

THE **FBLA** EXPRESS



MARCH 2025 | SPRING EDITION



Leading



Beyond



Limits

“Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible'” – Audrey Hepburn



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“Concentrate all your thoughts upon the work in hand. The sun’s rays do not burn until brought to a focus.” — Alexander Graham Bell

State Leadership Conference:

Get Ready for an Unforgettable Experience: NYS FBLA State Leadership Conference is set to Kick off with Exciting Events and New Traditions!

Preparation for the State Leadership Conference is officially underway! As members gear up to maximize their performance and chapters begin to pass out permission slips for the trip up to Rochester, the State Officer Team would like to update all members and advisors on what to expect at the pinnacle of the FBLA experience!

Numerous performances, testing, and presentation competitive events will take place at the State Leadership Conference. These competitive events will be accompanied by other competitions like the Goose-Chase (a fun conference center game that will test members' knowledge about the NYS FBLA Foundation while leading them on wacky adventures all over the conference center) and the Bottles for Business Competition (a fundraising event making its NYS FBLA SLC debut this year! This competition was created by State Officers Ava Jump and Lochitha Thambeliyagoda who stated that the event was "... inspired by an idea that Ava Jump saw at a college preparation event. [They] made this into a competition in hope that Bottles for Business can benefit the state organization while giving members a fun activity to participate in while at SLC!". This competition will overall impact NYS FBLA members statewide as it brings in revenue for the NYS FBLA Foundation and creates a new SLC tradition for years to come!

In addition, the NYS FBLA State Leadership Conference will feature an exciting Neon Lights



Dance, where members can dance the night away to their favorite songs, all while rocking their brightest neon apparel! There will also be a Talent Show, which will provide members with the perfect opportunity to showcase their versatility, allowing them to demonstrate their talents beyond business-related events. Whether it's singing, dancing, performing a magic trick, or something else, the talent show promises to be a fun and entertaining highlight. (Please note: all acts must be registered prior to the conference.)

The final event of the conference will be an awards ceremony where the top qualifiers in each event will be celebrated and presented with their well-deserved awards on stage.

Overall, NYS FBLA is filled with excitement and anticipation as we look forward to the incredible experiences and achievements this conference will bring!

“Concentrate all your thoughts upon the work in hand. The sun’s rays do not burn until brought to a focus.” — Alexander Graham Bell





SPRING DISTRICT MEETING!!



“Think like a queen. A queen is not afraid to fail. Failure is another stepping stone to greatness.” — Oprah Winfrey



New York
FBLA
BOTTLES FOR BUSINESS
 DEADLINE
 FEBRUARY 25TH

JANUARY JOINT MEETING!!




“Try not to become a man of success, but rather become a man of value.” – Albert Einstein



Chapter Chat!

Local Updates from NYS FBLA Chapters

See what your fellow chapters have submitted for the final edition of the Express!



“You’ve got to get up every morning with determination if you’re going to go to bed with satisfaction.” — George Lorimer



Cobleskill-Richmondville FBLA: A Year of Achievement, Service, and Excitement Leading Up to State Leadership Conference!

FDM:

30 Members attended our fall district meeting in October earlier this year. We traveled to Bryant and Stratton college for the meeting where we had a nice breakfast and participated in fun and engaging workshops.



HOLIDAY PARADE:

Our members walked in our annual holiday parade. Members wore their FBLA gear and tossed out candy and stuffed animals to the children.



FUNDRAISERS:

CR FBLA hosted a cornhole tournament in November of this year with aspirations to make a good profit. The tournament ran all day by our volunteers.



MEMBERS OF THE MONTH:

BEN YORKE:

Ben is a third-year member here at Cobleskill. He started his final year in the club off strong, demonstrating great leadership skills towards newer members. He is a great people's person and will be a great future businessman.



“The standard you walk past is the standard you accept.” – David Hurley

COBLESKILL RICHMONDVILLE FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



CALEB HANTHO:

Caleb was very involved in the month of October, attending FDM and volunteering every chance he could. He is an extremely dedicated, driven and involved member, and we're so grateful to have him be a part of our club and community.



NATALIE YORKE:

Natalie is a new member this year who has shown tremendous interest in FBLA. Her involvement with volunteering opportunities really stood out. We are so excited to see how much she will grow during her time in the CRCS FBLA chapter.



SPRING NEWS:

At our Spring Districts meeting we had many of our members place in their events. Logan Hartmann placed 1st in Introduction to Decision Making. Kenan Quinn placed 1st in Introduction to Public Speaking. Sarah Schweigard placed 2nd in Client Service. Ben Yorke placed 2nd in Impromptu Speaking. Caleb Hantho placed 2nd in Public Speaking. Kyber Henry placed 4th in Job Interview. Our Parliamentary Procedure team, including Cooper LaBarge, Hayden Johnson, Laney Trappenburg, Carlos Torres, and Ava Yorke, placed top in the state. Lastly, Anthony Underwood placed in Future Business Leader and will be proceeding into the qualifying round. All of our members that placed will be continuing on to the State Leadership Conference in April. They're actively preparing, and we all couldn't be more excited for the opportunity to return once again. In preparation for SLC, our members did a Krispy Kreme fundraiser, raising over \$10,000 worth for our dues regarding States. Additionally, we are going to be collaborating with the Schoharie County Animal Shelter to hold a Puzzle Night to raise money for the shelter as they are a non-profit organization that our chapter often works closely with. We are all looking forward to the States Leadership Conference in Rochester, so watch out, Cobleskill-Richmondville is on their way!

