

# THE PLEDGE

FALL 2020



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## 2020-21 STATE OFFICER TEAM

Lucas Lunzmann, *President*  
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Caden Carlson, *Secretary*  
Trey Lamkins, *Treasurer*  
Wyatt Nun, *Reporter*  
Isabella Cao, *Parliamentarian*



# LEADING THROUGH CHANGE

What a time to be a leader, right? Anyone can lead during times of success and prosperity, but truly elite leaders attack adversity head-on. How you respond and act during tough circumstances will determine your legacy. This year is an exceptional opportunity to prove to yourself, your peers, and everyone around you that you have “Amplified You Leadership!”

Winter is a THRILLING time for Nebraska FBLA, largely due to the fact that some members are beginning their journey to State Office. This decision to serve will not only change your life but also the lives of thousands of members within our state. To begin the process of running for a state position, you will want to take a look at the “**State Officer Handbook**” and the “**State Officer Candidate Packet**”. These two resources will help immensely when it comes to studying and familiarizing yourself with the organization. The next step in this process is Screening Day. At this moment in time, we have not yet made a decision about how this event will take place. Whether virtual or in-person, expect a written test as well as an interview with the Board of Directors. The final piece of this is of course campaigning at the State Leadership Conference. This is where you will share your platform, goals, and connect with members from across the entire state.

Whether you are still contemplating the decision or have already chosen to take this leap, you’re in a great place. Running for a position can’t be done alone; make sure to reach out to friends, advisers, parents, and any of us State Officers. This organization has been climbing in excellence since the very beginning, now it’s your turn to take it to new heights!

## QUICK LINKS TO WINTER FEATURES

<a href="#">Lucas’s Latest</a>	<a href="#">National FBLA Officer Update</a>
<a href="#">Connect with Caden</a>	<a href="#">Izzy’s Insights</a>
<a href="#">Jaelyn’s Journal</a>	<a href="#">Chapters Success Stories</a>
<a href="#">State Executive Committees</a>	<a href="#">Alumni Spotlight</a>
<a href="#">Empowering Advisers</a>	<a href="#">Wyatt’s Wisdom</a>
<a href="#">Trey’s Treasure’s</a>	<a href="#">Nebraska PBL Officer Update</a>
<a href="#">Super Sweeps</a>	



# FBLA WEEK: FEB 8-12, 2021

Nebraska FBLA, it's the most wonderful time of the year! As we celebrate with friends and family this holiday season, let's look to the future plans for FBLA's own festivity, FBLA Week. Hosted during the second full week of February, FBLA Week is a time for chapters to grow membership, prepare for Spring meetings, and celebrate their successes. Members also participate in a variety of special activities that range from business attire day to advisor appreciation day.

During FBLA Week, chapters can take advantage of the opportunity to connect, grow, and advocate, all while having a ton of fun. Some examples of activities that can accomplish these goals include: handing out doughnuts in the morning, hanging up signs promoting upcoming meetings, and presenting to your school board about FBLA. This short list only scratches the surface of what can be achieved by members throughout the duration of FBLA Week. More creative chapter activities can be found here on the National FBLA website. Also, don't forget to share your chapter's experiences over the week on social media.

This year, let's celebrate the "spirit of FBLA" and ASPIRE to go above and beyond in our efforts to connect, grow, and advocate with our members, chapters, and schools.



# SUPPORT THE MARCH OF DIMES

The March of Dimes is an instrumental aspect of what FBLA is. The March of Dimes has been working to make sure that every premature baby has a fighting chance. Members are able to volunteer their time and become community-minded leaders. As a chapter, there are many things that you can do to spread awareness of the March of Dimes.

**Light it up Purple** - Time to give your school a makeover! Cover your lights with purple cellophane or paper and have the lights illuminate a purple glow. You can also invite your school to wear purple to show their support.

**March for Babies** - StepUp to the Challenge and host a walk/5k and pass out purple bracelets or glow sticks. Your chapter can take photos and videos to create a **promotional video like this one** for the March of Dimes.

**Advocate for Babies** - Join the #BlanketChange movement to demand policymakers and political candidates prioritize our nation's moms and babies and take immediate action to improve their health.

