THE FLORIDA COMMUNICATOR \land Florida Future Business Leaders of America

State Fall Leadership Conference

DoubleTree by Hilton SeaWorld | Nov. 3 - 5

New Year, New Programs!

Welcome to the 23-24 Program Year

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WELCOME MESSAGE FROM STATE PRESIDENT

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FUELING CAREER SKILLS INTERNSHIPS, INTERVIEWS, & RESUMES

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LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS WHAT'S GOING ON IN LOCAL CHAPTERS

and much more!



A LOOK BACK AT THE BEGINNING OF AN AWESOME MEMBERSHIP YEAR!



Florida FBLA STATE OFFICER TEAM

The Florida FBLA State Officer Team is made up of nine officers from across the state, who are responsible for many Florida FBLA initiatives and ready to serve.



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Florida FBLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Florida FBLA Board of Directors is composed of business professionals, FBLA Advisers, and the State Presidents. It is Florida FBLA's policy making body.

Mr. Ron Pierce, President Business & Industry Representative Ms. Tonya Alvarez, Vice-President Professional Division Representative

Ms. Jody Jones Florida FBLA State Adviser

Ms. Brenda Kirkland FBLA High School Representative

Mr. Kevin Schacter FBLA High School Representative

Ms. Melissa Konkol FBLA High School Representative

Mr. Brian Simmons FBLA High School Representative

Mr. Will Cohen FBLA High School Representative

Mr. Paul Minzenko FBLA Middle School Representative

Dr. Cathileen Montersachio Collegiate Representative

Ms. Glenda Bethel Collegiate Representative

Dr. Joanne Muniz Collegiate Representative

Mr. Vinesh Jarajapu FBLA State President

Mr. Chad Mayo Collegiate State President

Mr. Albert Amaya Professional Division President Mr. Robert Quinn FABTES Representative Mr. Chris Borg Professional Division Representative Ms. Kaitlyn Owen Business & Industry Representative Mr. Alan Alvarez Business & Industry Representative

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RESOURCE CENTER



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THE FLORIDA COMMUNICATOR

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We want your input! Submit articles or feedback to Fabio Fabbiani, your Florida FBLA State Reporter at flfblarep@gmail.com.







Florida FBLA,

Welcome to the Florida FBLA Fall Communicator! Look forward to exciting issues filled with Florida FBLA's activities so far in the membership year, past conferences, and highlights of our membership!

The Fall season of FBLA was off to a running start! Chapters all over Florida spent their Fall recruiting students, engaging members, and preparing for competitive events. Members are prepared for a great year of FBLA filled with exciting opportunities.

Your State Officer Team has been hard at work in the past months creating an unforgettable experience for our members. From the Regional Summits to the Networking Nights, we've held a live session almost every single week, giving us the opportunity to interact closely with our members and a stronger connection than ever. I speak for all of the State Officers when I emphasize how invaluable this connection is to us, and how grateful we are to lead an organization with such amazing members!

Additionally, we've released resources for our members, including the District President Toolkit: Driving Your District to Success, and the Information Session, which can be found on our YouTube Channel, @FloridaFBLA. In the coming months, we aim to continue bringing our members exciting opportunities, from in depth guides on fundraising for your chapter, to the innovative Florida FBLA Chapter Guide!

As always, never hesitate to reach out to your State Officer Team. Request a State Officer to visit your chapter, either in person or virtually, or email us directly– we'd love to connect and help in any way we can. Florida FBLA, I cannot wait to see what we accomplish in the year to come as you Fuel Your Future!

Yours in Leadership,

Vinesh Jarajapu Florida FBLA State President flfblapres@gmail.com



New Year, New Programs: Florida FBLA 2023-24 Program Year



By Florida FBLA State Reporter Fabio Fabbiani

"Fuel Your Future", means many different things for Florida FBLA. Fueling our members to achieve their competitive goals, fueling chapters to lead within their communities, fueling the middle school division to grow further, amongst other areas. The new Florida FBLA State Theme is just one of the signs welcoming members to the new year; which is shaping up to be the biggest year in the history of Florida FBLA. Through an extensive P.O.W., exciting events, and a multitude of resources, Florida FBLA is excited for what this membership year is building up to be. With all of this in mind, the State Officers are excited to welcome everyone to the new membership year!

"Fuel Your Future"

At the State Officer Training, held in April, the Florida FBLA Officers worked on developing the P.O.W and set up the initial plan for the year. The first item of business was to develop a state theme that would invigorate the spirit of the mission of Florida FBLA. The State Officers had several ideas that highlighted Florida FBLA's commitment to service, education, and progress. After careful discussion, "Fuel Your Future" was chosen. The idea of "Fuel Your Future" was first conceived thinking about the ways that FBLA helps launch our members in building their network, leadership skills, and have Florida FBLA representatives go above far above and beyond at the National Level. However, for the officers "Fuel Your Future" has special meanings:



Q: As a State Officer, what does "Fuel Your Future" mean to you? What is your story behind it?



Vinesh Jarajapu, State President

"Fuel Your Future embodies the spirit of our Florida FBLA members, showing how each member actively takes the steps towards developing as an individual and professional!"



Lea Hernandez Bower, State Secretary

"Fuel Your Future is what Florida FBLA is truly about! Inspiring members to do their best with all the resources and support of fellow leaders!"



Fabio Fabbiani, State Reporter

"Fuel Your Future means the many opportunities members have to rise to challenge and have Florida FBLA be part of what helps boost them to achieve their goals."

An Innovative Program of Work

The Florida FBLA Program of Work, is the comprehensive plan developed by the State Officers that encompasses all the different initiatives, goals, and programs the officer team plans for the membership year. The Program of Work, like the State Theme, was developed by the State Officers in April during the State Officer Training. The Program of Work, however, is a living plan that is enhanced based on the dynamic needs of the Florida FBLA Membership. This year's Program of Work takes the idea of "Fuel Your Future" to its core, and applies to all of the different areas important to all of Florida's local chapters. The P.O.W has 4 strategic goals; with many objectives and action items which the State Officers work on developing throughout their terms. The following are the different strategic goals the Florida FBLA State Officers have been working on during this membership year.