Spring



“Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.” — Winston Churchill

COMMACK FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



Commack FBLA: Building Community, Leadership, and Business Skills Through Spring Fun Day

About Us:

Commack, New York, is a town full of ambitious learners and future business leaders! Here at Commack, students have the opportunity to be taught meaningful lessons in 13 different business classes, such as Business Management, Business & Personal Law, Sports Marketing, Wall Street, and many more. All of the knowledge and interest Commack students possess trace back to the town's incredible business teachers, Dr. Braun, Mrs. Mascaro, Mrs. Milano, and Mr. Plechner. But Commack's business opportunities don't stop in the classroom.

Business Honor Society, Personal Finance Club, and of course, Future Business Leaders of America are engaging organizations for students to enhance their skills outside of their coursework. After being taught within these clubs and classes, students are then challenged to apply their skills in numerous events and competitions. Last school year, Commack students took home a remarkable 18 awards at State Leadership Conference, and one student was even a national winner! However, even more impressive than all of these awards is the ability of Commack learners to band together and host Spring Fun Day, Commack's finest community experience.

Behind the Scenes:

Spring Fun Day is an annual festival in which students host games and events to foster a strengthened Commack community. Although the event takes place for just a few hours on a Saturday in March, students are hard at work preparing for Spring Fun Day months in advance. The process begins by distributing letters from the school's Business Department to all FBLA members. Each member is then required to deliver their letters to local businesses, asking for donations and forcing them to put their business mindsets to the test. After compiling various donations, the event is advertised completely by students. Some of the more art-savvy FBLA members design engaging posters, advertisements are plastered on social media platforms, and others spread the news of the upcoming event by way of mouth and by making speeches over the school loudspeakers, demonstrating the importance of competent marketing to all involved parties. Finally, crafty and high-quality raffle baskets are assembled by students, using the amazing donations that



they worked hard to obtain. By this point, FBLA members have invested hundreds of hours into making this event special, and the most fun part is still yet to come.

The Day of:

While most students are sleeping on a Saturday morning, FBLA members arrive at CHS bright and early to make this event possible. For hours beforehand, students are setting up tables, building games, and most importantly, having fun. They then split up, host different events, and provide a wonderful experience for all guests, no matter their age. Following hours of fun and relaxation, the day concludes with the winners of the raffles being announced. Spring Fun Day is usually held on the beautiful grassy entranceway of the school, but this past year, the event took place on the day of a torrential downpour. Even in these brutal conditions, FBLA was able to adjust its plan, host the event in CHS' massive cafeteria, and still bring in over a hundred guests despite the horrible weather.

Reflecting:

Spring Fun Day is truly the perfect opportunity in which students both uphold the values of the FBLA organization and connect with their community. With the event growing near this year, students throughout the building are already anticipating yet another fun rendition of the festival. What might seem like a simple party within the Commack community teaches students invaluable lessons about event planning, budgeting, logistics, and marketing. If you'd like to know more about Spring Fun Day or if you want to implement a similar tradition into your own chapter of FBLA, please contact any of the amazing members of the Commack Business Department. Commack FBLA hopes that whether your own personal chapter contains a handful or hundreds of members, you will strive to connect members with their communities and offer them opportunities that they will remember for years to come! pls give me a headline



“Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground.” — Theodore Roosevelt

CARMEL FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



Carmel High School Shines at District 3N Spring District Meeting, Achieves Outstanding Results and State Qualifications

Spring District Meeting:

On the evening of February 7, 2025, Carmel High School had the honor of hosting, facilitating, and competing in the District 3N Spring District Meeting. The event was a resounding success, with Carmel's competitors delivering exceptional performances from all participating members. Carmel High School would like to express its sincere gratitude to all our volunteer judges, time keepers, event administrators, the Carmel High School custodial staff, Luigis Famiglia Cucina for graciously providing dinner for all attendants, the Carmel High School Superintendent, and all Carmel High School staff and Board of Education members in attendance for helping proctor and facilitate the event.

Here are Carmel High School's results from the SDM:
Impromptu Speaking: 2nd place, Wade Spinelli
Introduction to Decision Making: 2nd place, Kaden Figueroa
Introduction to Public Speaking: 4th place, Ashley King
Job Interview: 1st place, Maia Thompson
Public Speaking: 1st place, Oliver Figueroa
Accounting: 2nd place, Bailey Rzeznik and 3rd place, Robby Cotza
Financial Math: 3rd place, Kaitlin Furu
Business Communication: 2nd place, Emily Furu
Business Law: 1st place, Emily Cardona and 4th place, Bailey Rzeznik
Introduction to FBLA: 1st place Mabel Tenesaca
Introduction to Financial Math: 3rd place Jason Murray
Sports Management: 1st place Emily Cardona
Parliamentary Procedure Team Event qualified to compete at states, Kayleigh Harney, Kaitlin Furu, Emily Furu, and Wade Spinelli
Participants in the Future Business Leader (FBL) Event
Kayleigh Harney and Wade Spinelli both qualified to compete in FBL at states.

