and playing chess before walking down to the Brownville Railroad Museum.

The Museum was started by the Brownville Historical Society. Originally the museum, which is in the old depot, was situated by the Brownville railroad tracks. However, in the 1950s the river flooded, and the museum was moved farther up the bank. The museum contains memorabilia from the original station, as well as a Morse code switchboard, a working model train and a real railcar complete with original beds and seats.

The Railroad Museum was the chapter's last planned stop. The students were free to visit any open downtown stores, such as A Novel Idea Bookstore or the art gallery. Auburn FBLA had a wonderful time while learning about entrepreneurship in Brownville!

## Aurora

"Chillin' with a Good Book" was a project that demonstrated a love of reading to elementary students by Aurora FBLA members. The elementary school librarian selected books, and members were able to pick up their books on Tuesdays. This gave the members a chance to practice before reading in front of the class on Wednesday mornings. The program lasted for four weeks, and this gave the elementary students the opportunity to connect with FBLA members. In



every classroom there was a reader, and in the kindergarten through second grade classrooms, there was also a role model who sat and listened to the story with the students. Forty-six FBLA members helped make this project a success.

## Bellevue East

For the 3rd year in a row, Bellevue East FBLA has hosted a powder puff football game for the junior and senior girls. And while the girls play flag football, the guys are on the sidelines dancing and cheering them on.

A few weeks in advance, sign-up sheets were posted for players, coaches, cheerleaders, referees and volunteers. After the sign-up, the chapter assigned junior girls to junior coaches and senior girls to senior coaches. The coaches prepared their teams with practices on a regular basis. Then the night before the big game, a pep rally was hosted at Buffalo Wild Wings. Lots of fun was had at the pep rally. There were competitive games for the captains of each team to participate in, such as the wings eating contest, and the champions won a prize!

The following night was the powder puff game, and this year was Bellevue East's biggest turn out! Before the game started, fun music was blasting out of the speakers to get everyone pumped up for the game. Then during the game, members went around the crowd with a decorative basket to offer a chance to win door prizes in exchange for a donation to the FBLA Foundation. Overall, Bellevue East FBLA gave everyone a great time and created everlasting memories for many deserving people.

## Blair

Throughout the school year, the Blair FBLA has focused on technology. Events conducted included offering computer classes, completing technology surveys, assisting local businesses with their web pages and having students pledge to use their cell phones wisely. Members have been hard at work teaching and learning different aspects of technology and sharing their knowledge with local members of the Blair community.

Beginning in October, the chapter offered basic computer classes and an Internet safety seminar for parents. The classes were very beneficial to the community, to Blair FBLA members and to those who attended the sessions. This success was only possible because of the chapter's strong part-

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# Success Stories



nership with the Blair Public Library. Members also provided web page design to local businesses at the library. This central location proved ideal to assist many business owners. Along with the classes, Blair FBLA members conducted surveys regarding cell phone policies in the workplace. Forty local businesses were surveyed about their cell phone usage guidelines for their business.

In addition, Blair FBLA requested students sign pledges that encourage them not to text and drive. Wristbands stating "TXTNG Kills" were given to students who signed pledges during FBLA Week. Our goal is to help students use technology wisely.

Technology continues to present new challenges and advantages; Blair FBLA has enjoyed sharing their knowledge and time so that others may benefit from technology's advantages.

## Boone Central

Ron Cole, 1980 Albion High School graduate, presented his energizing and inspirational program to Boone Central FBLA members and its guests on November 23. Cole travels across the nation speaking to youth about the importance of education, family and values. Prior to the program, the group en-



joyed a delicious potluck supper. A free-will donation was given to support the March of Dimes, a national FBLA project.

## Chadron



Chadron FBLA completed its annual 12 Business Days of Christmas project, in which a local business is drawn and recognized as a valuable member of the Chadron business community. Businesses were recognized from December 6-21. Chadron FBLA honors the 12 names drawn with two dozen homemade cookies and a candy bouquet, which are all made by local FBLA members and then delivered to the business. Businesses are drawn from a list of members that belong to the Chadron Area Chamber of Commerce.

## Conestoga

The FBLA motto this year is Breaking Barriers. Our chapter took the motto to heart and made it our goal to serve our community in a different way each month. Our most successful project was our month of December when our chapter did a project called 12 Days of Giving.