Supporting the March of Dimes is an essential part in the process of FBLA members becoming community-minded leaders. Earn the Nebraska FBLA March of Dimes ribbon by donating \$100 or more. With your support and time, the March of Dimes can continue to help moms and babies thrive!

## Hyperlinks to Resources you can use

**Awareness Flyer**

**Presentation**

# STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES: CONNECT | GROW | ADVOCATE

In 2018, the Nebraska FBLA State Executive Committees were established as a way to expand leadership opportunities for members. Since then, committee members have helped with communication plans, created resources to share with chapters, and used student voice for change.

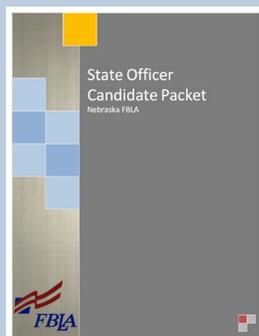
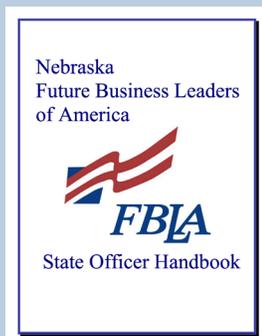
This year is no different. Nebraska FBLA has three executive committees: Connect, Grow, and Advocate. Each committee is responsible for helping to carry out and promote projects to reach the goals set by the State Officer Team.

The Connect Committee has been hard at work trying to create more ways for members to network and stay connected this year. We have met multiple times already to brainstorm our plans and how we can best execute our ideas. The stellar members of this group include Sahrai Luna, Connor Nichols, Millie Mitchell, Cody Swinarski, and Kendal Knuth. The Connect Committee is led by Lucas Lunzmann and Caden Carlson. These amazing FBLA members are truly dedicated to serving this organization and everyone in it. Be on the lookout for some awesome projects and initiatives in the near future!

The Grow Committee has been staying active to create new ideas for FBLA members to expand. Our team has produced many ideas such as creating recruitment resources, social media takeovers, a new middle-level ribbon project, and promotional videos/tips for the ribbon projects. The Grow Committee is determined to create the best action plan designed to achieve our goals. The committee members are Jameson Margetts, Jessica Kouma, Megan Dedic, Lauren Bailey, and Kaylee Rimel. The Committee is headed by Jaelyn Gross and Isabella Cao. Be prepared to flourish with the Grow Committee this year!

The Advocate Committee is working towards advocating the benefits of Nebraska FBLA to students and business leaders across the state. This committee is made up of hard working FBLA members, including Teja Farley, Kylie White, Kate Jones, Ashton Higgins, and Annabell Murphy. The Advocate Committee is headed by Wyatt Nun and Trey Lamkins. We are extremely excited to exhibit our ideas and inform members on FBLA's benefits!

## APPLY TO BE A STATE OFFICER REVIEW THESE MATERIALS FOR DETAILS





# MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

We wouldn't be able to have an amazing organization without our members. The members of Nebraska FBLA tend to be hardworking driven individuals. To find new members, reach out to two or more classmates who have not already signed up. Invite them to the next FBLA meeting/event! Invite anyone you can! Don't limit yourself to high schoolers, if you have a middle level chapter, invite middle school students to join as well.

We all want FBLA to grow and reach more people across the state, but how are we supposed to get new members? If you have social media make sure it's

current and your posts inform and excite potential new members. At the beginning of the year, many chapters hosted a FBLA year kick off to boost membership recruitment. With the holidays right around the corner, host another event to kick off the second semester with winter games and activities.

Chapters have until January 15 to register members online! Click Here for more recruitment ideas:



## EMPOWERING ADVISERS

*Nebraska FBLA celebrates all of our dedicated and talented advisers. You give so much of yourself to help students' get the most out of their FBLA experiences. THANK YOU!*



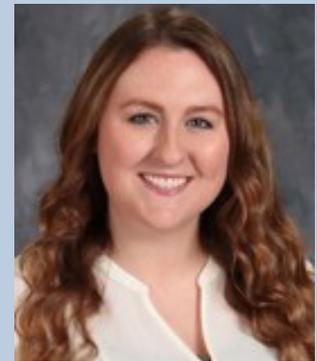
**Ashland-Greenwood**

Mrs. Amber Dutcher has been hard at work to make sure that chapter activities are able to happen as close to normal as possible with the same amount of enthusiasm.