Action Items with an Impact

Within each of those 4 goals, the State Officer Team has developed over 51 goal specific-actions, which range from full fledged membership programs, to live sessions & toolkits, outreach to chapters and potential sponsors, amongst other exciting initiatives. All of these actions are designed in a member-driven process: where the needs of the members and the organization are the number one priority. The State Officer Team takes pride in all of the action items being developed this membership year and the impact they will have on Florida FBLA, and throughout this article and this issue of The Communicator, some of these initiatives will be highlighted.

State Officer's POV: What are some of the top action items on this year's Program of Work that Florida FBLA members should know about?

RESOURCES

The State Officers have made creating toolkits and new resources a top priority this year. Toolkits have been planned or released in the areas of chapter development, business advice, public relations, and district development, fundraising, and competition.



COMMUNICATION

Communication has been at the forefront of the State Team's POW, as it allows for Florida FBLA to be more united! The State Officers have implemented new social media initiatives, newsletters, podcasts, and of course the Florida Communicator!



LIVE SESSIONS

This year the State Officers have been hosting live session nearly every other week! The live sessions ranging from information session to networking nights have given members the opportunity to gain new perspective and build a relationship with the Team.







STATE FALL CONFERENCE COMING BACK BETTER THAN EVER

SFLC 2023: First In-Person Fall Leadership Conference since 2019



By Florida FBLA State Reporter Fabio Fabbiani

For many years, the Florida FBLA State Fall Leadership Conference has been a long-standing tradition that members and advisers alike look forward to throughout their journey in FBLA. Each Fall, local chapters across the state would meet in-person for engaging workshops, sessions, and networking. The last in person edition of this conference was held in 2019, in Orlando; and pivoted to a virtual conference in 2020 due to the pandemic. The 2023 edition, held at the Double Tree by Hilton SeaWorld Orlando, marked the return of the in-person edition of this widely acclaimed conference, with over 300 Florida FBLA members energized with workshops, networking opportunities, motivational speakers, and a whole lot of fun!

Conference Overview + Special Recognitions







The opening session of the State Fall Leadership Conference kicked off a weekend of leadership and success! The State Officers were introduced; members recited the FBLA Creed, Mission, and Pledge; and were able to hear from Nick Tockman, also known as "Sunshine" on the Emmy Award Winning Show "Deadliest Catch". Mr. Tokman energized the crowd by throwing merch in the crowd and by sharing his powerful message on pursuing his dream in fishing. He closed off the Opening Session with a dance number featuring the State Officers, making it a session to remember.

Open Event Competitions

The State Fall Leadership Conference offered members an opportunity to test their knowledge in several areas through open written tests held on Friday evening. Middle and High School members faced off in FBLA Concepts, Business Communication, and Business Math. The top 3 in each category in both the middle and high school divisions were recognized at the Awards of Excellence Ceremony.

Workshops at SFLC

The 2023 SFLC offered over 11 different workshops and general sessions filled with content that fueled members to success. Members had the opportunity to experience several different types of workshops throughout the day. The morning kicked off with a Dining Workshop with State Adviser, which was followed by the Florida FBLA Shark Tank. After Shark Tank, members heard about leadership skills from former Florida FBLA Collegiate Member of the Year, Charles Johnson. Then, members experienced Mr. Ron Pierce's Signature Workshop, True Colors, before heading to a lunch break. The afternoon workshops topics included financial literacy, impromptu speaking, and business success. All members also had the opportunity to visit the Minute to Win It Workshop, where they worked together with members from their chapters in leadership development games. The Workshops at this year's State Fall Leadership Conference were widely acclaimed by Florida members. Members expressed that the enjoyed the wide variety of experiences available and the many memories and skills they were able to build.

Closing Sessions of SFLC (Awards + Networking)

The Closing Session of the SFLC brought back the tradition of Battle of the Districts. Six Florida FBLA Districts had a showdown of FBLA Knowledge, with District 25 being crowned Battle of the District Champions! Members were recognized for their competitive events and had an opportunity to look forward to this year's SLC. Later that evening, members had the opportunity to participate in an exciting networking with games and mixers that helped members build their FBLA Network. This closed off an amazing conference, that Florida FBLA Members are sure to remember!













NATIONAL FALL CONFERENCES

Florida FBLA Members Take on National Fall Conferences



By Florida FBLA Region III Vice-President Sophia King

Every year National FBLA hosts National Fall Leadership Conferences in two cities across the country; where FBLA Members and State Officers from different corners of the country meet for two days of networking, workshops, and leadership development. This Fall many Florida FBLA members from several chapters across the state marked their presence at both of this year's conferences held in November in Providence, Rhode Island and Dallas, Texas. These conferences offered a unique perspective to members with ample opportunities to build their skills in several areas and build meaningful connections with other FBLA members.

The Fall Conferences kicked off with electric Opening Sessions: which featured introductions from the National Officers and a preview of conference activities. After the opening sessions, members were directed to their skills lab for the day which were workshops led by professionals in a wide array of different fields. Day 1 of the Conference closed off with the social events being held at Dave & Buster's and Medieval Times.



National Fall Leadership Conferences

Nov. 17-18 | Dallas Nov. 10-11 | Providence



NATIONAL FALL CONFERENCES FLORIDA TAKES OVER NFLC

Day 2 of the Conference was filled with an exciting mix of breakout workshops. These workshops included chapter development workshops, personal professional skills, team building activities, among other exciting topics. Florida FBLA had a presence at these workshops; including Middleton FBLA which presented 4 workshops to members.Day 2 and the Final Day of the Conference closed off with the closing general session. The Closing Session brought to a close an amazing experience! The entire conference was able to reminisce on all the amazing memories made through a walk through memory lane segment, the regions participated in an ultimate game of FBLA Trivia "The Battle of Regions". Additionally, National FBLA crowned the Goosechase Scavenger Hunt Winners. At the NFLC in Dallaas, Florida FBLA members from Pensacola High School swept the top three goosechase awards! That was a highlight for Florida FBLA at the conference.

MEMBER PERSPECTIVE What did you think of NFLC?



Pranava Manthena, Middleton High School

"NFLC was a blast! The biggest thing that I enjoyed were the workshop events. From the Officer Leadership Lab to the Level Up workshop, I had an incredible time participating in all the different activities with my fellow FBLA friends!"



Vivika Arora, Strawberry Crest High School

"NFLC was one of the most exciting conferences I've attended last year, and the Dave and Buster night was my favorite by far. From meeting new friends to seeing old ones, this was one of my favorite conferences!"



