



All Aboard The Success Express!

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Bijah Gibson, President

Looking back on the last two years, I find it difficult to believe that my time as a FBLA State Officer is nearly at its end. I recently heard someone ask, "Where has time gone?" Although time does fly, I was able to happily recall where it has taken me the last two years. Time has led me to learn, grow, and mature in many ways. Time has taken me to new places. I was able to attend local installations, officer training, and state and national conferences. Time has taken me to new experiences. I planned a conference for an entire district, gave countless speeches and presentations, and said the Pledge of Allegiance in front of 1,800 fellow members. Time has led me to fun and laughs. I can never forget singing the Colorado FBLA song, screaming "Big C-O!" at Nationals until my throat hurt, or running through a state meeting like a raptor in a game called Evolution. Time has taken me to new people. It has taken me to state representatives, candidates for governor, and the CEO of FBLA. Time guided me to two State Officer Teams, composed of students that can truly be considered Colorado's finest; and to you, the members of FBLA. To my adviser Mrs. Adams: words cannot describe how much your help and friendship have meant to me. Thank you for everything. To my family: thank you for all of your unwavering support. I can't imagine life without you. To my best friend Joshua, your strength and perseverance motivate me to succeed more than anything. To Deborah Ramirez and Laurie Ulrich: thank you for all you have done for me and for

Bijah Gibson (Continued)

your friendship. Finally, to the members of FBLA, you have my sincere and wholehearted gratitude. This was truly an amazing adventure, and I wish you much success in the years to come.



Colorado's
2006-2007
President:
Bijah Gibson

Colorado's
2006-2007
Secretary:
Aly Brown



Aly Brown, Secretary

Thornton Wilder once said, "We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures." Throughout my 2006-2007 school year, my heart has become conscious of the treasures that my friends, family, and Colorado FBLA have offered me throughout my high school career. Colorado FBLA has given me the treasures of a strong character, leadership, and confidence. These treasures are my ticket to my future and my success. Thank you Colorado FBLA for molding me into the young woman that I am today and for bettering my business leadership skills and

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Aly Brown (Continued)

abilities. Although the year has been gratifying with many fun memories, the difficulties and undertakings were the most rewarding. Thank you again, Colorado FBLA, for being a part of my high school career, my charitable memories for years to come, and a part of me as a person and as a leader.



Colorado's
2006-2007
Treasurer:
Corey Beebe

Corey Beebe, Treasurer

As I look back on this year, I think of the different things that I will greatly miss. From the organization itself, to all of the members that I have had the chance to meet and interact with, this has been an outstanding experience.

Throughout this year, I have had the opportunity to serve as the Colorado FBLA State Treasurer. This has given me new contacts within the business community and helped me learn to communicate with them successfully.

Along with those members and advisers that I have been able to work with, one group of people that I will miss the most would be the State Officer Team. They are a great bunch of members that work very hard at what they do and are dedicated to

Corey Beebe (Continued)

the organization.

I wish that I could thank everyone that has helped me along the way, but that list would never end. I would first like to thank my adviser, Debbie Hall, for putting in all of those long hours over the past two years. Next I would like to thank my family and friends for all of their support. Lastly, I would like to thank Deborah Ramirez, Sharon Adams, Laurie Urich, and the rest of the State Officer Team for all that they have done for me.

Although all great things must come to an end, it is time for another group of State Officers to take over the responsibilities. For those of you that are considering becoming a State Officer, it is a once in a lifetime opportunity. If you have dedication and perseverance, it is a worthwhile experience.

Have a great year and best of luck in all of your FBLA activities.

Colorado's
2006-2007

Reporter:
Hayley Schneider



Hayley Schneider, Reporter

As my year as a State Officer comes to a close, I am reminded of how much I have enjoyed being involved with Colorado FBLA. This year as a State Officer has been the most rewarding experience of my high school career. I am very honored to have worked with so many talented individuals.