**Grand Island Northwest**

Mrs. Lori Cooper encourages us and allows us to brainstorm our own ideas and always asks the officers for input. Mrs. Cooper works hard to ensure that our chapter is a success and we can't ask for a better role model.



**Raymond Central**

Ms. Alexandra Bastian has been a chapter adviser at Raymond Central for 5 years now, and continues to support us every day by providing opportunities for members to grow and connect with the chapter.

# PREPARATION GUIDE FOR SLC

## **In November, the Nebraska FBLA Board of Directors voted to move the State Leadership Conference to a virtual event due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.**

With this early decision, it gives Nebraska FBLA ample amount of time to plan and organize a top-notch conference for everyone!

With the move to a virtual event, there are a few changes to competitive events as well as deadlines. See the links below. As we finalize additional details of the conference, we will make sure to post them to the Nebraska FBLA website as well as send the updates via email through the Nebraska FBLA Email Listserv.

A few items we are still working on:

- Schedule of objective test only events
- Workshop Sessions
- National Anthem details
- Networking events
- State Officer Campaign details

If you have any questions, please contact Jacqui Garrison, State Chairman at [jacqui.garrison@nebraska.gov](mailto:jacqui.garrison@nebraska.gov) or 402.471.4865.

Deadlines and Changes Information:

- **Competitive Event Virtual Changes**
- **SLC Checklist**
- **Competitive Event Guidelines/Handbook**

Nebraska FBLA will be holding 3 adviser webinars to go over State Leadership Conference and changes with the switch to a virtual event.

Please [click this link](#) to register for one of the webinars.

- Tuesday, January 5 at 4:30pm CST/3:30pm MT
- Wednesday, January 6 at 8pm CST/7pm MT
- Thursday, January 7 at 4:30pm CST/3:30pm MT

## SLC DATES & LOCATIONS

**April 12–14, 2021**  
**Virtual**

**April 11–13, 2022**  
**Kearney**

**April 3–5, 2023**  
**Kearney**



# HELLO FROM MOUNTAIN PLAINS

## Hello Nebraska FBLA!

My name is Kaylie Reese, and I am excited to be serving as the 2020-21 Mountain Plains Region Vice President. As a senior growing up in the small town of Wellsville, Kansas, my education has played a major factor in my life. Each year has had its own challenges, but this one will probably be the most “interesting”. However, if we all continue to lead and look at the positives that are still going on around us, we can ASPIRE to still make a difference as Future Business Leaders. As your Vice President, I would like to welcome each of you to this new membership year. The National Officer team is working together to develop each one of our members, while still making this a memorable experience. It is our goal to provide the tools necessary for Nebraska FBLA and our members to succeed.

The National Officer team is continuing programs that have been previously established, as well as implementing new ideas and resources to benefit both members and advisers. As for the Mountain Plains Region, with the help of my council, we are increasing communication and social media presence through a Mountain Plains Region Instagram account. For more personal communication, I am sending out monthly emails to state advisers and officers to keep them up to date on information pertaining to the national level.

With the holidays looking to be a bit different this year due to Covid, don't forget there are still many ways your chapter can make a difference through community service activities. Instead of Adopting

Residents at a local nursing home, create an all-school Christmas Video for them that everyone can enjoy. You can also still adopt a family in need. Instead of shopping at brick and mortar stores, find out what they need and then order everything online. All items can be directly sent to the family without any handling by members. Other ideas include creating Christmas (or Holiday) cards for front line workers, as well as care packages. You can even consider doing a community food drive, where members still practice social distancing and wearing their masks, but they can go door to door. If this is well advertised in your community, people can leave canned goods/non-perishables on their doorsteps for FBLA members to pick up. With a little ingenuity and creativity, FBLA members in Nebraska can ASPIRE to still make a difference.

Nebraska FBLA members—Continue your efforts to improve yourselves and your chapter, because it does not go unnoticed. My challenge to you: Decide upon your ASPIRE statement. What is something you ASPIRE to do within this school year? There will be many obstacles that lie ahead but strive to turn those obstacles into accomplishments.

Please feel free to reach out to me anytime this year via email ([fblampvp@fbla.org](mailto:fblampvp@fbla.org)) or Instagram (@[fblamountainplainsregion](https://www.instagram.com/fblamountainplainsregion)).