Ayan Nallamshetty, Robinson High School

"NFLC was an awesome experience! I was able to reconnect with old FBLA friends and make new friends in the process. Meeting my council and those that I had met online was so much fun; I was able to hang out with them and enjoy the conference spirit at the same time."



Bhavya Talati, Strawberry Crest High School

"NFLC was spectacular! I got to meet a lot of people I networked with on Instagram for the first time in person, which was surreal. I had a lot of fun spending time with them and also learned a lot from the workshops, especially from Bryant Colliers one."

National Conferences are experiences you don't want to miss!

WHERE WILL NFLC BE IN 2024?

Traditionally, NFLC Locations are announced during FBLA Week! Stay tuned for that announcement from National FBLA!





How to FBLA CONNECT: Using The National Database

By Florida FBLA Region IV Vice-President Macie Sullivan

CONNECT

NEW FOR THE 23-24 YEAR!

Chapter Management | Learning Center | Leadership Community

What is FBLA Connect?

During this membership year, FBLA has taken a significant leap forward with the introduction of FBLA Connect. This revolutionary platform simplifies various aspects of FBLA involvement into one unified digital space. Replacing the my.FBLA database, FBLA Connect offers a seamless experience for members and advisers, encompassing membership management, learning resources, and a thriving community. In this article, we will delve into the details of FBLA Connect and explore how it can be leveraged for the growth and success of your chapter.

How To Access It

One of the most appealing aspects of FBLA Connect is its ease of access. Whether you're an FBLA member or an adviser, getting started is a breeze. To log in, you simply need your username and password, which can be obtained from your adviser. You can either perform a quick Google search for "FBLA Connect" or follow the provided link to the platform's website. Once logged in, you'll find a treasure trove of resources and features designed to streamline your FBLA experience.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

FBLA NATIONAL RESOURCES

MASS COMMUNICATION

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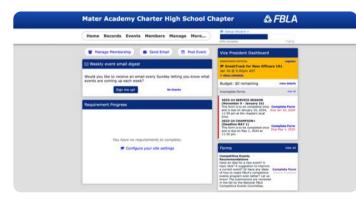
Advisers play a pivotal role in the success of FBLA chapters, and FBLA Connect offers them an efficient platform to manage various administrative tasks. Here are some key functions for advisers:

- Paying Dues: FBLA Connect simplifies the process of paying dues. Advisers receive invoices directly through the platform, making financial management more straightforward and transparent.
- Submitting Forms: Any forms that National FBLA requires from advisers are conveniently located within FBLA Connect. This centralizes the submission process, reducing paperwork and improving communication.

Awesome Features for Members and Advisers:

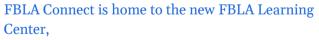
Advisers play a pivotal role in the success of FBLA chapters, and FBLA Connect offers them an efficient platform to manage various administrative tasks. Here are some key functions for advisers:

- Champion Chapter/BAA Courses: FBLA Connect offers a user-friendly interface for Champion Chapter and Business Achievement Awards (BAA) courses. Members can seamlessly navigate through these special programs, thanks to the platform's intuitive design.
- Officers Mass Email/SMS Members: Communication is key in any organization, and FBLA Connect empowers advisers and officers to connect with members, advisers, and alumni through emails and SMS messages.
- Shared Calendars: Stay informed about upcoming events at the local, district, state, and national levels with shared calendars. FBLA Connect ensures you never miss an important date or opportunity.
- Chapter Management: FBLA Connect serves as an all-in-one hub for chapter management. It allows advisers to schedule and document meetings, log attendance, attach meeting notes, and distribute forms effortlessly. The platform offers numerous other useful features to streamline chapter operations.
- Submitting Forms: Any forms that National FBLA requires from advisers are conveniently located within FBLA Connect. This centralizes the submission process, reducing paperwork and improving communication.



Sample of FBLA Connect Home Page which leads to all of the different resources and sub pages after logging in.





Access More Information

For comprehensive information about FBLA Connect and its capabilities, be sure to visit the National FBLA website. Here, you'll find detailed resources, tutorials, and guides to help you maximize the benefits of this innovative platform. Stay connected, stay informed, and let FBLA Connect be your guiding light on your journey toward success in the world of business leadership. By centralizing membership management, learning resources, and communication tools, it empowers FBLA members and advisers to focus on what truly matters—personal growth and chapter success. Embrace this digital transformation, explore its myriad features, and watch your FBLA chapter thrive like never before. The future of business leadership starts here with FBLA Connect. https://connect.fbla.org/







By Florida FBLA State Parliamentarian Anika Prasad

Competitive Events are a major component of FBLA. All members compete in different events - objective, presentation, chapter, production, and role play events. Through these events, members can develop skills more specific to their goals and use them alongside networking and leadership skills they gain at conferences. Competition begins at the District Level, where multiple schools hold District Leadership Conferences. At these conferences, there are areas for objective testing to occur, or it happens at members' schools beforehand, and there are judges for presentation events. Based on the winners here, members move on to SLC, or the State Leadership Conference. This is where you can meet your state officers, and network with members statewide! Typically, there are a lot more workshops at the state level than at the district level, and the focus isn't as strongly on competitive events anymore. For Florida, in most events, the top five members place, and the top four move onto Nationals. This is held in a different location each year, at the National Leadership Conference, and is the final level of competition. Typically, there are ten teams or members who place and are recognized nationally at the Awards of Excellence Ceremony.