Our 12 Days of Giving was created to help our local Head Start program and their families. We collected various items for twelve days. Each day had a different item that you were suppose to bring to put under our Giving Tree in the front entry of our school. Some of the items were canned goods, paper products, books, soap, blankets, toys and bottled drinks.

On top of all of those items, we also had blue and pink angels hanging on our Giving Tree with the various items listed such as socks, gloves and hats. People in our school could take these angels off the tree and purchase the item listed. Once purchased, the item could be brought back to school and placed under our Giving Tree.





# Success Stories

The 12 Days of Giving was successful. We were able to provide gifts for 19 Head Start children on the night of the winter program. The children received crayons, books, dolls and toy cars. Food and miscellaneous items were given to the families to brighten their holidays. We were happy to make a difference in the community and make the holidays special for the children.



## Crete

September 15 found 36 members of Crete FBLA in Omaha. The annual "Career Field" trip took them to Gallup where, after an informative session, members toured the Gallup facilities, learned about the Gallup StrengthsFinder assessment and also learned about career opportunities in information technology, communications, business and marketing. Crete FBLA President Ali Schuerman was impressed with the modern facilities and location on the bank of the Missouri River.

After lunch at Gallup, the group headed to Mammal Hall, the new College of Business Administration facility at UNO. The state-of-the-art computer labs, classrooms and student areas were impressive and well designed. Dr. Louis Pol, dean of the college, welcomed members and spoke about education, travel, scholarship and internship opportunities at UNO. Members Marco Ortiz and Jessalyn Holdcraft were impressed by all the technology available for students in the building.

Crete FBLA members had memorable experiences at Gallup and UNO and were excited to learn about career and educational opportunities available in Omaha.

## Dorchester

Two times every school year, Dorchester FBLA takes on the task of a trash pick-up. Members meet in the cafeteria to find out their "plan of attack." When it is finally time to start the pick-up, members start on each end of a two-mile stretch, working to meet in the middle. One might wonder how this would be such a success since it is done every year, but this year was different.

When members met in the cafeteria before going out to the highway, everyone was amazed at the number of people who attended. This year Dorchester had the largest number of people for the trash pick-up they have ever had. With the large amount of people, the trash pick-up was finished faster than usual.

After both groups met, members carpoled back to the high school and had social time, including food and drinks. The trash pick-up held in the fall this year was Dorchester's most successful.



## Dundy County Stratton

For this year's American Enterprise Project, FBLA members teamed up with the 5th grade class at Benkelman Elementary. The purpose of the project was to introduce the elementary students to the American Enterprise System. The FBLA members could think of no better way of explaining the American economy than to start a business with the 5th graders. After much debate, it was decided that the business would be 'Magnet Mania' and school spirit magnets would be the products sold.

On January 18, the FBLA members presented a business lesson to the 5th graders using iPod touches. The elementary students learned 14 business terms. After selling the magnets at a local craft fair and then door-to-door, FBLA members announced that Magnet Mania earned a profit of \$280. A check was presented to Mike Rotherham, chairman of the Benkelman Elementary Playground Improvement Fund. Mr. Rotherham listened to suggestions from the 5th graders for improvements on the playground. Suggested items were field goal posts, soccer nets and air pumps. Mr. Rotherham expressed many thanks to the 5th graders and FBLA for their hard work.

The results of the flash cards completed on the iPods by the 5th graders showed that much was learned about the American Enterprise System.

The majority of the 5th graders could define an entrepreneur and the American Enterprise System. When asked about the American Enterprise Project, member Nate Aufett said, "It was fun and it taught me a lot about business." Member Vikki Ramsey said, "I thought it was fun and I learned a lot of things from this project." FBLA president Brandi Confer stated, "This project was a great learning experience for both the FBLA members and the 5th graders."

## Elmwood-Murdock

In an attempt to bring business leaders together with business students, Elmwood-Murdock FBLA and Oxbow Animal Health devised a unique partnership where both parties benefited from the association. A three-phase project exposed FBLA members to many aspects of running a successful business.

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# Success Stories



In the first phase of the project, FBLA learned about the production and marketing side of the business by helping with a project to promote one of Oxbow's quality products, Eco-Straw. FBLA members prepared 2,000 samples that were distributed to pet stores across the nation. Additionally, they created online videos that featured many of the beneficial, unique components of the product. Oxbow personnel also provided monthly speakers for a series entitled "Get to Know Oxbow." These sessions enabled students to learn about many aspects of running a profitable business.

