

# THE PLEDGE

FALL 2018



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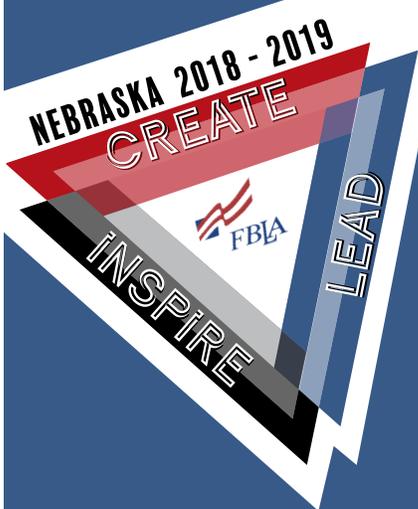
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Morgan Mills, *Secretary*

Olivia Sis, *Reporter*

Kirk Rangel, *Treasurer*

Bryan Zutavern, *Parliamentarian*

# WELCOME

Welcome to another exciting year of Nebraska FBLA! Our state officer team is adrenalized to help our members Create new opportunities for our growing membership, Lead our members into newly formed leadership committees and positions, and Inspire all of Nebraska to make a difference in their communities with an emphasis on mentorship and effective communication.

Thank you for checking out the Pledge! I am looking forward to sharing the new content we have planned for each edition. Check out my video below to learn more about what you can expect this year, and remember to keep an eye out for new editions of the Pledge!

ALEK HAS MORE TO SHARE



Speaking of opportunities, the upcoming Fall Leadership Conference is a great opportunity to gain tips and tricks for your local officers and chapters. It also serves as a great way to network with members from across Nebraska. Networking is an easy way to add followers to social media accounts. An outstanding keynote speaker, Bill Cordes, will have an engaging keynote. At the Fall Leadership Conference, interactive seminars will be hosted by your State Officer Team as well as some local chapters.

After all the seminars are finished a delicious and satisfying lunch will be served. Following lunch, local chapters will have the chance to plan the upcoming year. Local officers can use all the information gained from seminars and implement them in the upcoming year. Along with all of this, the conference is on my birthday and I want to celebrate with all of you. All of this is packed into one day. The Fall Leadership Conference will be a motivation to start creating, leading, and inspiring. Come dressed for success and get the most out of the Fall Leadership Conference!

REGISTER FOR FLC

CLICK HERE

## QUICK LINKS TO FALL FEATURES

*A Turn with Zutavern*

*Empowering Advisers*

*New: Executive Committees*

*Chapters Creating Success*

*Drake's Take*

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*The Sis Twist*

*Timm Times*

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*National Officer Update*

*Morgan's Minute*

*SOLA Recap*

*NLC Recap*



## A TURN WITH ZUTAVERN

BY BRYAN ZUTAVERN, PARLIAMENTARIAN

# 5 TIPS FOR INCOMING OFFICERS

As a new year approaches, new leaders have decided to take a step up in their local chapters and become chapter officers. The following are five fantastic tips that local officers can easily use to help them run their local meetings.

### Bring the Energy

One thing a new officer might notice is a lack of enthusiasm and attention from members in their chapter. If you want your members to be enthusiastic, and stay on task during meetings. You have to bring it yourself. Members are more likely to replicate and pay attention if they see their local chapter officers full of energy and focused.

### Prepare an Agenda

Preparing an agenda is an important step to take before each meeting. If it is not your duty to prepare the agenda, make sure you know what is on the agenda so that you are not caught off guard when questions are raised. Preparing an agenda will make you look confident and show the members that you know what is going on.

### Time Management

Most agendas may have topics or events that may take some time to talk about. It is always good to make sure you have plenty of time for brainstorming so that you do not run out of time

and have to make decisions in haste. Also, make sure that attention is directed only at the topics on the agenda so that time is not wasted on other issues.

### Actions Speak Louder than Words

If you aren't interested, then you shouldn't expect your members to be interested either. It is always important to remember you are being looked at as the example of what should be done. Follow through on what you say you will do and provide help to those who are struggling.