I would like to say thank you to my adviser, Mrs. Laurie Urich, for all of the

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Hayley Schneider (Continued)

support she has given me as an FBLA member and as a State Officer. Without her help, I would not have been able to come this far. Also, Monarch High School FBLA's officers and members have been a tremendous help – thank you for all of your support and friendships.

The State Officer Team Advisers Deb Ramirez, Laurie Ulrich, and Sharon Adams have been outstanding leaders of our State Officer Team and I appreciate all of the time you have spent to make this year a success.

Thank you Colorado FBLA for presenting me with this outstanding opportunity. I have truly had an unforgettable experience and I credit this to all of your enthusiasm for FBLA.

Stacie Bandy (Continued)

Leadership Conference. Knowing that all of you have made a step towards grabbing, "Your Ticket to the Future" and are "All Aboard the Success Express," has made this journey a memorable one.

I also want to thank my State Officer team; friendships that will last forever, and memories that I will never forget! The task of becoming a young business professional would not have been possible without each and every one of you.

Lastly I want to thank my three State Advisors, Deb, Laurie, and Sharon; without you this team never would have been able to have as much success as we did. Also to my local advisors, Mrs. Flummerfelt and Mrs. Larson, I never could have done any of this with out your encouragement and helping hands.

Good luck Colorado FBLA and thank you for making this experience so enjoyable and memorable. I wish all of you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Colorado's
2006-2007
District 1 VP:
Stacie Bandy



Colorado's
2006-2007
District 2 VP:
Zeze Ready



Stacie Bandy, District 1 VP

Thank you to all FBLA members and Advisors! This has been such a rewarding experience; meeting new people, making new friends and memories to last a lifetime. It has been a pleasure to serve as your State Vice President Representing District 1. I want to thank the members and advisors of District 1 for all of your hard work and achievements at the District 1

Zeze Ready, District 2 VP

This last year with FBLA has taught me more than I ever expected from being a State Officer. I will never forget a single conference or face I have met over these last four years, especially my favorite co-president out there. Before this past year I couldn't wait to go to college outside of Colorado, but after being a State Officer I know I would miss this dear old state of

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Zeze Ready (Continued)

mine. If you have any inclination to run for State Officer, I would highly recommend it to anyone who would like to open their eyes to how much there is out there.



Colorado's
2006-2007
District 4 VP:
Tanya Morgan

Tanya Morgan, District 4 VP

An Irish poet, William Yates stated, "Education is not filling a bucket, but lighting a fire." By becoming the District IV Vice President I, Tanya Morgan, was given an opportunity to start a fire for Colorado FBLA.

The 2006-2007 State Officers all brought our personalities together to make a thriving fire for Colorado FBLA members. Enthusiasm for Colorado FBLA was evident during Nationals in Nashville, Tennessee and NFLC in Denver as chants were screamed throughout each session. For me, the most rewarding part of holding a leadership position is continually learning and being able to share the knowledge I have gained with others. Every aspect of being a State Officer has allowed me to start new sparks in my leadership.

My flames of a successful year could not have been possible without the

Tanya Morgan (Continued)

assistance of others. Caliche FBLA Chapter, thank you for your dedication in hosting the District IV Conference. My parents and Mrs. Lambrecht, thank you for all of your encouragement and support. The Colorado State Officer team and State Advisers with each of their outgoing personalities have taught me so much and made my commitment as a State Officer memorable. Finally, to Colorado FBLA members and advisers, I challenge you to excel in the organization – light a fire with your skills at the local, state, and national level.