Sincerely,

**Kaylie Reese**  
**Mountain Plains Region Vice President**



# NEBRASKA FBLA FOUNDATION

With all the opportunities that FBLA offers its members, it is no wonder that a strong backbone is needed to support the system. That is where the Nebraska FBLA Foundation Trust comes in.

The Nebraska FBLA Foundation Trust is a non-profit organization that provides financial support for FBLA's programs, scholarships, and keynote speakers at conferences. It helps behind the scenes to ensure a quality experience for all FBLA members. All money donated to the Foundation goes towards benefiting Nebraska FBLA, and great efforts are made to keep funds ample and stable. In fact, only the interest is allowed to be spent. The principal investment remains in the account to grow.

By making a donation to the Nebraska FBLA Foundation Trust, your chapter will not only be helping Nebraska FBLA but also giving back to the organization for years to come!

Here's how your chapter can contribute to the Nebraska FBLA Foundation Trust:

### iGive.

iGive will donate a percentage of your purchase to Nebraska FBLA Foundation Trust. Making an account on iGive is free. Nebraska FBLA also offers a special ribbon project for chapters who recruit 10 or more members to register for iGive.

### Amazon Smile

Amazon donates .5% of proceeds from items bought.

### Nebraska FBLA Foundation website

Chapters and their members can give directly online. A special ribbon award is offered to chapters who donate \$500 or more in this way.

**RAISE MONEY  
FOR  
NEBRASKA FBLA  
FOUNDATION  
WHEN YOU SHOP  
ONLINE**

# CHAPTER SUCCESS STORIES

## Arlington



The Arlington FBLA Chapter concluded their annual food drive on October 28, delivering 4,105 items to the Washington County Food Pantry. This annual event continues to be one of the top community service projects for the school. Winners are awarded pizza parties depending on the number of cans brought to the school. This year, the elementary school's class winner brought over 700 items, the middle school's class winner brought over 150 items and donated \$250, and the high school's class winner brought over 500 items. FBLA members were also awarded points for bringing in items as well. Overall, the Food Drive allowed members of Arlington FBLA to Connect, Grow, and Advocate in many different ways.

## Ashland-Greenwood



On October 24, the Ashland-Greenwood FBLA chapter held its annual "Trick-or-Treat" for the food bank. Members traveled by hayrack through neighborhoods to collect canned items for the local food bank. As a result of Covid-19, some restrictions had to be put on the event, but was still successful and allowed chapter members to collaborate with each other and the community.

## Aurora



Our officer team participated in the Fall Leadership Conference by meeting together in our media center lounge, watching sessions, and eating a meal from Subway. We enjoyed taking the opportunity to enhance our leadership skills. We supported our state Secretary, Caden Carlson as he led several sessions during the conference.

## Blair

For the November monthly meeting, Blair FBLA toured Skinny Bones Pumpkin Patch in Blair, Nebraska. We started off by meeting the owner, Maria Bledsoe, in their newest building: a 119-year old barn which was



moved from another location and remodeled. Maria taught us about the twelve year history of Skinny Bones, which began as a family business with just the seven people in their family. Today the farm employs over 100 people. We learned where the name originated from and all the names of each attraction including the new tornado simulator, which is the second largest in the world.

Maria reminded members it is possible to start our own businesses someday.

Skinny Bones employs high school students and offers college scholarship opportunities to employees. Our visit concluded with homemade fudge and cookies that are made at their location. This was a great learning experience for the Blair FBLA Chapter.

## Boyd County



# CHAPTER SUCCESS STORIES

On October 30, over 20 FBLA and FCCLA members joined forces to work on our community service project. “Trick or treat so others can eat,” was the theme for the evening. Members went door-to-door asking for donations. The event was a huge success and we collected nearly 700 food items to be distributed to families in need in our communities.

## Centura



The Centura FBLA chapter recently advocated for the National FBLA Project by hosting a March of Dimes mini-walk. The mini-walk occurred on October 2, 2020, during the halftime of a home football game. Participant ages ranged from infants to grandparents. Both the visiting crowd of David City and home fans of Centura joined in on the walk. Many carried signs and wore purple glow sticks as the group took a lap around the track. The story of Aiden - a baby born prematurely - was shared. Aiden’s mother, Shelby, shared how the March of Dimes supported her family and helped Aiden become a happy and healthy boy.