### Work with Your Team

Remember that you aren't the only officer, you are a part of a team. Your biggest strength this year will be working alongside your fellow officers. Collaborate with your team on chapter projects that require lots of work. Offer your help to your officers when they are facing a challenging task, and ask for their assistance when you need it, too.

With this new knowledge, your officer team will be ready to create, lead, and inspire within your local chapter through the 2018-2019 year! Feel free to contact the state officer team if you have any more questions about preparing your officer team for a successful year.

# EMPOWERING ADVISERS



## ADAMS CENTRAL

Mr. Mulligan has shaped our chapter into what it is today! He gives every student a chance to engage in service activities while maintaining a positive energy that keeps FBLA alive and appealing to our students.



## DORCHESTER

Our advisor, Ms. Lewis, has made a positive impact on our chapter by helping our members run events, like the American Red Cross Blood Drive, to help out others in the community.



## OMAHA MARIAN

Mr. Panning continuously serves our chapter with his fresh ideas, admirable work ethic, and incredible knowledge of all things business.



## NEW: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Your State Officer Team is excited to announce the introduction of Nebraska FBLA's Executive Committees: Service Committee, Education Committee and Progress Committee. The goal of these new committees is to inspire members to take new strides in their activity with FBLA.

These groups will have jobs essential to the organization and good standing of Nebraska FBLA. Social media, writing, and communication are three focuses of this program. This is the perfect opportunity for Freshmen and Sophomores who feel passionate about their futures in FBLA.

More information will be released at the Fall Leadership Conference, where members will also be able to sign up.

## APPLY TO BE MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Every month from September to March, Nebraska FBLA will recognize one FBLA member and one FBLA Middle Level member on social media as our shining stars of FBLA.

**DUE ON THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH**



# CHAPTERS CREATING SUCCESS

**ARLINGTON** >>> Arlington FBLA hosts a back to school pizza party for prospective members.

**BLAIR** >>> Blair FBLA hosts an Activity Fair during the lunch blocks for all organizations to promote their group(s) to all students. FBLA officers encourage students to join FBLA and invite them to our Back-to-School Picnic.

**DORCHESTER** >>> Our chapter recruits members by doing many different activities. One activity that we do is our FBLA lock-in. We do this at the beginning of the year to recruit new members right away. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBbCfMzZCwc&feature=youtu.be&hd=1>

**DUNDY COUNTY STRATTON** >>> At the beginning of the school year, Dundy County Stratton FBLA joins with other CTSOs to host a Picnic in the Park. This event gives incoming members the chance to play games, eat food, learn more about their organizations and befriend officers and other members.

**FILLMORE CENTRAL** >>> At their summer meeting, the officer team at Fillmore Central High School determined that one aspect of their recruitment plan for this school year is to use the results from NLC to spark interests in the students. If they show their fellow peers at school what their team was able to earn through FBLA, hopefully the other classmates will be inspired and join their chapter so that they can try to accomplish these feats as well.

**LINCOLN EAST** >>> The chapter of East FBLA utilizes a variety of methods to increase membership yearly. We hold an annual welcome meeting with proper attractions that is extremely popular among new members. We

also obtain an annual booth at the beginning of Freshman year to ensure we have a diverse age-group of students. Beyond that, we will be having a student go to classes all around East to advertise as it is extremely important that students see the benefits of FBLA from their peers, due to commonalities regarding interest.

**MAYWOOD** >>> Maywood FBLA member Jason McIntosh hosted a summer blood drive on July 10 to earn additional scholarship money for graduating seniors at our school. This drive was in addition to the three drives hosted by our chapter during the school year. He did the bulk of the work organizing the drive and had help from fellow FBLA members the day of the drive.

**RAYMOND CENTRAL** >>> A favorite recruiting activity is holding a picnic at Mahoney State Park. Members enjoy a picnic lunch and exploring the Park.

**SANDHILLS** >>> The Sandhills chapter holds a kick off meeting after school starts. Members are given information about FBLA, fed, and play games.

**SYRACUSE** >>> To recruit new members, the Syracuse officers have a booth at the high school open house and encourage students to join. The first week of classes, a membership recruitment event is held serving watermelon, playing water balloon games, and sharing highlights about FBLA. Members who join within the first two weeks are entered into a drawing for a free membership.