Congratulations Carmel and good luck to everybody competing in states! Everyone truly make Carmel High School proud!



“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.” — Frederick Douglass

GFMS FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



George Fischer Middle School Students Shine at the 2025 District 3N Spring District Meeting

A group of George Fischer Middle School students have demonstrated their business leadership skills by qualifying and competing at the 2025 District 3N Spring District Meeting Championships. This competition was held on Feb. 7th at Carmel High School from 3-8PM. Schools from surrounding areas in three different counties (Orange, Sullivan, Putnam) were in attendance to compete in the areas of : Exploring Business Ethics, Exploring Public Speaking, Exploring Leadership, and Financial Literacy. Although this type of competition was new to our GFMS students, they performed exceptionally well. Congratulations to all our competitors!

Exploring Public Speaking
1st Place Stanley Smith (GFMS)
4th Place Janelle Saucedo (GFMS)

Exploring Business Ethics
2nd Place Elle Rosenquest (GFMS)
4th Place Dylan Munno

Exploring Leadership
1st Place Syl Ugrinaj
3rd Place Guliana Santangelo
4th Place Grace Kelly

Financial Literacy
1st Place Ryan Munez (GFMS)
2nd Place Ava Hall (GFMS)
3rd Place Anthony Manzoello
4th Place Trevor Roberts

Historians (they take pictures of the event)
Jackson Baio
Jacob Brooks
Luan Krasniqi



“I am so clever that sometimes I don’t understand a single word of what I am saying.” – Oscar Wilde



JERICHO FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



Jericho FBLA Takes The LEAP: The Road to SLC & Beyond

By: Sophia Xia, Eliana Wang, Richard Xu, & TJ Marin

The Jericho FBLA chapter has been buzzing with activity as we gear up for an exciting season of growth and leadership. From gaining insights from investment banker Sujay Alluri to preparing for the State Leadership Conference (SLC) with expert tips from our presidents, our members are seizing every opportunity to excel. We're also diving into hands-on experiences through the King's Crest Global (KCG) Spring Internship, making an impact with our latest community service project, and unveiling fresh new merch designs. With so much happening, let's take a LEAP into our Jericho FBLA chapter!

On Thursday, January 30th, Investment Banker Sujay Alluri, a 2024 Duke graduate who studied economics and computer science, shared his experiences as a guest speaker, as invited by two of our presidents, Ryan Landsberg and Max Scarf. This meeting allowed students to gain valuable insight on what makes a good investor and advice he wished he had before starting college as a business major. One big takeaway was to study topics outside of business in order to expand your skill set.

Students have simultaneously been working hard in preparation for various events as the State Leadership Conference approaches!

Since events were announced, our members have quickly started preparing for their State Leadership Conference events. Building upon previous experiences, Jericho FBLA's initiatives and competition opportunities have helped guide both underclassmen and upperclassmen with the resources to succeed at the next level. After Jericho's 8 Locals contestants all qualified for SLC on January 10, placing 1st and 2nd place in every event, we can anticipate the same drive for excellence that shined through the preliminary

Locals Competition to carry over to SLC this year! From oral presentations and roleplay scenarios to specialized tests, our members are ready to tackle SLC's diverse array of events challenges and grow our quick-thinking abilities, public speaking skills, and procedural knowledge of the wide realm of business. One of the many exciting events our members are preparing for is the Community Service Project.

This year, the Jericho FBLA Chapter's Community Service Project, Project LEAP (Leadership, Empowerment, Action, Passion) is dedicated to inspiring young women to pursue their goals with confidence. Spearheaded by chapter members Amneet Kaur, Kaylin Kim, and Harnoor Joneja through presentations, hands-on activities, and community outreach, the initiative educated over 150 students on leadership and self-advocacy, engaged middle schoolers in vision board workshops, and partnered with Girls for Business to support aspiring female leaders. Additionally, Project LEAP took action by donating 100 goal-oriented journals to local homeless shelters, providing young women with resources to reflect on their ambitions. By fostering conversations on gender equity and breaking barriers, Project LEAP empowers the next generation of female leaders to take their own leap toward success.

To assist with events this year, one of our presidents, Bhavika Bhasin, a senior who will be attending SLC for the fourth time in April, has offered insightful advice for first-time attendees. Bhavika advises competitors to leave ample time to rehearse with team members and to incorporate different creative concepts into their presentation and case study events through powerful hooks in introductions.

“People say nothing is impossible, but I do nothing every day.” – Winnie the Pooh



JERICHO FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



“Practice your script until it becomes second nature to ensure you are putting your best foot forward”, Bhavika suggests.

She also recommends stepping out of your comfort zone when developing presentations. According to Bhavika, the most common mistake people make is limiting themselves to overly rigid business professional designs. She emphasizes the importance of embracing bold ideas and unconventional approaches such as acronyms and catchy slogans in order to develop memorable presentations.

“Don’t confine yourself to a little box, simply because you are afraid the judges won’t like it,” Bhavika advises. “And don’t be afraid to play around with different colors and fonts to make your mark at SLC!”