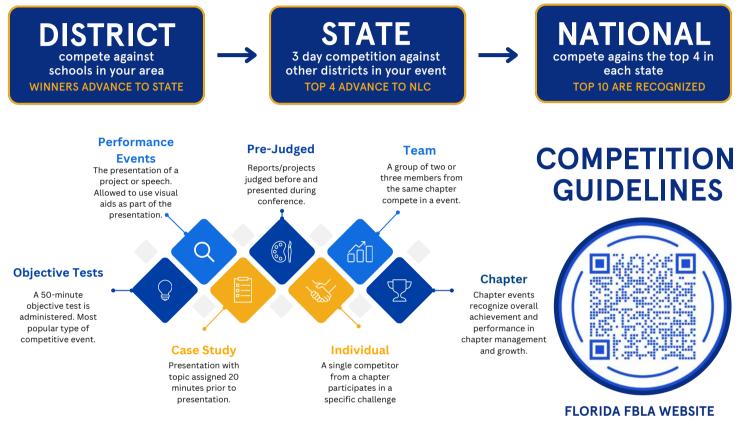
Because of the huge focus on competitive events in FBLA, it is crucial for members to pick the right event as they will be working on it throughout the year. When you are choosing an event, I would encourage you to think about your strengths and weaknesses, and what skills you'd like to improve or build. If you feel you are great at testing, but would like to improve your public speaking skills, you might opt for a hybrid event where you can apply these skills and goals. Production Events aren't as common as other event types, but they are great if you learn best when you can perform a task interactively and hands on. The types of events are very similar this year, the main difference is the Role Play Event type added. These include hybrid events. The other event types remain Objective Testing (multiple choice test), Presentation Events (present to judges), Production Events (production test offsite and objective test on-site at the conference), and 9th and 10th grade Events (Introduction Objective Testing Events). You can find more details on the National Website Some of the best resources you can prepare with are Quizlet and your peers. For any testing event, online flashcards or similar review tools will be extremely useful to you. For presentation events, practice is key. Whenever you can speak to your family or friends and practice your event, give them the same rating sheets that judges will use at conferences. Based on their feedback, you can score even better and have more confidence when speaking. If you still have questions, don't worry! Your Florida State Officers are releasing a Competitive Events Toolkit soon that covers this information - and more - in great detail. So stay tuned for that!

COMPETITION 101 PREPARING FOR COMPETITIVE SUCCESS



COMPETITION 101 INFOGRAPHIC

The Process: From Districts to Nationals



COMING SOON FROM THE STATE OFFICER TEAM

Your Florida FBLA State Officer Team brings you the Cruising to Competitive Success Competition Toolkit, filled with an in-depth overview of each event type, what to expect in competition, resources for preparation, and tips from your State Officers and past competitors. This guide will be a game changer in helping you prepare for competition. Stay tuned for this amazing toolkit!







Maximizing Financial Success: Guide to FBLA Fundraising

By Florida FBLA Region II Vice-President Nikhil Kumar



Intro to Fundraising

In the world of (FBLA), financial support is crucial for your chapter's success. From attending national conferences to participating in competitions, a good financial backing plays a pivotal role in making these ambitions a reality. In this article you will be introduced to the various facets of fundraising and financial management, the importance of fundraising, and offering valuable tips for managing your chapter's budget.

Importance of Fundraising

Fundraising is at the very core of any established FBLA chapter. It not only provides the resources necessary to engage in FBLA activities but also fosters a sense of teamwork and dedication among members. By raising funds, you enable your chapter to thrive, empowering members to explore new opportunities, learn valuable skills, and represent their chapter with pride.

A Couple of Fundraising Ideas

Selling Items at School	Hosting a school store with FBLA-branded merchandise or partnering with local businesses to sell products can generate a steady stream of income.
Fundraising Night	Collaborate with restaurants or local venues to host FBLA fundraiser nights where a portion of sales goes to your chapter
Speical FBLA Events	Host events such as contests, fairs, and even talent shows to boost membership engagement and simultaneously raise funds. You can kill two birds with one stone!

MAXIMIZING FINANCIAL SUCCESS A GUIDE TO FBLA FUNDRAISING

Importance of Fundraising

In the digital age, crowdfunding is a powerful tool. Platforms like GoFundMe and Kickstarter can help you reach a wider audience and gather funds for specific initiatives, conferences, or competitions.

Corporate Sponsorships

Many companies support education and youth initiatives through generous donations aka sponsorships. A great start is to approach local businesses for sponsorship opportunities. Draft a well thought out and tailored message to each company stating your objective, similar goals and how your missions align, the terms of the sponsorship, as well as attaching a sponsorship prospectus for your recipient's reference.

The key with receiving sponsorships is to emphasize how any money received will specifically benefit your chapter, and how you would be able to add value to the sponsorship itself. This could mean giving your sponsors a shoutout on your chapter's instagram, website, or any other platforms available.

Grants are essentially larger, set amount donations you can receive. Generally, the benefit of grants is that you know exactly how much money you will receive if your chapter is chosen to receive it. Look for local businesses in your area that offer grants and make sure you answer grant application questions by emphasizing your chapter's commitment to service and community to maximize chances of success.

STEPS IN PLANNING A FUNDRAISING



Set a vision for what you are fundraising for.

Organize the logistics and develop a strong plan.

FBLA Sponsored Scholarship Programs

State & National FBLA offer a wide array of scholarship and financial aid opportunities to aide chapters and members in the journey both inside and outside the organization.

- FBLA National Distinguished Business Leader Scholarship: National Scholarship awarding selected scholars with financial support in college for their distinguished contribution to FBLA and Business Education and participation in FBLA Collegiate. Apply via National Website.
- National Dressed to Impress Scholarships: Provides selected recipients with grant to purchase business attire to be ready for participation in FBLA. Apply via National Website.
- Florida FBLA Foundation Grants: A Chapter Grant Program offered by the Florida FBLA Foundation to aide chapters in the development of their chapters. Grant applications can be found on the Florida FBLA Website.
- Florida FBLA Scholarships: Florida FBLA offers several scholarship programs that rewards members for participation in FBLA and contribution to their community. Application materials can be found in the SLC Registration Packet.

Put the plan into action for fundraising success!







Nationwide Leadership: Florida Members on Officer Councils

By Florida FBLA State President Vinesh Jarajapu



The FBLA High School National Officer Team is supported through student leadership of National Councils. Each officer has a National Council focused on supporting their role within FBLA. As a National Council member, students have the opportunity to serve members throughout the entire organization and make an impact on their membership experience.

This year, Florida FBLA is ecstatic to announce that we have two of our members on National Councils! Below, find some additional information on their roles at the National Level and how they plan to make an impact.

Joel Vincent

National Secretary's Executive Council Communications Director

"NSEC focuses on highlighting the importance of FBLA to as many chapters as possible by bringing multiple resources and events for all FBLA members to utilize in their FBLA careers. As the NSEC Director of Communications, I find myself connecting with members of FBLA across the world. From interviewing State Secretaries, to hosting a biweekly podcast, I am able to grow and learn to be the best version of myself through FBLA. I am so thankful for the opportunity and I am honored to serve as your NSEC Director of Communications this year!"