# LEAD BY REACHING OUT

## DRAKE'S TAKE

BY DRAKE VORDERSTRASSE, VICE PRESIDENT

Deciding to collaborate with outside organizations is one of the best decisions an FBLA chapter can make. It ensures that your chapter develops unbreakable ties outside of your town and even outside FBLA. Creating these relationships is instrumental in the future of your school as well as Nebraska FBLA.

### Why Connect?

The world is forever changing, and those who are willing to leave their comfort zone in order to pursue their future will find results more often than those who refuse to. Organizations are no different. The more active a chapter is, the easier it is to intertwine itself with a community. Whether it's a donation for a service project or money for a fundraiser, helping hands from the community always make life easy. In addition, Nebraska FBLA is promoting reaching out to other organizations (specifically CTSOs) with Prepare Nebraska!

### Who Should My Chapter Connect With?

Most other student organizations are just as open to activities as FBLA. They'll most definitely jump at the opportunity to collaborate with another CTSO. If you're looking outside of your school, most family-owned companies are more than excited to work with student organizations. It's an easy way to get their business's name out through newspapers, online articles, or even just word of mouth. Make sure that the businesses and organizations that you're reaching out to are ones that you would enjoy creating a growing relationship with.

### How Should I Collaborate?

The simplest way to begin one of these interactions is by simply reaching out and starting a conversation with another organization. By just inviting another FBLA chapter to one of your chapter's events, you're showing your support and appreciation for that chapter. This will lead to more collaborative efforts. You'll have more volunteers for events, more guests at fundraisers, and even more projects to take part in. In the long-term, making connections is the best way to ensure that your chapter makes a name for itself.



DESIGN OUR 2019  
SLC T-SHIRT

[CLICK HERE  
FOR DETAILS](#)

DEADLINE:  
NOV. 1, 2018



# LEADERS IN ACTION

## ADAMS CENTRAL >>>



The school may be quiet during the summer months, but Adams Central's FBLA chapter is busy finding ways to improve the community, like through Project Homeless Connect, which we've participated in for three years now.

Project Homeless Connect is an event in which people in need can receive aid from local organizations all at once. Held at First St. Paul's Lutheran Church, businesses and organizations provide goods and services like dental checkups, hearing and eye exams, haircuts, financial aid applications, housing support, clothing and bike giveaways. Our students served as either navigators or runners. Navigators guided families through the businesses and organizations that could be beneficial to their situation. The runners had the role of making sure every business and organization was comfortable and helping them with certain tasks. Both of these jobs required leadership and compelled our students to jump outside their comfort zones.

Our students were inspired by the community support. This event was a great way to kick off participation in the chapter for this year.

We look forward to what this year brings for our chapter.

## ARLINGTON >>>



Arlington FBLA is in its second year of operating the Bank in School program with the elementary. Over \$17,000 has been saved through the program. Recently, State Treasurer Don Stenberg paid a visit. He watched the bank in operation and recognized those students demonstrating financial literacy competence.

Arlington FBLA members operate the bank each Friday morning, serving as tellers. The bank is a joint effort between Arlington FBLA and Two Rivers Bank.

## DORCHESTER >>>



Our chapter is making an impact in the school/community by hosting fundraising events, like donkey Basketball back in March. At this event, we did a Hot Beef Sundae Feed. Our members helped out by cooking and serving food.

# LEADERS IN ACTION

This event was our most successful event that we have done for our chapter. We had over 600 people that attended and it took place at the Dorchester High School. With that, we raised about \$3,000! This was to help our national qualifiers attend the National Leadership Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. We had many students and community members participate in this event. If you are 16 and older, you were able to participate in Donkey Basketball. If you were under the age of 12, you were able to get a free ride on the donkey between the games. Even if you weren't able to participate, it was very entertaining for everyone.

## DUNDY COUNTY STRATTON >>>



For four weeks during the summer, Dundy County Stratton FBLA hosts the Summer Reading Program at the Dundy County Library. Through this project, members read to over sixty children during the program and encourage them to continue reading over the summer to combat illiteracy in the community's youth.

To celebrate all of the children's accomplishments, Dundy County Stratton FBLA hosted a party in August, complete with games and snacks. Each child who participated was presented with three new books, and those with

perfect attendance received an additional book. The books are purchased with local grant money.