We hope that chapter members find our president’s advice to be helpful, and sincerely wish each of our SLC attendees the best of luck as they embark on their journey in April!



While our members prepare for SLC, we are also celebrating the successful completion of our KCG (King’s Crest Global) Internship’s fall cohort, spearheaded by one of our presidents, Amneet Kaur. The KCG Internship is a unique and exclusive opportunity offered officially to all Jericho FBLA members interested in exploring AI, marketing, and content creation. The fall cohort of the KCG Internship honed valuable skills applicable in analysis, marketing, and management. Employing market research to reach greater audiences, the internship embraced entrepreneurship through tailored content creation and learned collaboration. Jericho FBLA is excited to offer the KCG Internship opportunity again to the admitted spring cohort! Here, interns will acquire hands-on experience working in content creation, data analytics, and AI-adjacent marketing! Exhibiting excellence, scholarship, and passion, the new cohort of KCG Interns will receive direct mentorship from the Chief Executive Officer of KCG, Saul Tessler. We look forward to welcoming the new spring cohort!

As we gear up for SLC, the excitement within Jericho FBLA is at an all-time high! From gaining career insights to refining business strategies and empowering young women through Project LEAP, we are embracing every opportunity to lead, learn, and inspire. With fresh ideas and bold strategies, we are fully prepared to dive into new challenges ahead. With the momentum we’ve built, no matter the distance, one thing is for sure—Jericho FBLA is ready to take the LEAP into a future driven by innovation and passion

“It’s not the load that breaks you down, it’s the way you carry it.” - Lena Horne



LONGWOOD FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



Longwood FBLA Members Shine in Fall & Winter 2024, Prepare for District 1S SLC

2/28/2025

SPRING EDITION FOR FBLA EXPRESS

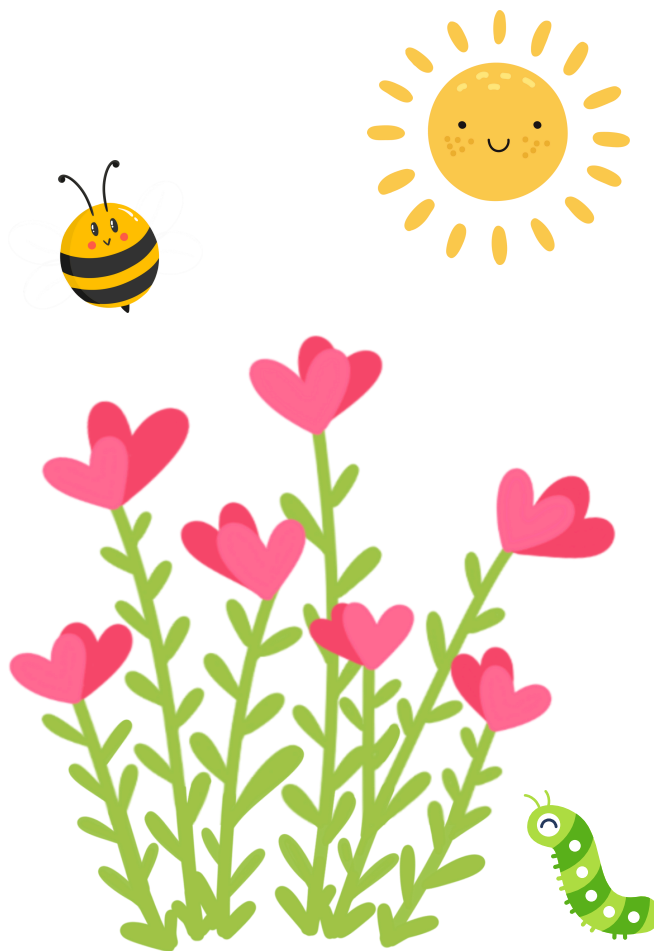
Middle Island — Fall & Winter 2024 – FBLA club members brought forward their interests about FBLA; they expressed their intentions by communicating their thoughts with Longwood’s FBLA Executive Board for the 2024-2025 school year. Additionally, members were able to improve on their public speaking skills by involving themselves in business-related debates, presentations, and mini events hosted. Members joined their respective committees in order to complete the various Program of Works.

Committee Chairs & Executive Board members emphasized on the importance of time management and organization when working on the Program of Works to club members. Also, Executive Board members hosted events like the Chipotle fundraiser and homecoming in order to economically profit. Finally, Executive Board members attended the Fall District Meeting hosted for District 1S at Hofstra University, where members attended workshops to enhance skills essential for real-world events.

In terms of winter 2024/2025, members prepared for the upcoming Spring District meeting by providing one another with resources to study from and additional public speaking presentations. Nonetheless, Longwood FBLA hosted its local competition where they were able to select the best candidates for the competitive events hosted at the SDM. Executive Board and club members finalized and submitted their Program of Work assignments. At the SDM, Longwood FBLA participated in their in-person competitive events where all members attending placed within the top 3.

Longwood FBLA will now be attending the District 1S SLC with 14 attendees and 2 advisors.