Colorado's
2006-2007
District 5 VP:
Cody Monroe



Cody Monroe, District 5 VP

I'd like to give a big shout out of thanks to everyone I've had the pleasure to meet over this past year. Thank you to the officers and members of Douglas County High School's FBLA chapter who spent many long hours making sure the District 5 Conference was a success. Thank you to the State Officers. You guys are crazy out of control! I couldn't have asked for a better team to work with. And of course, thanks to all of you, the heart and soul of Colorado FBLA. As office linebacker "Terrible" Terry Tate might say, "There's no secret to success in business or in life. The solution is simple, baby: 100% heart all day, every day." I think this quote exemplifies the spirit of FBLA, this wonderful organization I am proud to be a part of. Keep it real.

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Colorado's
2006-2007
District 6 VP:
Melissa Rutter



Melissa Rutter, District 6 VP

This year has gone by so fast. It seems like only yesterday that I was secluded with other potential officers, trying to impress the Selection Committee. All of my hard work and dedication to FBLA is paying off. Serving as your State Vice President for District 6 has not only been an honor, but also a ton of fun. This State Officer Team accomplished so much together and will continue to do so. We have been "Gellin" all year together.

I would like to personally thank Debbie, Laurie, and Sharon for teaching and inspiring us to do our very best. Your leadership skills are what make ours better and together we are unstoppable. In addition to these three ladies, I would like to thank my past Adviser, Myrna Armes for getting me where I am today, and my current Adviser, KaRene Kunselman, for all of her help and hard work. To my mom, thank you for always being there for me, you are my number one fan. Also thank you to Mrs. Kovacich and Mrs. Ttkick for all of your help with the conference. It would have never been possible without your guidance.

I look forward to my future in FBLA and

Melissa Rutter (Continued)

the business world and I encourage all of you to take "Your Ticket to the Future" as you "Board the Success Express."



Colorado's
2006-2007
District 7 VP:
Brett Marshbanks

Brett Marshbanks, District 7 VP

It seems like just yesterday I was sitting in the Business room at my first FBLA meeting. Back then I did not know what it was or how it could possibly affect me. The past four years have shown me how important FBLA is and how it benefits members. I can only hope that my small role in the Future Business Leaders of America does half as much good as it has done for me. However, I tip my hat to the countless dedicated advisers that spend hours upon hours for their members. These heroes are the driving force behind their members and I can safely say they are some of the most dedicated people you will encounter. On another note, I give a special thanks to my adviser, Mrs. Linda Malers. Without her I would have lost my mind on this project long ago! Also, I would like to thank my fellow State Officers for making this such a great experience. We have come a long way from that first day back in May and I feel like we can accomplish anything together. And finally I would like to thank Mrs. Urich, Mrs. Ramirez, and Mrs. Adams for being the glue holding all of us together. They are the behind the scenes people that really go out of their way

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Brett Marshbanks (Continued)

sometimes. Working with them made this whole experience fun. Being involved with FBLA has been one of the most rewarding things I have done in my life. I will truly miss being involved and passionate about FBLA and hope that I can get involved again sometime in the future.



Colorado's
2006-2007
District 8 VP:
Jesse Garner

Jesse Garner, District 8 VP

This year as a State Officer, I have had many opportunities that I never could have imagined possible. I am thankful to all of the people who have helped me and this organization be successful.

My adviser, Ms. Carol Sessums, has been extremely helpful, as have all of the members of the Sangre De Cristo chapter of FBLA.

I would like to thank the three State Officer Team Advisers; Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Urich, and Ms. Adams. All of you have led our officer team to a successful year.

To all Colorado FBLA members: Thank you for this opportunity. I have had a lot of fun as a State Officer. I wish you luck in the coming years.



Colorado's
2006-2007
District 9 VP:
Megan O'Rourke

Megan O'Rourke, District 9 VP

As my year as a Colorado FBLA State Officer comes to an end, I have many happy memories to reflect on. I have learned so much this year about how to work with a team, communicate with a network of individuals and most importantly how much time it takes to plan a conference! I have had a truly memorable year as a State Officer but couldn't have done it without a lot of help. I need to thank the State Officer Team Advisers Deb Ramirez, Laurie Urich, and Sharon Adams as well my adviser Nancy Lindbloom. The support and guidance of these women has made this the most educational and exciting experience of my high school career. Thanks Colorado FBLA!