The Summer Reading Program allows Dundy County Stratton FBLA members to connect with children and families in the community. The summertime project allows members to develop their leadership qualities, as well as give incoming members the opportunity to become involved before school begins.

## RAYMOND CENTRAL >>>



Raymond Central's American Enterprise Project taught 5th and 6th grade students about money management. Members created lessons and games to teach the concepts of saving, taxes, and spending, and how each affect the economy. Members dressed in costume and each animal represented a different concept. After students were taught the various concepts in small groups, a review session was held. Picture caption - Sammy the squirrel teaches students the importance of saving their money.



## THE SIS TWIST

BY OLIVIA SIS, REPORTER

# MAKING THE MOST OF MEMBERSHIP

Members are the heart and soul of an FBLA chapter. Each member plays a role within their chapter to help it prosper. Building and maintaining a strong membership is crucial to a chapter's success. Here are a few tips to encourage students to join FBLA!

### »» REACH OUT PERSONALLY

The best way to encourage students to join your chapter is to contact them personally. An in-person invitation to a friend on the fence about joining is more welcoming than a mass text sent to multiple people. Reaching out one-on-one bears strong results!

### »» PROMOTE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Whether you have an upcoming meeting or you're looking for volunteers for a project, spread awareness for your activities! Flyers and social media are great platforms to share your FBLA chapter's activities, which will attract members and non-members alike.



### »» COLLABORATE WITH OTHERS

Every Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) shares a common purpose: prepare students for their future careers. Hosting activities with another CTSO will help students find the organization that best suits their interests. Members of another CTSO may want to join FBLA as well!

### »» MEMBERSHIP DRIVES

New members may feel nervous about being the only beginner among experienced members. Show them they're not alone! By hosting a membership drive, incoming members will have the opportunity to learn more about and grow their interest in FBLA.

### »» USE FOOD

Few high school students are known to pass up free food. Consider hosting a pizza party before a chapter meeting or bringing snacks to a work night! The promise of food grabs members' attention, and they may feel eager to take part in activities.

Growing your membership is key to completing a variety of state and national projects. These include Golden Round Table, Seven Up, Largest Chapter Membership, and more; be sure to view the Nebraska FBLA handbook here for more details. Recruiting new members can also help you complete various Business Achievement Awards (BAA) activities. Keep an eye on your membership throughout the year to see if your membership numbers qualify you for any of these awards!



# CHAPTER CHALLENGE

**TIMM TIMES**

BY ALEK TIMM, PRESIDENT

The biggest national program that Nebraska FBLA hopes to promote in the 2018-2019 year is the Chapter Challenge. The program encourages recruitment, retention, and member involvement. Chapters that complete the Challenge receive a pin at the NLC.

The Challenge consists of 3 parts:

## »» SUPER SWEEPS, AUGUST 1 - OCTOBER 20

Completing the Super Sweeps is the first step of the Chapter Challenge. Chapters must complete a total of ten predetermined activities focused on membership recruitment and retention to earn recognition at the NFLC. For some chapters, they complete the projects without even knowing they are a part of Super Sweeps.

*Project Idea: Set membership goals, design flyers, and prepare and follow an agenda for a meeting.*

## »» NON-STOP NOVEMBER, NOVEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 10

Non-Stop November's focus is centered around the March of Dimes, American Enterprise Day, and building connections with local businesses. Chapters that complete this step will be recognized at the SLC.

*Project Idea: Create a committee aimed at promoting FBLA programs or host a fundraiser/campaign.*

## »» ACTION AWARENESS, JANUARY 1 - MARCH 1

Action Awareness, the final step of the Chapter Challenge, is designed to promote FBLA and Career and Technical Education (CTE). Chapters that successfully promote the benefits of FBLA earn recognition at NLC.

*Project Idea: Plan an FBLA Week activity, promote CTE through social media, and write letters to legislators.*

If all steps are finished, your chapter has successfully championed the Chapter Challenge! This program is the perfect way to get your chapter involved in both state and national programs. Remember that the more you put into FBLA, the more each member will get out of it.