CONTACT: Jill Rumfola and Kevin Johnson,
Advisors
Longwood HS FBLA
100 Longwood Rd
Email: jill.rumfola@longwoodcsd.org and
kevin.johnson@longwoodcsd.org



“I always wanted to be somebody,
but now I realize I should have been
more specific.” – Lily Tomlin

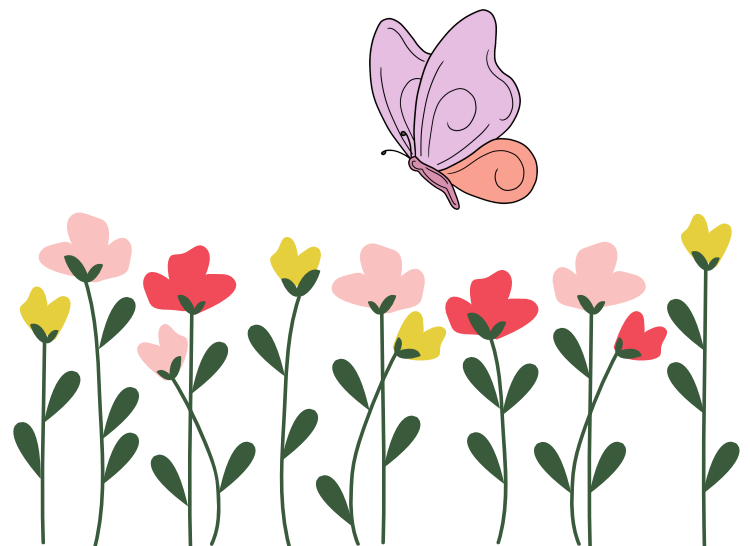


Monroe Woodbury FBLA Shines at Spring District Meeting, Prepares for State Leadership Conference

On February 6, 2024, Monroe Woodbury FBLA members traveled to Carmel High School for the Spring District Meeting. This event was an exciting opportunity for our chapter to connect with other FBLA members from the district and compete in various events. During the meeting, several of our members demonstrated their dedication and leadership by taking the state officer exam. Sanjita Raja, Siddharth Ranganathan, and Swathi Sathiyamoorthy each took part in the exam, showcasing their ambition to represent Monroe Woodbury at the state level.

In addition to the officer exam, many of our talented members participated in competitive events. Anya Malhotra, Connor Santaiti, Tanay Shah, Prasad Saha, and Sanjita Raja, among others, earned impressive placements, highlighting the exceptional skills of our chapter. Their hard work and achievements at the Spring District Meeting reflect the commitment of Monroe Woodbury FBLA to excellence and leadership in business education. Looking ahead, Monroe Woodbury FBLA is preparing for our upcoming blood drive. This event provides an opportunity for our school community to come together and give back by donating blood to help those in need. Stay tuned for more information on how you can participate and make a meaningful impact.

Monroe Woodbury FBLA is thrilled to announce that our chapter will be attending the upcoming FBLA State Leadership Conference in Rochester, NY. Our members are eager to showcase their skills, connect with other chapters, and represent our school at the state level. With a strong sense of pride and anticipation, we look forward to the competition and the opportunity to continue building leadership skills that will serve us in the future.



“Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships.” – Michael Jordan



fficer Outlook

A Closer Look at What it Means to be a Future Business Leader!



Look Who Submitted for this Issue!!



Alexandra Robinson
Treasurer



Monal Gupta
District 12 SVP



Yasmin Issa
Secretary

Check it Out!!

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” — Helen Keller





By: Alexandra Robinson, Treasurer



Empowering the Future: How Financial Literacy Became My Mission as NYS FBLA Treasurer

From the moment I joined FBLA, I realized the importance of equipping students with the skills they need to succeed not just in their careers, but in life. Among the many lessons FBLA offers, one has stood out to me as truly transformative: financial literacy.

Money management affects every aspect of our lives—whether it's saving for college, budgeting for daily expenses, or investing for the future. Yet, many students graduate without a clear understanding of how to navigate these financial challenges. That's why I've made it my mission to promote financial literacy through FBLA.

As NYS FBLA Treasurer, I've had the incredible opportunity to turn this passion into action. Working with my Program of Work (POW) committee, we created financial literacy challenges that encouraged members to expand their understanding of budgeting, investing, and saving. I also used social media to share investment tips and financial insights, including our popular Meme Monday posts, which made learning about finance fun and relatable.

My passion for financial literacy extends beyond FBLA. Through my financial literacy class at Wharton, University of Pennsylvania, I gained advanced insights that I now strive to share with peers in my community. Whether it's discussing compound interest, understanding credit scores, or planning for retirement, I believe these conversations need to start early.

Financial literacy isn't just about money—it's about confidence, independence, and opportunity. As future business leaders, entrepreneurs, and changemakers, we have the power to bridge the gap in financial education. Through FBLA, I've seen how knowledge can transform lives, and I'm excited to continue advocating for financial literacy across our organization and beyond.



“Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.” - Mahatma Gandhi



By: Monal Gupta, District 12 SVP

Maximizing Your College Application: How FBLA Can Help You Stand Out!

Getting into a top college isn't just about perfect grades or having a long list of clubs on your resume. It is about how you tell your story through everything you have done in high school. For FBLA members, there is already a huge advantage built into the organization. The opportunities are right in front of you, whether it is leadership positions, competitive events, awards, or community service, but it is up to you to take them and use them to your advantage.