The second phase of the project looked at the philanthropic components of running a business. Oxbow, known nationwide for its caring, nurturing attitude toward animals, is also compassionate toward the local community. This philosophy was shared with students through the "Get to Know Oxbow" sessions and a service project entitled "Deck the Hounds," which was conducted for the Capital City Humane Society during the holiday season.

To incorporate classroom learning with the challenges of operating their own business, FBLA members created a student-run business entitled LaPawz Barkery. Staying with the pet theme, they developed a line of dog treats and toys that they marketed during the fall and winter. Oxbow mentored the students in this endeavor and provided valuable advice concerning the creation and operation of a small business.

Helping package products, touring the Oxbow facilities, holding "Get to Know Oxbow" programs, participating in mock interviews with Oxbow representatives, as well as conducting activities associated with LaPawz Barkery helped students learn more about how to gain the competitive edge in the business world.

## Fairbury

Some projects are very meaningful to students, and the "Legacy Project" is one of those projects. FBLA Vice President Paige Miller participated in the Legacy Project her freshman year. Paige liked the project so well that she suggested it for this year's community service project. Other senior officers recalled the project with fondness and quickly agreed with the idea.

The Legacy Project matched high school FBLA members with residents at the Fairbury Heritage Care Center. Students met with Heritage Care Center residents during a craft activity in November. Students got to know the residents while

making paper cup turkeys for Thanksgiving table decorations. Students followed up by meeting individually with a resident to learn more about their family history. Each interview was then transformed into a typed biography, complete with photographs of the resident's choosing. Residents were asked about any unfulfilled dreams they had. Two suggested dreams will be carried out for the residents this spring.

A letter-writing project for the troops was incorporated into the project. FBLA members have been sending letters throughout the year to soldiers serving in Iraq. On January 23, FBLA members met with Heritage residents to write letters to soldiers. FBLA members discovered that many residents had spouses, children and grandchildren who served in the military. Some even served in war time. Members also discovered the emotions and hardships experienced by the residents when a family member was serving in active duty. Members wrote the letters to the soldiers on behalf of the residents.

Over half the chapter members participated in this project. Senior Naomi Lutze said she "really enjoyed writing a letter with our resident." Miranda Barber "especially enjoyed the project because our resident could really relate to soldiers now serving in Iraq. She had many family members who served in the United States military. She is very proud of her family's service, including her grandson who is currently stationed in Afghanistan."

## Fremont

Fremont FBLA participated in Make A Difference on October 23, 2010. Make a Difference Day is an event sponsored by USA Weekend. In observance of the day, Fremont FBLA members decorated miniature pumpkins for Halloween and assembled treat bags for the residents at Nye Square Retirement Center in Fremont.

During the week of October 19-23, students met during their conference/advisement period to work on the project. Pumpkins were washed and decorated with markers and individually wrapped pieces of candy were assembled in easy-to-open bags for the residents.

Students met at Nye Square Retirement Center at 5 p.m. on October 23, the day designated for Make A Difference Day this year. FBLA members greeted the residents as they came to the dining room for their evening meal.

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# Success Stories



## Gibbon

In preparation for Going Green Week, Gibbon FBLA officers traveled to the Kearney Recycling Center. Officers spoke with Steve Hart, facility manager, about the Recycling Program in Kearney. He educated the FBLA officers about the entire sanitation process and how the chapter can spread awareness about recycling to the students, parents and community of Gibbon.

With the leadership of officer Monica Murillo, her fabulous Go Green committee was off and running during the week of January 24-28, 2011. Monica held a Middle School assembly on January 20 for 7th and 8th graders to show a 'Go Green' presentation and inform them of how everyone can make a difference within our school and homes.

Monday, January 24: Gibbon FBLA asked the Gibbon Middle School students to help make posters for Go Green Week. The posters were hung around the school and were also entered into a poster contest, with Laura Mozqueda taking first place.

Tuesday, January 25: The Gibbon Middle School decorated local grocery bags with Go Green tips and slogans. Members then returned the grocery bags back to Foster's Grocery so that customers could be reminded about recycling at home.

Wednesday, January 26: Gibbon High School was encouraged to "Recycle to Give Back." Bins were provided for students and faculty to recycle different kinds of items such as cell phones, chargers, ink cartridges, glasses, paper and plastic.