Ayan Nallamshety

National Treasurer's Executive Council Financial Literacy Director

"Since I've been part of NTEC, I've learned that the primary goal of the council is to spread awareness of finance by promoting FBLA's national initiatives and council programs. As the Financial Literacy Director, I am in charge of working on financial literacy panels, leading financial literacy workshops, and developing social media content to enhance the financial literacy for FBLA members. This year, I'm super excited to run a social media initiative (Money Masterclass), I've already been able to get started and I am excited to work on it throughout the rest of the membership year."



Chapter Visits: Florida FBLA Comes to You!

By Florida FBLA State Secretary Lea Hernandez Bower



State President and Region IV Vice-President visits the District 12 Fall Rally

State Reporter speaks to members at Miami Killian High School about Competition during Chapter Visit.

This year, the state officers are excited to bridge the gap between the state officers and local chapters within Florida. We are emphasizing our chapter visit program to get officers more involved within Florida FBLA chapters, either as a guest speaker, presenter, or just for help getting set up. Getting a chapter visit set up is super quick and easy with the google forms link below. So far this year, the State Officers have visited more chapters than ever before!

Advisers and members can fill out the forms with specific details regarding which state officer they would like to attend, the name of the event, and if they would like the officer to bring any materials/presentation. Since the officers are from different places around the state, the forms allows you to rank your top three state officer requests.

While state officers are meant to plan the state conferences and offer resources to members, we also want to interact with members more to answer questions, offer feedback, share memories, experiences, and opportunities. So, fill out the forms above if you would like a state officer to attend a district event, chapter meeting, workshop, ceremony, etc!











FUELING CAREERS

INTERNSHIPS, RESUMES, INTERVIEWS

Fueling Careers: Internships, Resumes, and Interviews

By Florida FBLA Region V Vice-President Joel Vincent

As an FBLA member, you are part of an organization that inspires you to pursue your career goals and become the best version of yourself. But how do you translate your FBLA experience into real-world opportunities? How do you stand out from the crowd and impress potential employers? How do you use your FBLA network to advance your professional development? The answer lies in three key elements: internships, resumes, and interviews



Interships: Gateway to a Dream Job

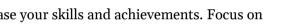
Internships are an invaluable experience, filled with opportunities to create lifelong memories, gain career skills, and find your niche in the professional world. Many of us in FBLA are able to use these professional lessons and skills that we learn in our organization to find and succeed in internships. We created this resource to help guide you through the process.

What are the benefits of internships?

- Gain work experience: internships are full of real-world and hands-on knowledge that you can learn in an environment that is more tolerant of mistakes than permanent employers
- Explore your interests: learn the basics of a certain field of interest to see if it is right for you while finding your personal strengths and weaknesses.
- Build up to a future career: boost your resume, which may result in being hired and a higher starting salary. Interns may also be offered a job at the end of the internship.
- Network with different people: get to know professionals and make connections with those in your professional field of interest.

How to land internships:

- Use websites: <u>Indeed</u>, <u>LinkedIn</u>, etc., are great places to find opportunities, especially with the abundance of remote positions available currently.
- Network: ask friends, family, teachers, school counselors, and anyone else you know to see if they can connect you to the right opportunity.
- Outreach: don't just limit yourself to whom you know, ask businesses in your area if they offer internships, or email them with your skill set, offering to help with a certain aspect of their business.
- Keep a look out for Florida FBLA Resources coming out later this year. Email <u>flfblavp2@gmail.com</u> if you have more questions.





Express Yourself

Express your personality, experience, and ideas for the role eloquently and fit it to the role you are applying.

Etiquette

Have etiquette in the entire interview experience: it is part of the first impression. Be on time!

Resumes: Your First Impression to Recruiters

In the competitive job market of today, your resume is your first opportunity to make a lasting impression on potential employers. To increase your chances of landing your dream job, it's crucial to create a well-structured and professional resume.

1. Contact Information: Place all your contact information at the top of your resume, making it easy for interviewers to locate. Include your full name, phone number, email address, and current location.

2. Objective Summary: Directly beneath your contact information, include an objective summary statement. Begin with "To obtain a position as..." and then briefly state your career goals and aspirations. This statement should be tailored to the specific job you're applying for.

3. Education: Provide details about your educational background. Include your expected graduation date, GPA (if it's strong and relevant), and the name of your institution. Mention any relevant coursework or academic achievements.

4. Awards and Honors: Highlight any awards and honors that showcase your skills and achievements. Focus on those that directly relate to the position you are seeking. This section can be a powerful way to stand out. 5. Activities: Demonstrate your involvement and leadership skills by listing relevant extracurricular activities. Emphasize any leadership roles you've held, as they showcase your ability to work in teams and lead projects effectively.

6. Work Experience: List your work experience in reverse chronological order, starting with your most recent job and working backward. Include the following details for each position: job title, name of the workplace, location, dates of employment, and a brief description of your responsibilities and achievements.

7. Community Service: Show your commitment to community involvement by listing any relevant volunteer or community service projects you've participated in. This can demonstrate your dedication to making a positive impact.

STAY TUNED FOR THE BUSINESS ADVICE SERIES

The Florida FBLA State Officers have been hard at work in creating a revamped Business Advice Series which looks to connect members to business advice from real world business professionals in a variety of industries! This toolkit looks to help Florida FBLA Members fuel their future careers.

Follow Social Media to access it as soon as it releases!



Coming Soon!

A FRI A



Buckle Up: Seatbelt Awareness at Strawberry Crest FBLA

By Strawberry Crest FBLA Chapter Reporter Vivika Arora



Strawberry Crest FBLA High School FBLA Chapter Officers Posing as Part of Seatbelt Awareness Campaign.

The Strawberry Crest High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter, in collaboration with the Student Government Association (SGA), recently embarked on a mission to promote seat belt safety in their school community. This week-long campaign, named "Seat Belt Safety Week," aimed to raise awareness about the importance of wearing seat belts and encourage everyone to make a commitment to their safety on the road.

Seatbelt safety week started off as a new initiative that year, and Crest's FBLA raised awareness about safety on the road. This weeklong Seat Belt Safety Week, filled with fun, and information consisted of a theme for each day. The days were as follows:

Monday: Kicking Off the Week

The excitement began on Monday as FBLA and SGA members joined forces to introduce the week-long event to their fellow students. They highlighted the significance of wearing seat belts and set the stage for an engaging week ahead

Tuesday: Trivia Tuesday

Tuesday was all about testing knowledge and spreading awareness. Crest FBLA took it to their Instagram account, posting trivia questions related to seat belt safety throughout the day. Students enthusiastically participated, answering questions about statistics, the benefits of seat belts, and the potential consequences of neglecting this simple safety measure.