Your academics will always come first in the application process. Colleges want to see that you have challenged yourself, especially in classes that align with what you are passionate about. If you are interested in business, taking classes like economics, statistics, or computer science shows that you are serious about your future. But it is not just about loading up on APs. It is about doing well in them and showing growth along the way. If you struggled in a class but worked hard to improve, that story can be just as powerful as a straight-A transcript.

What really makes an application stand out is having a pointed interest which is a clear focus that ties together your activities, achievements, and future goals. It is better to be deeply involved in one or two things than to join ten clubs without making an impact. If FBLA is your main activity, do not just stop at attending meetings. Get involved in competitive events, run for leadership positions, and take advantage of everything the organization offers. Placing at the State Leadership Conference or qualifying for National Leadership Conference is not just something to list on a resume. It is proof that you have worked hard to master your skills. Even if you do not place, the fact that you are putting yourself out there and competing on a state or

national level says a lot.

Leadership is one of the biggest things top colleges look for, and FBLA gives you countless ways to show that you are a leader. Whether you are organizing a fundraiser, running a service project, or serving as a state officer, what matters most is how you have made an impact. Titles are great, but what you actually do in those roles is what sets you apart. If you see something your chapter could be doing better, take the initiative to fix it. Those are the kinds of stories that show admissions officers you are someone who does not wait around to make things happen. Achievements through FBLA can really take your application to the next level. Being part of the FBLA National Honor Society shows long-term dedication, and earning recognition through the Program of Work proves that you are actively contributing to the organization. If you have won awards at SLC or NLC, those achievements carry a lot of weight, especially at business-focused schools. But even if you do not have a list of trophies, consistent involvement and leadership can be just as impressive.

Summers are another huge opportunity to set yourself apart. Use that time to explore your interests, whether that is through internships, business camps, or personal projects. If you are struggling to find opportunities, do not be afraid to create your own. Start a small business, run a community service project, or reach out to local businesses for shadowing experiences. FBLA even offers summer opportunities like the National Leadership Summit that can help you grow your skills while adding something unique to your application.

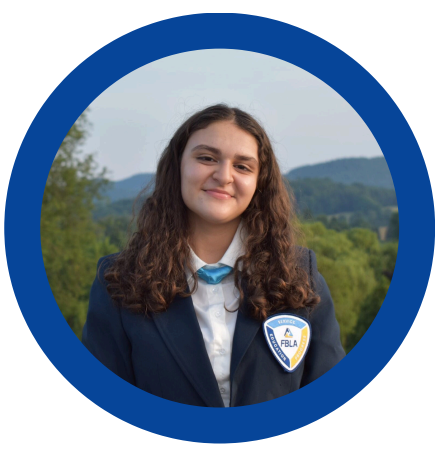
When it is time to write your essays, everything you have done with FBLA can become part of your story. Talk about how you discovered your interest in business, the challenges you faced as a leader, or the impact you have made in your community. The best essays do not just list achievements. They show how those experiences shaped who you are and what you want to do in the future.

One of the most overlooked parts of the college application process is recommendations. Your advisors, FBLA coaches, and teachers can speak to your leadership, work ethic, and character in a way that no resume can. Build those relationships early and make sure the people writing your letters really know who you are beyond your grades.

At the end of the day, getting into a top college is not about checking off boxes. It is about showing the person behind the application. FBLA gives you all the tools to tell a powerful story about leadership, business, and service. The earlier you dive in and take advantage of everything the organization offers, the more authentic and compelling your application will be. The hard work you put in now will pay off, not just in acceptance letters but in the person you are becoming along the way.

“It's not just about being better. It's about being different. You need to give people a reason to choose your business.” - Tom Abbott





By: Yasmin Issa, Secretary

Incoming from the National Center : The Best Tips from your National Officers on how to Succeed in Competitive Events

With the State Leadership Conference right around the corner, now is the perfect time to start preparing for competitive events. From presentations or parliamentary procedure, FBLA offers numerous opportunities to showcase their individual aptitudes and talents. Showcased below is a compilation of advice from several members of the national officer team, on how to succeed in competitive events!

Andrew Stone, National President

“My biggest advice would be to read your rubric and find your example test questions in FBLA Connect. Also, you can find Quizlet’s online for your topic or older videos for some of the presentations on YouTube. Another thing is that if you are a freshman or sophomore you should try to compete in an ‘Introduction to’ event because you’ll only be competing against other freshman and sophomores.”

There are wide variety of resources online and through FBLA connect that can be utilized when preparing for competitive events, such as practice exams, study guides and most importantly, rubrics. When practicing, make sure to refer to the competitive event guidelines, to understand exactly what the judges are looking for in performance events, and for objective tests, learn what areas and competencies you should become the most familiar with. Additionally, as Andrew states, introductory events, that are geared towards younger members, are great for freshmen and sophomores, as it allows them to get a sense of FBLA competition, including the expectations and various rules that must be adhered to.