Thank you Colorado FBLA!
It has been a great year!



State Officer Candidates

Erika Bryant

Future Business Leaders of America is an organization involving high school students. The goal of this organization is not only to encourage those students to pursue an active business career, but to show them the right way to do it. FBLA teaches this through numerous activities such as Business Ethics, Parliamentary Procedure, and Business Calculations.

One example of how FBLA helps students is in business classes. The business class that is offered in our school (Introduction to Business) shows a lot on how to make good decisions if you ever plan on running your own business. Also when you apply for a job, you will know exactly how your resume needs to look like, and what to do in tough executive business making decisions.

Another example is putting students in real life situations, or using the life they have now. FBLA gets students ready for these types of things. Going to workshops at a local or state conference puts you in these types of situations. It may be for small things, such a etiquette, or big things, such as starting a business corporation and what finances you'll need to do so. FBLA is always putting ideas into youths' heads to make them realize what is coming up in their future years, and what they plan on doing about it.

By using the life that some students have now, it has a greater effect than the students thought was possible. Students who currently have a job can be prepared

Erika Bryant (Continued)

for the fast paced business world. There are a lot more opportunities out there that are just waiting for high school students. With the right amount of education they can pay well, and will let you have a hand in helping your community.

All in all, FBLA is one of the most business oriented organizations that is out there. They help all the right people get a career that they are good at, and let high school students know what their potential is for the world.

Ashley Hererra

Business education is the enterprise of education directed at the study and research of the field of business. It includes secondary education and higher education as well as university education. It is almost always oriented toward preparing students for the practice of an occupation in business or business-related fields.

Business education is essential to students wanting to extend their knowledge of how a business works and it also prepares students for what may be in the near future. Business education excites students to reach beyond their goals and allows them to learn first hand that business is a rewarding experience. It also allows students to learn essential skills of what a great leader looks and acts like. With the chance of being educated in business students have the opportunity to meet new people every year and be astounded by how energetic and serious other students actually are about the business field.

Business education is important because it teaches students leadership skills and how to have confidence. Most importantly being educated about business teaches students that they are capable of going out into the world or even a community and making a difference.

Ashley Hererra (Continued)

Business educators are preparing students to become responsible and being capable of making economic decisions that will benefit both their personal and professional lives. Business education is designed to prepare students to become conscientious decision makers as they comply with their roles as consumers, workers, and citizens. With the right business education young adults are ready to take their rightful place in society as productive and responsible citizens.

Ronald Burns

Throughout the time students spend in FBLA, they learn many skills for life. Most of the skills learned are doing to be used within the span of their lives. Creating a solid future in FBLA helps a person the moment they become actively involved in the program. The most important skills in FBLA are leadership, organization, money management and everyday skills. Someone once said, "A leader is formed, not born." Some students may wonder if this saying is actually true. FBLA helps students figure this answer out for themselves.

FBLA helps every student involved gather the ideas needed to form the leader inside them. A leader might be someone who can conduct business meetings, plan events, or help the community. To a leader another important skill is organization. When creating an event organization will greatly help to produce a large turn out. Once students enter the professional world, everyday skills will help anyone become successful. Possessing

Ronald Burns (Continued)

the skill to just get up and talk to someone and start a conversation, being able to find you way around places, and being able to facilitate a successful transition from school to work are just three simple everyday skills. With having leadership, everyday skills, and organization the only other important skill that is needed is money management. Most students need loans when advancing into college to pay the cost. When having a developed skill of money management a student can then obtain a part time job in college to help pay the loans they have. Even if the student does not have a part time job in college, you are going to need this skill to advance into a working field to pay any loans they might have. So with reading this article have you figured out you own answer to the saying "A leader is formed, not born."