STRAWBERRY CREST FBLA CHAPTER NEWS



Wednesday: Spreading the Message with Flyers

On Wednesday, eye-catching flyers carrying powerful messages about seat belt safety were put up around school. FBLA and SGA members worked diligently to create visually appealing materials that caught the attention of every passerby. These flyers served as a constant reminder of the importance of buckling up before hitting the road.

Thursday: Lights, Camera, Action!

For Thursday's activity, Crest partnered with the Film Club to take a creative approach to seat belt safety. Together, they asked the Film Club to produce a short skit emphasizing the importance of wearing seat belts. The skit was both entertaining and informative, providing a unique perspective on why buckling up should be second nature to all of us.

Friday: Interactive Quiz Extravaganza

Friday brought a thrilling interactive quiz. Students competed against each other in a quiz that challenged their knowledge of seat belt safety. With each correct answer, participants not only increased their understanding of the topic but also had a chance to win exciting prizes, making the learning experience even more rewarding.

Saturday: Capturing Seat Belt Safety in Action

On Saturday, students and their families were encouraged to participate by wearing their seat belts and sending photos of their commitment to safety. Social media was abuzz with images of individuals proudly wearing their seat belts and tagging the event organizers. This visual testimony served as a powerful reminder of the collective commitment to road safety.

Sunday: Taking the Buckle Up Pledge

As Seat Belt Safety Week drew to a close, the organizers asked their fellow students and community members to take the "Buckle Up Pledge." The pledge symbolized a personal commitment to always wear seat belts while driving or riding in a vehicle. It was heartwarming to see so many people taking the pledge, reaffirming their dedication to safety.

A Week to Remember

Seat Belt Safety Week at Strawberry Crest High School was a resounding success. The organizers not only increased seat belt safety for their fellow students with the support of partners in SGA and the Film Club but together, they made a meaningful impact by raising awareness and encouraging responsible choices on the road. Crest FBLA's was honored to be able to help and urge the importance of seatbelts, and as we all know, "Seatbelts save lives"



Strawberry Crest FBLA High School FBLA Chapter Officers Posing as Part of Seatbelt Awareness Campaign.



Promotion poster used Crest FBLA to promote the week!





Charging to Greatness! FBLA Makes History at Suncoast High

By Suncoast High School FBLA PR Team's Hayden Hobson and Timmy Wu



Up until recently, Future Business Leaders of America was unknown to the vast majority of the students at Suncoast High. Fast forward to today and it is officially the largest competitive and academic club in the entire school! Suncoast High is a school chock-full of bright and eager students who work hard in their respective programs, classes, athletics, and clubs, but it felt like something was missing - that missing piece turned out to be none other than Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). If you gathered a consensus of the students during the pre-covid years, they would have little to no idea what FBLA was, let alone what the acronym stood for. However, in recent years, with a new chapter sponsor and eager officer team, FBLA is now the most successful and respected club at Suncoast. This article will cover how FBLA at Suncoast High faced adversities but rose to become one of the largest clubs in the school's history.

FBLA never received that much recognition at the district or state level. Only two years ago, our chapter only had 7 registered members, and the club seemed to be declining in significance at an alarming rate. That being said, some dedicated students kept the FBLA dream alive. That's when things started to change. Through tireless efforts in recruiting members, from creating a new website and vamping up our Instagram page, Suncoast FBLA was able to achieve an incredible feat: bringing membership levels from almost nothing to 107 registered and competing members! FBLA instantly became a well-known and admired club. Through hard work and valiant efforts, the chapter's new sponsor and officers paved the way into 2023 increasing the chapter's membership to over 150 members.





Suncoast's FBLA Vice President of Membership, Manit Chabria, has been a part of Suncoast's FBLA for the last 4 years when there were no more than 10 members - Suncoast had more students compete in Nationals last year than that - and he was ecstatic to see all the new faces these past couple of years. When asked about the club's prosperity, he said that it's "absolutely unbelievable that Suncoast FBLA went from having ten members to over a hundred one...it's something that didn't even seem possible". This feat is extremely special to the members of the chapter since with this increased membership, FBLA within Suncoast can grow to a never-before-seen level!

The club's sponsor, Mr. David Pardo, decided to take up the mantle of FBLA a couple of years ago and has been an inspiring force in raising awareness and notoriety for the club ever since. He chose to take on such a task because he sees FBLA as a "great, nationwide organization that will prepare students for the real world by making connections and building upon skills that will be useful in them becoming successful in the future" - a worthy cause indeed! He has grand ideas for the future of FBLA in Suncoast this coming year, stating that he hopes the chapter will "build on the progress that has been made and become recognized at a national level". Suncoast FBLA had a staggering 71 students compete in the State Leadership Conference last year, ten of whom went on to compete at the national level, and a student, Archit Namboodiri, even won second in his event! Suncoast FBLA is very proud of all who competed since it shows commitment and perseverance, and that's without mentioning, impressive! This year, with the newly increased membership numbers, Suncoast FBLA hopes that the number of placements at the state and national level will skyrocket.

The chapter's future is looking rather bright, with new members joining en masse, and the plans for what's to come are solid, with tons of hard work being put into them. Suncoast FBLA hopes to become a larger player in the wider FBLA community - a dream that could come to fruition this year! The chapter is proud of how much progress has been made, and can't wait to see what the future holds.

To end it all off, as John F. Kennedy once said - "It's not about what your country can do for you, it's about what you can do for your country". In that same way, Suncoast FBLA hopes to provide the absolute best experience for all of its members, as it inspires the next generation of business leaders.



These Images: Top Left: Suncoast FBLA Chapter Meeting at the Beginning of the Year Bottom Left: Suncoast FBLA President speaking to members at meeting. **Right:** Suncoast FBLA **Delegation** at the SLC.





PBGHS FBLA: The Power of Words to Heroes

By Palm Beach Gardens FBLA Chapter Reporter Sarai Umansor Morales



Palm Beach Gardens member working on letter for veterans.



special letters.