Thursday, January 27: Gibbon High School participated in "Trash for Treat Day." If students brought a recyclable item to school, they received an ice cream treat after lunch.

Friday, January 28: All middle and high school students were encouraged to wear green or brown attire. If a student wore green or brown, they received a GO GREEN sticker that they had to wear all day to receive a prize – a piece of candy or a wooden ruler received from the Kearney Recycling Center that read "Recycling Rules in Kearney, Nebraska."

Go Green Week was a huge success and reminded students and faculty of how we can help make our planet a healthier and 'greener' place to live.

**15 — PLEDGE Online**

## Johnson-Brock

This past fall Johnson-Brock FBLA participated in a "tricycle race" fundraiser. The goal of this fundraiser was to raise money for the Nebraska FBLA Foundation and to add a fun activity to homecoming week.

Homecoming candidates were announced at the beginning of the week and jars were placed in front of the business room for each person. Students then had the week to put money in the jars of their favorite candidate. Coins advanced candidates closer to the finish line, while dollar bills set them back.

After a week of fierce donating the total raised was close to the \$100 goal. It was a fun event for all, and a great way to get the "competitive" juices flowing in the homecoming candidates.



## Litchfield

During the week of January 24-28, Litchfield FBLA was in full force supporting the March of Dimes Foundation. The whole school was actively involved in the week. Students bought \$2 purple bracelets that said "Fight for Preemies" with the March of Dimes website on them. The bracelets were worn all week long and gave a pass for students to wear hats and for teachers to wear jeans.

In the daily announcements, facts and statistics about premature babies were read all week long. FBLA students also created a bulletin board displaying support for March of Dimes. The members put up a premature babies diaper next to a regular sized diaper so students could visually see the size difference. Most students were amazed by how small the premature diaper was. The students and teachers dressed in purple one day of the week in support of the March of Dimes.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**March, 2011**



# Success Stories

Each class brought in pennies that were put in their class jar. The pennies would then be sent into the March of Dimes Foundation. The class that brought the most pennies would be rewarded with ice cream sundaes. The students had an active and fun week getting the word out about the March of Dimes.

## Malcolm

During the week of November 29, 2010, the Malcolm FBLA held a change war for the elementary students to raise money for the March of Dimes. On Monday of the week, FBLA members visited the different elementary classrooms and presented a poster on premature baby facts.

Each grade had one week to try and raise \$50 to get a hat day, and the class that raised the most money won ice cream sundaes. Four out of seven grades raised over \$50 with one class raising nearly \$130! The combined total raised was almost \$500. Malcolm FBLA does this project annually to raise awareness and provide funds for the March of Dimes.

## Minden

The past two years, Minden FBLA has hosted a dodge ball tournament. The chapter picks a Saturday in November that is completely open so everybody can attend. The tournament starts at approximately 10 a.m. with pool play. After all pool play games are completed, the actual tournament starts. This event lasts until about 2 or 3 in the afternoon.

The dodge ball committee meets a few weeks before the tournament. In planning for the tournament, the committee starts promoting the tournament through word-of-mouth and by putting it in the school announcements. Ever since the chapter started this dodge ball tournament, they have had many teams participate. The teams have consisted of faculty members, younger students, high school students and Minden High School alumni.

Teams, consisting of 6 or 7 members, are charged to take part in the dodge ball tournament. The tournament was open to the public to watch, so many parents showed up to watch their children. The winners of the tournament did not walk away empty-handed; they split the prize of \$50 among each team member. The second place team got their money back.

Referees were set up so it wasn't a free-for-all. The dodge ball tournament was an amazing way for students, staff and the committee to spend their Saturday morning/afternoon. It also was an easy and fun way to raise money for the chapter!

## Norfolk

Norfolk FBLA hosted a pink out at a January basketball game against Kearney High School. The pink out raised funds for the Carson Cancer Center in Norfolk.

The chapter sold pink t-shirts and raffled autographed pink basketballs. About 650 t-shirts were sold and nearly \$5,000 was raised. Even the Kearney players, coaches and fans showed up in pink!



## Omaha Northwest

This year's officer team decided to concentrate their efforts on the recruitment of new members. Many students new to Northwest were unaware of opportunities available to them through membership in FBLA.

At the traditional Freshman Day, officers set up a table during the lunch hour to give freshmen a chance to ask questions and learn more about FBLA. Once the upperclassmen returned from summer break, a table was set up in the lobby for students to sign up. Officers visited business classes to recruit as well.