Melissa Holehouse

FBLA gives opportunities to everyone through the life long goals it instills within you as a business leader and as a person. Some main goals that stand out about the program are those of community service, building strength in a student through school involvement, and creating confidence within yourself in all aspects of life. These goals help you in just about everything you do and can be argued to the point that they will help you no matter what.

Knowing that the goals are a powerful statement shows that the people of the program are powerful people. We all enjoy a common interest and are looking for the same thing out of our lives. We strengthen each other as a whole through involvement in school and the program. Working together is one of the most important aspects of the program and helps fulfill one of the most important goals, creating confidence within you as a person. If you can learn to talk to people in everyday life

Melissa Holehouse (Continued)

you can go far. The FBLA program is a great confidence builder because of the people you meet and talk to all the time from local and statewide events.

School involvement helps you build character through the knowledge of being someone in your school. Knowing that you do something good for the environment of your school makes you feel like a better person. Everyone enjoys the feeling of confidence and confidence comes with character. FBLA builds character in young people though the tremendous involvement in the school. Clubs at local high schools work together to make the learning environment the best it can be for all the students that attend. Being involved in a club at school helps you with building the character you need to be successful in life, this is why being involved in the FBLA program is such an honor for some students.

Last, but not least, community service is a goal of the FBLA program. Supporting your community and giving back is a fulfilling opportunity. This goal, in my opinion, is one of the best on the list. Your community gives so much for the local students and giving back to them is a wonderful thing to do. Doing projects with each other, like writing Santa letters at Christmas time for the local elementary school students, brings people at your school and community together. This also shows that you as students really do care that the local businesses care for you.

I am pleased to be a part of this program and know these goals will help me in life. Setting goals and reaching them is

Melissa Holehouse (Continued)

one thing, but I know people in the FBLA program can meet any goal they put their mind to. These goals are life long opportunities that will support you as a person and help you support your local community. Let the goals live on and instill them in yourself for the successful life that everyone wants!

Danielle Chelin

Service. Education. Progress. These words appear on the FBLA emblem. We've all seen it, but have you ever thought about what these words really mean? Have you ever considered the significance of these words? These three powerful words form the heart of FBLA.

Service, by definition, is something done to help someone else. Each year, FBLA-PBL encourages its members to take part in and organize local, state, and national service projects. From the March of Dimes fundraising walk at state conference to individual chapter projects, service with FBLA goes from "have-to" to "get-to." In addition to being a good way to get to know your fellow FBLA members, these projects leave a lasting impression, on both yourself and on the community.

The second major piece of FBLA is education. Through nationally acclaimed keynote speakers and various workshops, members get a glimpse into the world of business and see first-hand the importance of a quality education and the commitment to a goal. By our involvement in FBLA, we are given the opportunity to hear life-changing speeches from many successful people in the business world, and to see how education has benefited them.

Last but not least: progress- both as an individual and as a part of a team. FBLA gives its members the courage to work toward their goals and the resources and support to do so with confidence. Assets such as self-assurance, a network of peers,

Danielle Chelin (Continued)

and a vision for the future all provide a forward momentum into the next phase of your life. These invaluable assets, as well as many others, can all be acquired and honed through FBLA.

Service. Education. Progress. These are the commitments of FBLA-PBL to its members. By the example set for us by our advisers, officers, speakers and others, these soon become our commitments as well.

Nate Adams

Anyone in FBLA knows what it is. FBLA is a national organization that lets the business leaders of tomorrow get a jump start today. We all have the potential to “be the next” Jeffery Immelt, president and CEO of General Electric, or Doron Rosenblum, CEO of IBM, etc. So why not see if we can be the best in the business? Business is one of the most promising fields for America’s future, and FBLA is the starting point for each of us to make our mark.