## SLC IS MOVING TO KEARNEY

Join us at Ramada Plaza, Omaha  
April 4-6, 2019

Then follow us to our new SLC location starting in 2020!

Younes Conference Center, Kearney  
March 30-April 1, 2020  
April 12-April 14, 2021  
April 11-April 13, 2022  
April 3-April 5, 2023

[MORE ON CHAPTER CHALLENGE](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)



## RANGEL'S ANGLE

BY KIRK RANGEL, TREASURER

# HOW TO FUNDRAISE

Fundraising is a great way for chapters to raise awareness for a cause and benefit the community. Planning and running a fundraising event are an easy way to add hours to complete the Community Service Awards (CSAs). Chapters can also earn the March of Dimes ribbon for fundraising towards the March of Dimes foundation as well as donate funds to the Nebraska FBLA Foundation.

### »» PLANNING

When planning a fundraiser remember to keep it simple. Try to appeal to everyone by making it interactive for all ages and interests. Setting the date for the fundraiser to take place can be a little challenging. Schedule fundraisers when there are no other activities. Pick a location that is accessible to everyone. An easy way to gauge how many participants will be attending

the fundraiser create sign up sheets to plan accordingly.

### »» PROMOTION

Utilize social media to spread the word through school activity accounts. Create posters and signs to be put up around the school. As a way to boost the fundraiser, make it a competition. Have classes or grades compete against each other to raise the most funds. Have an incentive in place for each group to strive towards. To gain more involvement, partner with another Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) or nearby school.

Fundraising is a major part of reaching a goal. Remember to keep it simple, get creative and see the plan through. As it says in fundraiser, have "fun" with it.

## NFLC CHICAGO: NOV 1-4

The National Fall Leadership Conference is a fun and energy filled weekend for all Members and Advisers. Students and Advisers can participate in motivating general sessions, professional development, and career planning workshops. For many FBLA-PBL NFLC provides a chance to get the National Leadership Conference experience.. The Nebraska State Chapter will be traveling to Chicago, IL on November 1 to take part in NFLC on November 2-3 and then travel home on November 4.

Attending NFLC is a great way for those members wanting to take the next step in becoming a future business leader. With tons of opportunities available for members to network and socialize with other leaders across the nation, NFLC provides a great chance to learn new things that you can take back to your chapter.

Travel information, as well as registration and other conference information will be available on the Nebraska FBLA website as more details are released.

# NATIONAL OFFICERS

Hello Nebraska FBLA! On behalf of the 2018-2019 National Officer team, welcome to a new membership year! Throughout the past year, you have elevated your futures by competing in competitive events, attending dynamic workshops, networking with talented individuals, and preparing yourselves as the next generation of business leaders. But in the spirit of Dr. Hamden Forkner, the success of our organization depends on setting new goals and expectations: building upon the successes of last year to break barriers and reach unprecedented heights. On behalf of the national officer team, we are excited to help you create, lead, and inspire this year.

But what does it mean to create, lead, and inspire? The centralized focus of these three action verbs is not around your own personal success; it's about the success of others through your help. It's about creating a community that succeeds together, not just by yourself. It's creating opportunities for others, helping others grow, inspiring others to become more than they have ever imagined to be. It's about unleashing the potential of the organization as a whole. Through your service to the organization and others, you grow as a leader and truly succeed.

We, as national officers, are here to help you grow and unleash your potential. Maddy Remington, from Texas, will serve as your 2018-2019 Mountain Plains Region Vice-President. She is excited to work closely with your state officers in implementing our national Program of Work, as well as Nebraska's Program of Work. This year, unleash the limitless possibilities



We look forward to serving Nebraska FBLA and are excited to help you create, lead, and inspire so that we can all grow together.

**EU RO WANG**  
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FBLA MOUNTAIN PLAINS REGION VICE-PRESIDENT  
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**NATIONAL  
FALL  
LEADERSHIP  
CONFERENCE**

**NOV 1-4  
CHICAGO**

**CLICK HERE  
FOR MORE INFO**



**MORGAN'S MINUTE**  
BY MORGAN MILLS, SECRETARY

# CREATE, LEAD AND INSPIRE

At the State Officer Leadership Academy over the summer, officers developed goals for the new year. The 2018-19 National Theme is Create. Lead. Inspire. Nebraska FBLA utilized this theme in forming our own goals for each category.