In October, a recruitment committee was formed to extend the outreach throughout the building. In November, members had the opportunity to meet as a committee. During that meeting they developed a strategy to reach even more members. Bernard Turnbo (Northwest's Outstanding Member for this Pledge issue) went door-to-door and asked teachers if he could take a couple moments out of their class time to give a brief presentation about membership. Once people completed membership forms, he returned to their classrooms to give them reminder notices to pay their dues.

When people had paid their membership dues, the committee presented those members with goodie bags. As an additional incentive, a pizza party was held in early January to encourage members to pay before the January 15 deadline. The pizza party was held in conjunction with a weekday varsity basketball game to encourage more students to stay after school and attend the basketball game.



## Pleasanton

Pleasanton FBLA had many success stories this year, including the chapter's annual event, "Santa's Coming To Town." Pleasanton holds this event for the young kids in the community. The little ones really enjoy telling Santa what they want for Christmas, getting candy bags from Santa, making cookies and playing games in the gym. Members set up a camera to take pictures of the kids on Santa's lap.

Pleasanton loves to run this event because members like to put smiles on the faces of the little ones (and members get the excess cookies when it's done.) The kids love the activities and enjoy Santa coming to town!

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# Success Stories



## Raymond Central

Raymond Central FBLA members adopted the 7th grade science class for their American Enterprise project. Science teacher Mrs. Trautman had been covering a unit on inventions and asked FBLA members to teach a unit on marketing, conduct a lesson on developing an assembly line and help the students create advertisements to market their inventions.

Members taught the marketing lesson and discussed the different steps a business must follow to market a product and the different ways to create appeal for their product with an advertisement. In a prior lesson they discussed production of a product, showed the students a model "brick" and provided criteria for the student teams to produce a brick. The students then assigned jobs and tried to create as many bricks as they could using an assembly line process. FBLA members also helped the students use the design software InDesign to create tabloid-size advertisements promoting their inventions.



## Sandhills

Sandhills FBLA held a food and toy drive from Thanksgiving to December 22. Members volunteered to put up and decorate a Christmas tree. Also, a competition was held between

the classes to see who could donate the most food and toys.

On the last day of the competition, the collected items were boxed, weighed and delivered to the Blaine County Food Pantry, located in Dunning, Nebraska. Overall 212 items were collected. The eighth grade class won with a total of 129 pounds and was rewarded with a pizza party for lunch.

## Sandy Creek

Sandy Creek FBLA has a major focus on community service, especially since the school has students coming from five surrounding towns: Clay Center, Deweese, Edgar, Fairfield and Glenvil.

This past summer, the FBLA chapter had a great opportunity to help out in the town of Deweese. Over twenty FBLA members spent several afternoons in Deweese, a town with a population of about eighty people. They worked diligently cleaning the community club building and giving the interior a fresh coat of paint. Members with a steady hand were given the job of painting the trim work, while others were given rollers. Afterwards, the group also cleaned the community park by picking up trash and pulling weeds.



During this time, participating members also had the opportunity to attend a town meeting. They observed how the meeting used parliamentary procedure and asked questions about how the guidelines of the procedure are used to address topics and inform local citizens of the community.



## Silver Lake

FBLA members went to Campbell on October 6 for one of the chapter's community service projects in the school district. This project found the students re-painting the town's fire hydrants with different colors symbolizing different amounts of pressure as well as re-painting fences in the town.

With the day off for a teacher in-service, 35 of the 45 FBLA members drove to Campbell to get their hands dirty to make their local community look better. Members painted over 20

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# Success Stories

fire hydrants around town and a fence in front of the medical clinic in a 2-hour time period.

Silver Lake FBLA members plan to complete a community service project in all four communities of the school district before the year's end: Campbell, Bladen, Roseland and Holstein.



## Southwest Consolidated

Southwest Consolidated FBLA spent the morning of November 10 touring three business sites in McCook: the Keystone Business Center, Knowlen & Yates and Sehnert's Bakery. The Keystone Business Center is a landmark hotel that was renovated into a business center. Sue Shaner of the McCook Economic Development Corporation told the group how they wrote grants to get the funds to restore the building. As she gave a tour of the building, Ms. Shaner pointed out businesses that are currently using space in the Business Center and told members how the center's goal is to help start-up businesses.