Do you remember when you first heard about FBLA? I know I do. You probably heard it on your school announcements. “FBLA will be holding its initial meeting on such and such a day.” Did you think, “Well, it’s one more thing to put on a college application,” or did you think, “I’m a future business leader, sign me up”? If you are like me, it’s probably the second thought. But FBLA has been so successful since 1942, because it caters to both kinds of people. It satisfies those of us who strive to excel in the business world, showing us that it goes

Nate Adams (Continued)

far beyond our imagination, and it satisfies those who strive to excel in their academics, and hopefully shows them that they have potential to also make it in business. With almost a quarter of a million students involved in FBLA around the country, FBLA really does have something for everyone. On the plus side, FBLA does look great on college applications!

What about the undiscovered talent for business in your school? Make sure you get everyone involved, make sure your whole school knows about this wonderful opportunity to dip their toes into the pool that is business. You never know who could be a Future Business Leader of America.

Danielle Zehnder

“No one has yet realized the wealth of sympathy, the kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure.” ~Emma Goldman.

FBLA provides us with the treasures we need to be aggressive and confident in our educational choices and successes in choosing business leadership paths.

First-hand experience tells us that promotion of education and leadership in FBLA is empowering.

Former, Platte Valley treasurer, now a junior at Colorado State University, Jason Smith says that FBLA helped him develop his communication and leadership skills and made him realize how important business is in today’s society. Majoring in Business Real Estate, Jason says that FBLA helped him choose his career path because he feels that “business has become the rising power for our society today”. Time Management was also something important that Smith learned from FBLA as the 7’0” CSU Junior must divide his time between school, community,

Danielle Zehnder (Continued)

and starting for the CSU Men's Basketball Team. "All high school students should definitely be in FBLA. It is such a great opportunity to learn so many aspects of life. It helped me prepare for college and the real world."

Dianne Luark, State Vice President, District I, for 2005-2006, couldn't be more positive when discussing FBLA. Now attending the University of Northern Colorado, majoring in Business Administration, Dianne says that FBLA gave her the confidence and helped her "step out of the box". "It gave me the opportunity to recognize the real business world", she added. "The most important things that I gained from FBLA were leadership skills and how to network with others."

One of FBLA'S goals is to "strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and in their work." Past President of Platte Valley's FBLA chapter, Micah Seyler emphasizes that FBLA definitely opened his eyes. "It gave me leadership experience and public speaking skills that I will never forget." Micah is now a sophomore at the Colorado State University majoring in Agriculture Business.

Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda continues to reinforce its goals in developing competent, aggressive business leadership and to develop character, citizenship and patriotism.

Melissa Marin

Have you ever stopped to think how different your life would be if you did not live in a free country with the right to

Melissa Marin (Continued)

choose your career? In the United States, we are given the opportunity to make the most of our lives through hard work and dedication. We are free to choose our education and career pathway. In the business world, you can start with a simple idea and through entrepreneurship, have the possibility to create a million dollar corporation. According to a well-known quote by Vance Havne, "The vision must be followed by the venture. It is not enough to stare up the steps - we must step up the stairs."

If your vision is to be an entrepreneur, you can take steps toward it before you even get out of high school. The first step is to develop the needed skills through your experiences in school. Enrolling in classes that will prepare you for a career in business operations and management. You need both of these to run a profitable business smoothly.

The next step is participating in extra curricular activities such as FBLA and athletics which help teach you to be goal oriented. They encourage you to set high goals, such as making it to state, then working hard to achieve them. They can also train you to be competitive while remaining modest, which is needed when starting a new business.

Another step is being active in your community and completing service projects such as helping with a blood drive or participating in a walk-a-thon for cancer. Not only will this help you to learn responsibility, it will also improve your social skills, and help build a network of people. Community service may help get you out of the comfort zone that is created in school and give you a sense of what it would be like to work with other people. Once you have decided that your vision is entrepreneurship, don't forget to take that first step up the stairs to reach it.