Throughout the week, Centura Staff participated in a Blue Jeans for Babies Fundraiser. FBLA also

held a community guessing game, where for 50 cents individuals tried their luck at matching the baby picture to the correct senior. Check out [Centura’s March of Dimes Website](#) which is shared on social media to advocate for this amazing organization.

## Fillmore Central



The Fillmore Central FBLA chapter members assisted with Scare on the Square on October 29 at four o’clock in the afternoon. Twenty-five members stood outside thirteen businesses and handed out candy to the children. Due to Covid restrictions, the members had to wear masks and put candy into the bags the children were carrying.

Fillmore Central FBLA had a spot on one of the corners and handed out candy and flyers for their American Enterprise project.

## Gibbon



Every year on Halloween, the Gibbon Fire Department and the Gibbon FBLA chapter put on “Scare the Square” for the children in the community. There are usually games and a meal, and the children walk around the block in a small parade. This year, however, the event had to be modified, so there was a line of tables with the meal and treats being handed out in bags at the Gibbon Fire Hall. The Gibbon FBLA chapter helped with the hot dog meal, as well as donating candy to make treat bags. Instead of having many games like normal, FBLA sponsored one game with rubber ducks. Children picked a duck from a small tub and looked at a number written on the bottom of the duck. They kept the rubber duck, and the number corresponded to a treat. More than 100 people attended.

## Grand Island Northwest



Our chapter is off to an amazing start to the 2020-21 year! We introduced a new aspect of FBLA at Northwest: families. Each officer was assigned a group of members; these groups are essentially a “team”, however, “family” provides more of a personal intimacy. The purpose was to encourage

# CHAPTER SUCCESS STORIES

member participation and build enthusiasm among our chapter with a competition between families based on participation. Our first activity together involved writing down unique facts about each individual person as well as one fact that everyone had in common. After meeting with our families, I was astounded at our ability to connect on a personal level, grow as a whole chapter, and advocate our goals and purpose of Northwest FBLA. This new incentive has proven to be a success, leading to some great things among our chapter.

## Lawrence-Nelson



The Lawrence/Nelson FBLA isn't letting a global pandemic stop us from meeting, connecting and growing as a chapter. We used the first meeting to recognize two sophomores (freshmen last year) for earning the Leader level of the BAA's. Katelyn Mazour & Keaton Mazour worked hard for this recognition!

Typically, we sponsor a pumpkin decorating contest for the elementary students, but this year we hosted a coloring contest instead. It wasn't the same as "normal" but we made the best of it anyways!

## McCool Junction



McCool Junction's FBLA sponsored Red Ribbon Week. There were dress up days, competitions, and informative information all week for the elementary and high school. Below is a picture of some of the members with canned goods collected for the local food bank.

## Raymond Central



On October 24, 2020, FBLA Members made connections with people throughout the district by stopping door to door asking for donations of canned goods. On this chilly day, we collected over 630 items. From this, we developed a sense of gratitude while also spreading the message of FBLA.

## Sandhills

The Sandhills FBLA and Middle Level FBLA hosted a Halloween Party for area children. Over 35



"littles" attended the party. The FBLA members set up, decorated, and ran the games for the day. Treat bags were distributed to the kids as they entered the party. The Cutest Costume winners were The Queen of Hearts and Robin Hood; the Most Original Costume was Macaroni and Cheese. The afternoon ended with a parade of costumes and a mummy wrapping contest. All attendees were given a glow stick as they left the party.

## Tri-County



Instead of our normal food drive this year, the Tri County FBLA, along with the Student Council and FFA, held a class challenge food drive. Grades 7-12 brought non-perishable food items to designated classrooms. At the end, the winning class received ice cream sundaes. The food was donated to a local food pantry.



## NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL INVITATIONALS

We know how important it is for you to learn about business concepts and practices. Here are some opportunities to help you aspire to reach your goals.