Knowlen & Yates is a specialty business, which sells all kinds of cookware and utensils. Mr. Ford explained how he started the business and the work involved in running it. His customers come from a large section of southwest Nebraska.

Matt Sehnert, owner of Sehnert's Bakery, shared with the members how his business has expanded to more than just a bakery. They make pizza crusts, which are sent all over Nebraska, cater special events and sponsor live music with a dinner several times during the year.

The FBLA members enjoyed the tours and learned a lot of information about entrepreneurship and running a business in southwest Nebraska.

## Syracuse

As part of their community service project, Syracuse FBLA held a book drive in December. A collection box was set out during a home basketball game where people could drop off

new or gently used books. There was also a collection box located at Do It Best Hardware with the Angel Tree. The books received were for children of all ages.

FBLA wanted to give the books to local children to assist in the needs of the community, so they teamed up with the "Backpack Club," which is sponsored by Luther Memorial Church. Each Thursday, members of the church fill a backpack full of food items for the weekend to be sent home with designated families.

The church shared a list of the ages of children per backpack, and books were matched to their appropriate gender and age. Members wrapped the books and attached a label designating the age of the person receiving the book. The books were sent home in the backpack as a gift from FBLA to promote literacy.



## Wausa

Headcheese, Swedish meatballs, fruit soup and traditional Swedish attire are the components to the largest chapter community service project for Wausa FBLA. On the third week of October for the past 10 years, Wausa FBLA chapter members have carried trays, served guests and cleared tables at the annual Smorgasbord. The event is one of the largest celebrations in the community serving over six hundred people from as far away as Sweden itself.

Smorgasbord is many FBLA members' first real chance to experience the town's rich heritage. For others, it is their opportunity to give back to the community that has given them so much. FBLA has also helped Wausa High School students promote the community to area towns by promoting business and encouraging people to return to Wausa year after year to support the event.

Wausa FBLA is committed to community service throughout the year, participating in the town's Labor Day celebrations, work auction and many other projects including the Smorgasbord. Adviser Dawn Friedrich promotes the community involvement stating, "It's great to have the kids help out; it ties everyone in the community together." The large emphasis on service from the chapter has created a positive reputation of willingness to volunteer within the community of Wausa.

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# Success Stories



## Wilber-Clatonia

The Wilber-Clatonia FBLA recently completed their winter community service project to promote cancer awareness and donate profits from the fundraiser to an area Relay for Life.

FBLA sponsored the first "PINK OUT" night at the January 21 basketball game by selling pink t-shirts to fans, student body, team members and staff from both Wilber and Malcolm. All profits were donated to the area Relay for Life Foundation. Instead of filling the stands with school colors, FBLA requested the stands be filled with pink in honor of cancer awareness and prevention.

The support from both communities was overwhelming as a total of 229 shirts were sold with profits of \$1,170 being do-

nated to Relay For Life. Representative of Relay For Life, Julia Vossler from Doane College, was presented the check at the game by Wilber-Clatonia FBLA Adviser, Lynette Finley.

Even the coaches from Malcolm and the Wilber-Clatonia boys varsity basketball teams wore the shirts during the game and as their warm-up jerseys for the event. Instead of green and blue filling the stands, the pink t-shirts were the dominate color of the evening.

## Wood River

The Wood River FBLA chapter held a competition as a fundraiser to celebrate the Thanksgiving weekend with the plan to donate the proceeds to the March of Dimes. They called the competition "Turkey of the Year."

The competition was developed by forming four different committees: a judging committee, a debate committee, a voting committee and an obstacle course committee. Each high school class nominated one candidate for the title, and the faculty did likewise. Their fellow classmates and middle school students were allowed to put coins in their favorite nominee's can during lunch time; a penny counted as a positive vote and any other change was a negative vote.

Aside from coin votes, the judging committee also graded the candidates on the other activities held throughout the week. The requirements for each competitor were to make at least five campaign posters and post them around the school to earn votes from students as well as to get the fastest time in an obstacle course and choose the best responses to debate questions. The judging committee was to make their judgments on a scale of one to ten from the claps of the audience during the debate.

Overall, the Turkey of the Year competition raised \$150 for the March of Dimes and left students who participated excited and ready for the break. The chapter even recruited some new members once they were exposed to the FBLA experience.



## Commissioner's Recognition

Nebraska FBLA members placing in the Top 3 at the National Leadership Conference were recognized at the Commissioner's Recognition for Student Excellence in Career Education on November 22, 2010.