Olivia Herrin, National Secretary

“Competitive events are such an engaging way to grow skillsets and embrace your competitive side! I’ve only ever competed in performance events, and I have learned a lot over the years. When competing in a performance event,

feedback is one of the most valuable things you can have! Make sure to give yourself lots of time to practice in front of others. Find community members who don’t know much about FBLA- you never know what experience your judge may have! Also, don’t expect good feedback the night before a competitive event or at a conference. No one in their right mind is going to tell you to change anything the night before.”

Beyond the rubric and guidelines, practicing in front of people you know is a great way to prepare for a competitive event. Each person possesses a unique perspective, and even if they aren’t part of FBLA, it is still extremely valuable to be exposed to a wide variety of opinions when it comes to your work. In this sense, you will be able to present the best quality presentations or projects, learning from the people in your community, who are all rooting for your success! This will help you build a connection with your judge, by relating parts of your personal experience to the event that you are competing in. Each one of your judges will come from varying professional paths, so it's important to learn how to connect with your audience to emphasize main themes and ideas.

Irene Pan, National Parliamentarian

“In an event as niche as parliamentary procedure, no one starts out learning with any advantage over anyone else. It is an event that truly rewards those who are willing to put in time, energy, and work. It is so important to focus on yourself and not worry about how your opponents might express themselves! The strongest offense is the best defense, make sure to build your own skill up so that no matter how strong someone else might be, you’ll be right up there with them! Sometimes, your own doubt could be your worst enemy.

Finding resources is not as hard as you'd think. Reaching out is crucial. You can start with past competitors and leaders at your school or even your advisor. Don't be afraid to reach out directly to past national champions or national and state officers as well! Sometimes you won't know just how many resources we might have for you!

Also, be sure you are familiar with the rubric and rules of any event. Read the whole competition guideline! It could take a few minutes, but you will be rewarded greatly during the competition.

Finally, when it’s difficult to find motivation, I like to take a pause from whatever I’m doing and really think about it what I’m doing is more important to me than winning at my event. Small post it reminders in places you visit often definitely helps! Also, talking with a team or a friend about your event might motivate you more!”

For National Parliamentarian, Irene Pan, the mental preparation for an event is just as important as rehearsing. You have to be willing to put in countless hours of time and effort and focus on the things that will help you succeed, rather than stressing over the

“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.” - John F. Kennedy



rather than stressing over the plans of your competitors. It is natural to feel anxious and nervous before competing, but don't allow self-doubt to be your worst enemy. There is a world of resources out there that can be utilized, such as hearing the testimonies of national competitors on their experience, as well as reaching out to state and national officers for more advice. Remember, that success is not a destination, but rather a journey, that is unique to every person. Find the courage to continue in little achievements and always remember to persevere!

Mason Lytle, Mountain Plains Region Vice President
"Some advice that I have for a presentation event is to make sure to build your presentation to the rubric, so you are making sure you are hitting every point. Make sure to be personable and find a way to stand out from your competition!"

Again, some of the biggest things the national officers emphasize for success in competitive events is to refer to the competitive event guidelines and highlight those components in your presentations. To take this a step further, one of the best ways to stand out from your competitors is to embrace being authentic. Try to use your personal experiences as the basis for the project you are creating, gearing the presentation towards your individual passion and interests, while also addressing the task at hand. The more unique your take on the event's objective, the more likely judges are to remember it and consequently give you a higher score. Adding personality to a presentation allows you to better connect with your judges, display your passion, dedication and motivation that will bring positive change in the professional field you wish to pursue.