Tanya Morgan

Shopping is one of America's favorite pastimes. Remember walking into a store with an attractive store front and hearing bells ring as you open the door. You are greeted by a friendly, familiar clerk who welcomes you by your first name. This downtown charm is what I admire most about living in a small town. As the economy changes, sadly more and more downtown businesses are closing their doors.

The twenty-four hour business, online shopping, and "buying more for less" national chain stores are squeezing the life out of bricks-and-mortar stores. Today's shoppers want it at their convenience and find alternative ways to meet their time constraints and satisfaction. In order to stay competitive and maintain a profit, bricks-and-mortar stores are making the necessary adjustments. Instead of an eight-hour day, businesses are extending their hours for the ease of the customers; however, other small businesses cannot adapt to the new economy and are closing their buildings

Another factor that has contributed to the continuous downfall of small businesses is their location. In most towns, flow of traffic is away from downtown leading to strip malls or highways outside of town. Downtowns are becoming less of an eye appeal as larger retail stores pop up in more convenient locations. Attracting customers to the small town feeling of friendly sales clerks and having sales on products that are in high demand will increase revenue of bricks-and-mortar businesses. A variety of choices for

Tanya Morgan (Continued)

shopping in the downtown area give customers the opportunity to do all of their shopping needs at one location.

What does the future hold for downtown storefronts? The economic drift is forcing small downtown businesses to change their long-known traditional trends. By giving a reason to drive downtown, changing hours, and having unique product sales will draw customers to the bricks-and-mortar businesses. To keep downtown quaint, storeowners must look at positive ways to change with the economy.

Sean Fox

I think it's important for students in business education to get real world experience in addition to learning in the classroom. Learning from a book is essential to the learning process. It gives the student an overview of the business world and an idea of the situations they might encounter. The business experience, however, is essential. Only limited information can be gathered from a book or a teacher. Doing and participating in a business environment gives the student a better understanding of the skills they learn in the classroom and how to use them in the real world. Business education without experience is just a theory. Education plants the seeds of a skill or profession, but it does not develop those skills. Actual work experience is necessary to attain a complete business education. For example, if you are a student studying international business, and you have never been around people that speak other languages or been in another country, you are going to be behind in your field. Actually getting out there and practicing the skills learned in the classroom allows the student to develop a more comprehensive understanding of business and how it is conducted. Learning in the classroom is the first step to

Sean Fox (Continued)

receiving a complete business education. Without the basic skills, a person would not be able to succeed in a business environment. But in addition to those basic skills, a business student also needs practice. They need time to develop the skills and have a sense of what a working environment is in order to be a successful businessperson. Learning in the classroom and getting real world experience are the two halves of a complete business education.

Colleen Carr

As an Officer of the Byers Chapter of Future Business Leaders of America I have worked closely with members and have come to acknowledge something. The simple number of members does not always represent those active in the organization. The number of members who pay dues every fall is not the same as those who attend districts or the amount who participate in fundraisers or service projects. In every group there is unfortunately a percentage of members who are not active. The question is how you decrease that percentage.

How do you increase the enrolment of members in chapter, district or state events? Simply requiring that all members become involved may offer a solution but how does one enforce such requirements? Do you refuse to allow them membership the following year or establish a system of demerits? Are such tactics really effective or will you simply reduce your numbers each year. Perhaps a reward system would function better as active members are

Colleen Carr (Continued)

allowed to participate in recreational activities that the chapter hosts like member retreats but if such measures are followed will the results be more than unwilling laborers and will any true effort be put forth. The unfortunate truth is that many chapters are faced with the question of how to promote member involvement. The question is raised at the beginning of each year in my chapter and perhaps the most effective method we have tried is a matching of interest.

Every year the Byers Chapter hosts a member retreat in the fall where all members can get to know each other through icebreaker games and activities. Although the games often vary from year to year, one of the most constant activities that we put on is a Dodge Ball Game. In this activity seniors and freshmen team up against the sophomores and juniors. The Game involves nearly every member and those who do not wish to participate often volunteer as Referees. The Game has turned into such a hit that it is often called for after service activities and during award banquets.