The Palm Beach Gardens High School FBLA Chapter strives to impact individuals in their local community through service. Service is key for the PBGHS FBLA chapter with over 70 members attending their first Writing Letters to Soldiers, a community service event aimed to be held monthly in-school, for all students to take part in. The community service event was inspired by a student named Zachary Braga, the First Vice-President of his chapter and who also serves as the committee chair for all community service initiatives within his chapter. Zach Braga was inspired by his grandfather, a veteran who served for the Marine Corp during the Vietnam War. Zach Braga quotes, "How special a simple thank-you can be to a hero like my grandfather and many like him."

With their first community service event they were joined by many students to write over 40 letters, letting soldiers know that their service is appreciated and recognized. This community service project allowed students to unite together to give back in a small way but with an impactful purpose. All of these letters will be delivered monthly to a non-profit organization named A Million Thanks, who collects and distributes millions of letters of thanks and support and sends them directly to our active, reserve, and veteran military.

The PBGHS FBLA Chapter, in the months to come, wants to strive to boost more participants to attend their monthly Writing Letters to Soldiers service event. As well as starting a supplies drive for veterans at the local Veterans Hospital. They aim to collect items monthly such as clothing, books, shoes, and personal hygiene products, In hopes of contributing even more to their community through service and leadership.

Overall, the PBGHS FBLA chapter is excited about the impact their Writing Letters to Soldiers has provided for soldiers and for the students who want to contribute in making an impact. They are excited to continue to excel in their community service initiatives and want to continue to work towards providing even more for their community and for the many soldiers who serve.



Mater FBLA: New Year of FBLA Success in 2023-24

By Mater FBLA Chapter Reporter Mikhail Alexandrovich Fokin



Welcoming with open arms the dawning of yet another school year, Mater FBLA has been working diligently to prepare for fabulous achievements of the 2023-24 school year! From the club fair and its imposing processions, to the numerous District and state officers who have been hard at work to prepare for another year of excellence for the organization, the chapter remains busy in celebrating both its current and coming fortunes.

With a diverse array of professional, social and developmental events scheduled already, the chapter has swelled in both numbers and spirit. The exceptional dedication of Mater's many members at this year's National Conference, held in Atlanta, continued to invigorate officers and members alike to seek the highest standards of organization, skill, and leadership amongst FBLA's finest.

Welcoming faces old and new into its complement of eighteen officers, a new generation of talented young leaders has emerged in FBLA's ranks. Within the combined efforts of Mater's diverse group of talented students, shines the strength that has driven students to compete at every level- from District 25 to National Leadership Conference; a new batch of passionate and driven individuals stand poised to prove themselves along with America's best. Working not only internally, but with the newly chartered Middle School Chapter, Mater FBLA will continue to invigorate and inspire its fellow students and competitors to drive the development of America's future, and to take the school to new heights in prestige, recognition, and cooperation.

Reminiscent of its past and determined to outpace the present, Mater's FBLA chapter remains committed to its core values of Service, Education, and Progress- and through its extensive agenda of competitors and community events, Mater FBLA hopes to instill these valuable principles in the up and coming generations of leaders.





Coral Gables FBLA is Recruiting Everyone!

By Coral Gables FBLA Chapter President Balery Quinones



The start of a new school year approached rather quickly but Gables FBLA is right on board. Coral Gables Senior High School FBLA 2023-2024 Chapter started brainstorming their recruitment process towards the end of summer. Through the innovative commitment of our Co-President Balery Quinonez, recruitment started as soon as the first day of school. Our adviser Mr. Reisert has countless years of experience and his recruitment process inspired all of our 19 board members to take the lead.

"Knock, knock mind if we come in and present for a few minutes about FBLA?"

That was our first step. All of Gables' FBLA officers followed a specific schedule to conduct in-class presentations at school. We started strong in our business department and rapidly we expanded to the rest of Coral Gables Senior High. This took place in the first few weeks of school. Additionally, we set up informational booths during lunches to captivate everyone's attention which was a huge success. Apart from that, our membership board reached out to each and every interested prospect member individually either via email or text message to encourage them to join Gables FBLA and become an official member. All of our methods thus far have been successful to the point we also conducted our first Treat Day with all the efforts we've done. It's worth mentioning that all of this was done even before our annual club fair! Our marketing team created an interactive video of our club fair experience which can be located at our instagram @gables_fbla. As a result, Gables FBLA is off to a great start and on to the next big thing!





Middleton FBLA: 2023 Igniting, **Inspiring, and Innovating**

By Middleton FBLA Chapter Reporter Anjali Arun



IN THIS PICTURE Middleton FBLA Chapter Officers host largest **Freshman Interest** Meeting in Chapter History through active recruitment.

Everyone's more than ready for the new year ahead, especially here at Middleton, home of the tigers! We are busy as ever getting ready for another year of growth and opportunity! We are so excited to share our goals for this 23-24 year and the steps we are taking to exceed expectations.

Membership Goals

Middleton FBLA has always set zealous goals for itself. We are extremely proud of ourselves in the effort we've taken to meet those expectations. This year, we've decided to take on the ambitious goal of aiming for 325 members; to put it in perspective, imagine a completely packed economy class of a Boeing-337, a revolutionary plane, with all sorts of people, ready for an exciting journey. Just like the people in that plane, we hope to take our 325 members on a journey of growth, leadership, and incredible experiences.

We take many measures to make sure our goals for the year are met, specifically by making sure that our incoming freshmen are well aware of the opportunities that our club brings. All incoming freshmen received a personalized invitation to join our club, accompanied by our officers giving a short, in-person talk about their experiences and growth in the club.

We then held our freshman meeting, filled with food, fun, and of course-FBLA. Our officer team had a wonderful time speaking to our freshmen and encouraging them to be a part of our dynamic club. We explained our events, activities, and networking opportunities all available to our members. We even had a couple of our officers who joined as freshmen share their experiences to the freshmen at the meeting to encourage them to apply. Our membership has increased over 50% since 2019, and we are so proud of ourselves to be a part of such a movement. It is our hope that, through our various outreach measures, we will inspire and foster many young powerful leaders here at Middleton, Land of the Tigers.





ENGAGING MEMBERSHIP

These initial months can feel like the slowest of the year. In comparison to the months to come, packed with preparation for our District and State conferences, keeping our Middleton FBLA members engaged can be a challenge.