### Locations & Dates

UNO High School Business Competition **Virtual** - Oct. 20 - 23, 2020

UNL Husker Business Invitational - December TBA

Chadron Best of the West Business Invitational - Jan. 27, 2021

UNK Loper Business Invitational - March 10, 2021



### Competitive Events

Accounting  
Calculations  
Communication  
Economics  
Finance  
Job Interview  
Marketing

Students, talk to your teacher to ask about attending these events.  
Teachers, watch for announcements about registrations in the BMIT & FBLA list serves.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ALYSE PFLANZ

TWIN RIVER HIGH SCHOOL CHAPTER 2006-2010



## What inspired you to join FBLA?

I came from a small school where everyone did everything. At first, FBLA was just another organization but quickly grew to be so much more. I remember joining my freshman year because I always heard about all the trips and fun experiences my friends were having. That same year, I barely missed qualifying for nationals, it fueled me to find a way to nationals the following year.

## How has FBLA affected your choice of career?

I was interested in business, but I just knew there wouldn't be fulfillment for me doing some of the things a traditional business degree could offer. I was actually on my way home from SLC my junior year where I earned 1st place in a chapter event. I reflected on how much my advisers helped me succeed. By the time the bus got back to the school, I had made up my mind that I wanted to be a business teacher just like them. I wanted to make an impact on other students and provide them the same kind of opportunities they had given me.

After getting my Business Education degree at UNK, I was the business & technology teacher and FBLA adviser at Wilber-Clatonia from 2014-2018. An opportunity presented itself to become the program director and teacher for the Business Education program at UNK and I jumped at the opportunity. Now I get to teach and prepare future business teachers and future FBLA advisers to pursue their passions and continue opening doors and impacting more students than if I was just in the classroom still.

## What is your favorite FBLA memory?

That's tough because there are so many! Personally, it would be nationals my senior year. Beyond competing,

I got to present a workshop about the March of Dimes to students from across the nation which has carried on as a cause I've remained passionate about. I was on the Mountain Plains regional officer team also that year, so I invited my mom to come with me to share the experience.

As an adviser, one of my favorite memories was when three of my students made finals for Community Service at nationals my last year as an adviser. Getting to see all the hard work they put in and the energy and excitement come to light was one of the most rewarding experiences of my career to date.

## What skills have FBLA taught you?

Professionalism and how to be a business leader. Being a leader in a sport compared to FBLA are two completely different skills and I am so thankful to have had so many leadership development opportunities through business education. For anyone who knows about enneagrams, I am a 3 and I'm convinced this is because of FBLA. I am an achiever and FBLA taught me the value of hard work and giving my best effort.

## If you could go back and tell your high school self anything, what would it be?

I cared so much about what people thought of me then, and reflecting back that was unhealthy and a waste of time. Be and do whatever you want, because those people aren't the ones who will be paying your bills.

## What is one thing everyone in FBLA should take advantage of while they're in high school?

Do it all! But in seriousness, SLC is the best. I know we're living in unprecedented times and I am sending you all such high hopes that you'll be able to have it in 2021. I also recommend participating in one of the individual/group/chapter events and presentations because competing in one of those events is thrilling!



# TAKING ADVANTAGE OF STATE AND NATIONAL PROGRAMS

This year has been odd, to say the least. With many high school extracurricular activities having to adjust their protocols, it has had students having to adapt to the new normal. And FBLA was no exception to this rule. November saw the cancellation of the National Fall Leadership Conference in Omaha. This saddened many members in not just Nebraska, but across the country. But while the cancellation of NFLC was disappointing, there are still many opportunities right now for members to grow as a leader.

In the national goals, FBLA states that it will, “strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and their work.” There are many routes a member can take to begin this path. A good place to start this journey would be with the individual national programs, those being the Business Achievement Awards (BAAs) and Community Service Awards (CSAs).

The BAAs are a set of tasks that give members the ability to learn about the financial world, grow familiar with technological applications, and network with others. Broken down into four different levels, these activities allow students to progress their abilities as a leader. Additionally, if a member is able to successfully complete all four stages, they will receive recognition at their regional meeting during the National Leadership Conference (NLC).

The CSAs function very similarly to the BAAs. Focused on challenging students to do work within their community, this national program encourages

members to make a difference by donating their time to a various assortment of projects. From ringing up toys at a local Christmas store to helping coach a peewee football team, there’s a plethora of different ways to rack up hours for this project. And just like the BAAs, the completion of all three CSA levels can qualify members for NLC.