## »» CREATE

- 35% of chapters participate in a State Officer Chapter Connection roundtable
- Integrate new social media initiatives to engage members and grow completion of StepUp2Tech
- Promote FBLA by gaining 20,000 impressions through the #NE1kFBLA campaign showcasing the pictures from Nebraska FBLA
- Recognize chapters donating exceeding amounts to the Nebraska FBLA Foundation Trust

## »» LEAD

- Increase BAA and CSA completion by 10%
  - › Place Top 8 in BAA Big Ten
- Expand membership to 5,700 students
  - › Grow middle level membership by 2%
- 100% of chapters complete at least 1 state ribbon project

## »» INSPIRE

- Promote new leadership opportunities in Nebraska FBLA
  - › Members join newly formed Nebraska FBLA Executive Committees (Service, Education, Progress)

- Continue to recognize outstanding members through Member of the Month
  - › Generate participation in the Middle Level Member of the Month award

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Top 6 ways to get your chapter involved and gain recognition:

1. Make goals for your local chapter.
  - › Make sure they are S.M.A.R.T.
2. Make a calendar including due dates, when you are going to complete ribbon projects, etc.
3. Form your own committees for events, tasks, and projects.
4. Get your chapter involved on social media.
  - Follow Nebraska FBLA on our social channels
    - › Instagram: @nebraskafbla
    - › Twitter: @NebraskaFBLA
    - › Facebook: Nebraska FBLA
  - Follow FBLA-PBL on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.
  - Make your own page with updates about what your chapter is doing
5. Promote BAA's and CSA's
  - Provide incentives such as points for members completing these
6. Encourage members to apply for the Member of the Month.

# SOLA 2018

The state officer team met at Camp Carol Joy Holling in Ashland for the annual State Officer Leadership Academy (SOLA). Nebraska FBLA state officers joined teams from FFA, SkillsUSA, DECA, Ed Rising, and FCCLA to network, improve their leadership skills, and have fun! The week was filled with developing this year's program of work, providing community service and bonding as a team.

Bill Cordes was the keynote speaker at SOLA. He helped us branch out of our comfort zones to become better leaders, keep our peers engaged, and even work on our dance moves. While at Camp Carol Joy Holling, the officer teams helped with a community service activity, mulching worship and trail areas around the camp. When the officers were not busy networking with other CTSO state officers, or listening to Bill Cordes, they were developing a program of work for the 2018-2019 year of FBLA, including forming goals, creating a new logo, and polishing projects. On the final evening of SOLA, the state officer team listened to a speaker talk about business dinner etiquette and attended the dress for success dinner.

The State Officer Team had a week full of chances to bond and further our connections with each other. The team accomplished a lot, but also had the opportunity to have fun getting to know each other. Whether it be over a Coke in the hospitality room, conquering their fears in the ropes challenge, or bonding with each other, it is safe to say this team has become closer. The FBLA state officer team looks forward to a year where they can Create, Lead, and Inspire with Nebraska FBLA.



## BECOME A STATE OFFICER

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

### REQUIREMENTS:

1. MUST BE IN GRADES 9-11
2. MUST HAVE ATTENDED NEBRASKA FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE





# 390 STRONG AT NLC

This summer, over 390 Nebraska FBLA members, advisers, and guests traveled to Baltimore Maryland for the 2018 National Leadership Conference.

Members competed in over 70 competitive events and brought home 15 Top Ten awards, including four first place finishes.

Along with the competition, the Nebraska delegation experienced Baltimore by enjoying a tour of Fort McHenry, attending Medieval Times, and exploring the city.

After this year's success, Nebraska looks forward to competing at the 2019 National Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

## 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)

Submit your articles at [nebraskafbla.org](http://nebraskafbla.org) > News > Submit Chapter News

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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.*

*It is the policy of Nebraska FBLA not to discriminate on the basis of gender, handicap, race, color, religion, marital status, age or national or ethnic origin in its education programs, membership policies, or other administered programs.*



## RELIVE NLC

2018 VIDEO SLIDE SHOW

2018 NLC RECAP