Nonetheless, we try our best to keep our members active through various activites. We hold breakout rooms during our General Meetings, giving our members the chance to explore their event category and talk to advisers or upperclassmen with the experience to help them succeed. We extensively prepare to make sure our members are as ready as they can be for their competitions every year, and this one is no exception!

To prepare our members for our officer application process, we held a Resume & Interview workshop. Our Vice President of Member Services, Vihaan Gowda, and our State President, Vinesh Jarajapu, went over all the most important parts of resume building and interviewing skills.

"I thought the whole thing was very helpful," says Nivedha, a freshman who attended the meeting. "I know it's going to be even more useful in the future when applying for jobs and things. I'm really glad I went."

As a chapter, Middleton FBLA has had a history of success in the past few years, and we expect nothing less from this upcoming school year. We are so excited to be providing another year of opportunity and experience for your members, and we cannot wait to see our members thrive this year and shatter expectations. Go Tigers!



Middleton FBLA Officers in action engaging with members at freshman interest meeting.



Hinson FBLA ML: Kicking Off a Visionary Year

By Hinson FBLA Middle School Chapter



At the beginning of the school year, Mrs. Estrada, Hinson Middle Schools FBLA advisor, invited parents with their children that are part of FBLA to attend a meeting to introduce FBLA to the parents. At the Welcome Back Night Mrs. Estrada shared a PowerPoint presentation that showed what FBLA is about and what the students are going to be doing in FBLA this upcoming school year. In the PowerPoint, parents were given brief but abundant information about the FBLA school program. They also learned what the kids would do to increase their chances to flourish in an ever growing society where robots and technology are needed in most jobs. Mrs. Estrada also explained the first of many fundraisers that would be held to fund the programs and fun activities the kids would do in the upcoming year. One of the parents has a food truck and offered to donate some of the profits that he would make to FBLA funding. Mrs. Estrada explained that one of the students she taught that year made it to the national competition and got 2nd place in the digital citizenship event. He also received prize money as well, which was extremely exciting. Everyone thought it was great that he could get into nationals and win cash prizes by just willing to sacrifice some time to practice on your presentation. Also, at the Welcome Back Night parents got a packet explaining all the expectations, requirements, events, and the FBLA dress code. It was a very successful evening.



Florida FBLA Middle Level

Did you know Florida FBLA has the second largest Middle School Chapter in the Country? Our members are amongst the top in the country.

Insights to Leadership

A majority of our Florida FBLA State Officer Team were members of the ML! ML Members get the opportunity to get a headstart in FBLA experience.

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INTRODUCING THE FLORIDA FBLA MEMBER RESOURCE BANK

The Florida FBLA State Officers are excited to introduce to all members the Florida FBLA Resource Bank! This resource bank has the essentials you need to fuel your chapter to success! From email templates for judges, social media posts following the new FBLA Brand Guidelines, Chapter Presentation Templates this is your once stop shop!

Access it by clicking on the image!



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Nikhil Kumar

Joel Vincent

FUEL YOUR FUTURE:

FUEL YOUR CHAPTER WITH THE CHAPTER GUIDE

The Florida FBLA Chapter Guide is your Chapter's Guide to everything you need to know to start and develop your journey through FBLA! From information about competition, elections, conferences, officer team management, and the many programs open to members: this guide is an amazing resource to help you fuel your FBLA journey.

Access it by clicking on the image!

INTRODUCING THE FLORIDA FBLA YOUTUBE CHANNEL



The Florida FBLA State Officer Team is excited to launch an official YouTube Channel. This channel will be home to digital initiatives as well as recording of live sessions! Access it by clicking on the image!





ARE YOU READY TO FUEL YOUR FUTURE?



IVERSAL STUDIO

JOIN US FOR SLC 2024 FLORIDA FBLA STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

COMPETITIONS | WORKSHOPS NETWORKING | MEMORIES | & MORE

> **HILTON ORLANDO** MARCH 15 - 18, 2024





National Conference in Our State!

COMPETITION | WORKSHOPS | NETWORKING | PIN TRADING NEW FRIENDS | ENJOY ORLANDO

> ORLANDO June 29 - July 2, 2024







IMPORTANT 2024 DATES IN THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP YEAR

January 1	Receipt deadline for letter of intent to run for national office
January 20–21	Winter Board of Directors Meeting
January 30	Receipt deadline for Spring Communicator Articles
February 1	Collegiate State/National Dues Postmarked for State Eligibility
February 11–17	National FBLA Week
February 11-13	Tallahassee Trip for State Officers
February 15	MS/HS receipt deadline SLC registration/hotel reservations/pre- judged materials/State Officer Applications
February 21	Collegiate receipt deadline SLC registration/hotel reservations/pre- judged materials/State Officer Applications
March 15 - 18	MS/HS State Leadership Conference, Hilton Orlando, Orlando, FL
March 21-24	Collegiate State Leadership Conference, Doubletree Seaworld, Orlando, FL
April 12–14	State Officer Training for Newly Elected State Officer Teams
April 13/20	Pre-NLCs
June 24-27	Collegiate National Leadership Conference, Orlando, FL
June 29-July 2	MS/HS National Leadership Conference, Orlando, FL







A NOTE FROM THE **STATE REPORTER** and Editor of The Florida Communicator



FABIO FABBIANI | FLFBLAREP@GMAIL.COM

Florida FBLA:

On behalf of the entire State Officer Team I would like to personally thank you for reading and supporting the Florida FBLA State Publication. This Fall Issue has been very special to the State Officer Team as it is the first seasonal issue of the reimagined publication with a focus on highlighting resources, documenting state activities, and giving a voice to the membership through stories from our local chapters. The hard work of all of our members throughout a quite active Fall 2023 semester has made sharing each and everyone of these stories possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the chapters who have contributed to record participation in The Florida FBLA Article Submission Program! This program allows the publication to be a reflection of the stories and accomplishments of our chapters: who are the building block of FBLA! We already have an amazing slate of chapter articles being featured in the Winter Edition in the coming weeks; but, if you would like to have your article featured in the Spring Edition of the Communicator, during SLC Season, you can submit an article via email or the Google Form in the Communicator Writing Guide before January 30th. I can not wait to see what your chapter has in store!

Once again, thank you for your support as we grow The Florida Communicator together!

Yours in Leadership,

Fabio Fabbiani Florida FBLA State Reporter flfblarep@gmail.com