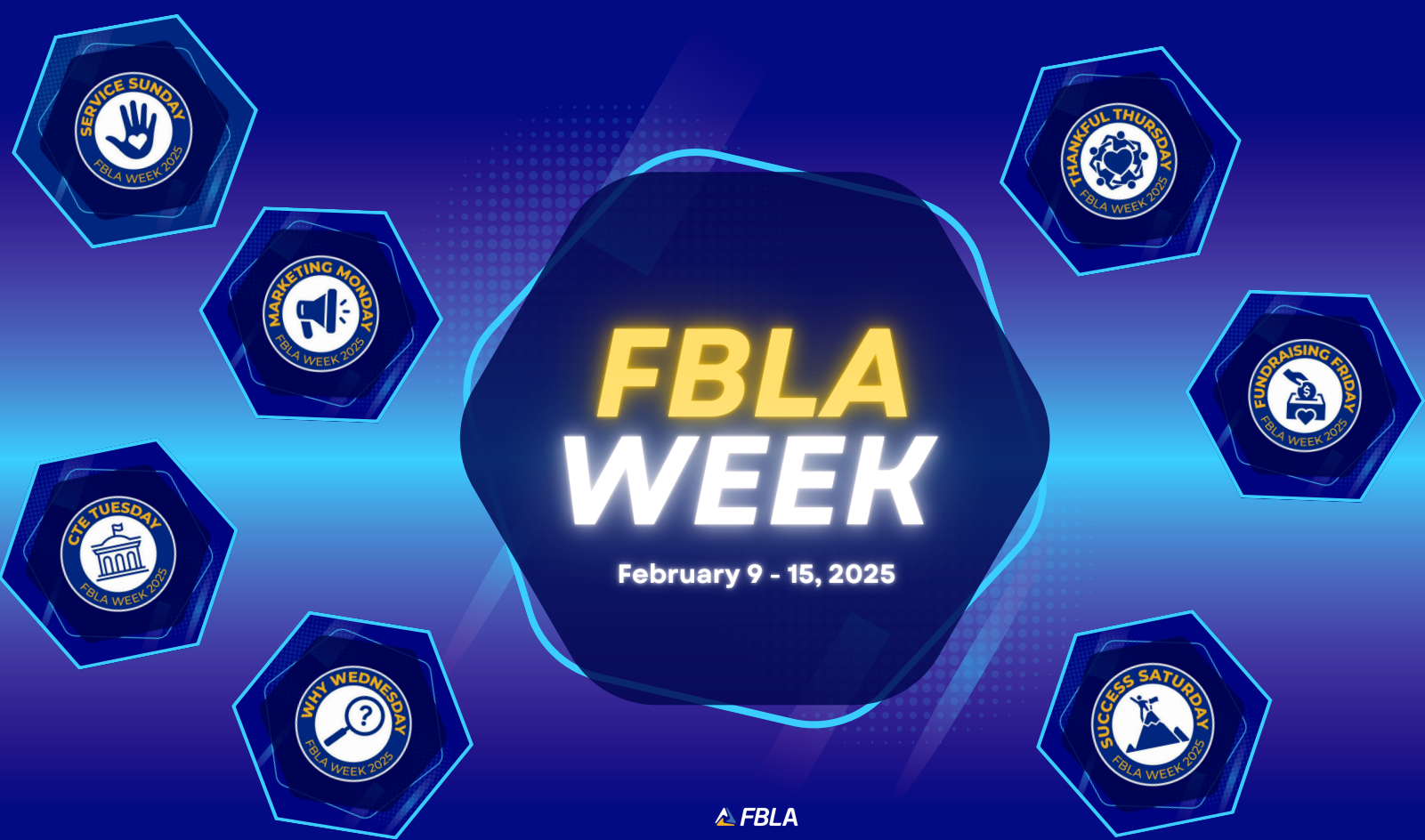
Vedika Deshpande, Eastern Region Vice President
According to your Eastern Region Vice President, Vedika Deshpande, the key to success in the competitive events lies in the power of networking! Networking is an essential skill to have in the business world and can help in the context of competitive events by allowing you to connect with people who have competed in the same event before. Listen to their advice and don't be afraid to ask for help; this will help you learn what things judges validate or appreciate more in a presentation. Cold emailing a former competitor will show demonstrated interest and exhibit the dedication it takes to succeed. Another great way to network is through social media applications, like Instagram. There you will be able to find an online FBLA community who might have shared similar experiences with you in competitive events, and you can rely on for advice. From the testimonies of national officers, it is clear that competitive events are a great way to expand your involvement in FBLA, providing numerous opportunities for professional and personal growth. Learning how to

succeed in these events is a lot simpler than you might realize, as it requires being willing to accept help from others, as well as having the courage to try something new. NYS FBLA, as all of our members prepare for this year's State Leadership Conference, I encourage you all to refer to back to this guide, as a reminder, that through passion and dedication that the national officers exhibit, there is no limit to what you can achieve!

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to secretary@nysfbla.org or yasmin_fbla with any questions and concerns. Together, we can make this year's State Leadership Conference a transformative experience!




“Just one small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day.” — Dalai Lama



NYS FBLA WEEK: A Week of Celebration, Inspiration, and Achievement!

NYS FBLA chapters celebrated FBLA Week with impactful service projects, sharpening their business skills, and celebrating the organization that holds so much meaning for so many. Each day, members stepped up to exemplify the FBLA values in their communities while embodying the very mission statement that was created nearly 100 years ago. From kicking off the week with Service Sunday to wrapping up with Success Saturday, NYS FBLA chapters honored the great organization by engaging in meaningful service projects, developing business skills, and celebrating their collective achievements.

As FBLA Week comes to a close, the spirit and enthusiasm of NYS FBLA remains as strong as ever. Now, with the momentum from this week, chapters are eagerly preparing for the upcoming State Leadership Conference in Rochester, where they will continue to showcase their dedication to excellence in business and leadership. The energy and passion from FBLA Week will carry forward, ensuring that the future of NYS FBLA remains bright and filled with opportunity.



“It is the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) that those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed.” - Charles Darwin



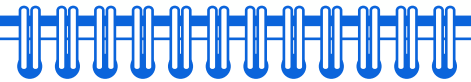
POW is Officially Wrapped Up for the 2024-2025 Membership Year!

NYS FBLA would like to extend its sincere gratitude to all members who participated in POW this year! With over 450 submissions statewide, the State Officer Team was truly impressed by the dedication and creativity demonstrated in each project.

As chapters receive their confirmation emails and prepare for the possibility of earning ribbons and plaques at the State Leadership Conference, the State Officer Team encourages each member to bring the same level of enthusiasm and commitment to their competition prep as they did to their POW submissions. We are excited to see all the hard work and passion from POW continue to shine at the State Leadership Conference, and we wish every member the best of luck as they compete and represent NYS FBLA with pride!



Thank You For Reading!



Announcement:

- **No more editions will be published for this membership year.**
- **Thank you to all NYS FBLA Chapters for your submissions and support!**

Farewell!



GO NYS FBLA!! 