However, these programs aren’t limited to helping students garner individual success. Through state and national ribbon projects, members can team up to help their chapters earn accolades of their own. On the state level, chapters can exercise their love for recycling with the Go Green ribbon, utilize some computer expertise on the StepUp2Tech ribbon, or help struggling families have a holiday meal with the Feed Nebraska ribbon. As for the national projects, completing any number of the Chapter Challenge ribbons throughout the year. Whether it be Super Sweeps, Non-Stop November, or Action Awareness, any of those activities can lead to a chapter’s growth in leadership.

Everyone realizes that the times we live in are strange. But thanks to the BAAs, CSAs, and ribbon projects, chapters will continue to thrive and stay active. While this FBLA season may be unlike any other in the organization’s 83 year lifespan, members can still aspire to strengthen their confidence thanks to these state and national programs.

## HELPFUL LINKS



[LINK TO BAA'S](#)



[LINK TO CSA'S](#)



[LINK TO RIBBON PROJECTS](#)



# NEBRASKA PBL

## Dear Nebraska FBLA,

My name is Joshua Santiago, and I am the VP of Communications for Nebraska PBL! While there is plenty of fun to be had in FBLA, the fun and learning continues at the collegiate level through PBL. Nebraska PBL has consistently dominated Nationals, and it is through the same hard work and dedication that is being instilled to you now during high school that will transfer over into PBL and take you to the top.

The reason I chose PBL over other clubs, frats, and organizations is my love for networking. PBL is student driven, so I was able to make connections at conferences and local events, and I used that drive to start adding onto my own professional network. These connections have taught me not only about hiring techniques and career advice, but they have also helped me mature as a young adult who just left home.

PBL also prepares you for the real world by giving much more opportunities to be in executive or committee roles. By participating as a state officer, local officer, or even joining a committee during the school year, a student can experience working on a professional team. My short time as a state officer has taught me a lot: scheduling, social media creating, and communicating directly with sponsors/alumni has given me great talking points and STAR replies for interview questions.

In FBLA, many chapters use a point-based system to decide who will go onto compete for state and nationals. However, in PBL, students can sign up for as many as six events at our collegiate State Leadership Conference. The top three placements in each objective test and top two in performance/production events would then proceed onward to Nationals (which NE has historically done well at). These competitions were phenomenal for me because it validated the work I was accomplishing in the classroom!

Network building and making new friends in your first year of college may seem daunting, but PBL is a great way to make new friends and take the next step in your educational journey. Not only will you find similar bright minds in PBL across the nation, but you will also find out about our great partners who support us in a variety of ways. I encourage each of you to use some of the great benefits and experiences PBL offers every year.

Best,

**Joshua Santiago**  
**VP of Communications - NE PBL**

# LIFESMARTS

The December TeamSmarts Challenge on Technology is open until December 31. The top Junior Varsity, Varsity, FCCLA, FBLA, 4-H, HOSA, and SKillsUSA teams win a cash prize for their team.

All teams can also compete for their state championship. Any teams registered just for their special group competition (FCCLA Knowledge Bowl or FBLA LifeSmarts Challenges) should register as Varsity LifeSmarts teams to be eligible.

Your state online qualifying competition is open now – January 15, 2021. Before the qualifying competition closes, each student on the team (4 - 5 students) should take the pre-quiz, the five category quizzes and the capstone quiz to make the team eligible to compete for the state online championship and the chance to advance to the National LifeSmarts Championship.

The State Championship will be held virtually in February. The format of the State Championship is still being determined. More information about the format will be released in mid-January.

Updated materials for coaches are located here and study materials can be found [here](#).



## STAY SOCIAL WITH NATIONAL FBLA-PBL



The Pledge is published three times a year by the Nebraska Future Business Leaders of America. (August, December, March)

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The Nebraska Department of Education recognizes the value of Career & Technical Student Organizations in the personal and professional development of career education students through Nebraska Career Education. Per Nebraska Statute 79-772 to 79-775, the Nebraska Department of Education provides financial and administrative support for state leadership and administration of the Center for Student Leadership and Expanded Learning.

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Reach out to **Jacqui Garrison** if you have any questions about LifeSmarts or how to integrate it into your FBLA chapter or BMIT classes!