This year one of my fellow officers proposed that we turn the simple game into a fundraiser. The project was widely accepted by all members and I saw such a drastic increase in member involvement that I couldn't help but stare as we gathered more interest than they had ever been seen for flower or cookie dough sales. Members almost immediately began to research the project and as we gathered list of rules and regulations for the Tournament Volunteers presented the idea to the Principle and Athletic Director. FBLA began gathering a following as we negotiated interest prices and rules. The members formed committees and set up meetings with the school lawyer to get liability forms. The unity of the group at whole was somewhat astounding and with

Colleen Carr (Continued)

the base for a tournament arranged and a date set the members have begin speeding the news to the student body making posters and attempting togged athletes released.

The project had generated not only a response from the students but also an upsurge of interest in FBLA from Faculty. The members worked together and have managed to convince the teachers and transportation and Janitorial staffs to field two teams to start of the tournament. This collaboration of school officials and cooperation of members is something that is not frequently seen. The unity of the chapter and the sheer amount of participation and enthusiasm has left me shocked; I am somewhat surprised that we have never worked to trigger activities to a members interest in the past. By showing that FBLA is more than simply a boring academic based origination we have also created interest in the underclassmen who did not join last year and the junior high who hasn't yet had the opportunity too.

Having seen the enthusiasm for this activity I wonder at the lack of involvement often associated with other fundraising activities. The interest level for cookie dough and pie sales before the holidays had never been so high. On average forty of our chapters seventy some members will sell pies but of those forty less then ten usually sell more than ten items. In our current Fundraising project we have approximately forty members who are eager to participate as competitors and nearly twenty who though unable or unwilling to do so have agreed to sponsor a

Colleen Carr (Continued)

tem of nonmembers. An involvement of this level is not often heard of in schools with large numbers of members and we must ask our self what causes it.

By triggering the fundraiser to the members interest we have managed to generate an enthusiastic recompose. So could this idea be used in other projects? Competitions already offer a varied selection of events to appeal to a varied array of interest and talents so why cannot service projects and Fundraisers also appeal to members interests. There are many different types of projects that can be performed from volunteering at a homeless shelter to coaching a disadvantaged sports team. So if you can gage what your members would respond to best and work within their interest you can produce more rewarding results.

Jessica Pierce

The trip to Vail is a long one, or at least this is the case for FBLA members in District 4. There are many items that must make the journey to the Rockies with us, which will aid in conference success. The most vital travel necessity is of course, our suitcase. The suitcase is responsible for more than we realize. When traveling with a large load, the suitcase will extend to fit your needs. Without it, we would be forced to carry our business attire, personal hygiene items, contest documents, and mittens for chilly weather in our arms. Without the suitcase, are we even able to travel?

The importance of the suitcase can be measured to the impact that FBLA has on its members' lives. Just as our suitcase is study and durable, many Future Business Leaders have been shaped into strong individuals that can face any problem that comes their way. If a suitcase is dropped in a bundle of wet snow, it is thick enough to

Jessica Pierce (Continued)

keep its contents safe and dry. When a problem is presented to an FBLA member, we are able to resort to our FBLA experiences to solve the dilemma. If a time limit is approaching quickly, a practiced member will keep their cool in front of Emerging Business judges and quickly wrap things up, while still presenting a fine speech.

Just as suitcases range in colors and sizes, members of FBLA range in ethnicity, gender, and origins. My trusty suitcase was purchased at Wal-Mart. It is able to hold all of my supplies for the State Conference if, and only if, I put all of my weight on it while my mother buckles it shut. However, a fellow Haxton FBLA member's suitcase is designer brand, equipped with gold buckles and shiny wheels, and the possible contents that it can hold are endless. Similarly, there are plenty of unique and diverse students participating in FBLA. This upcoming summer at National Conference in Chicago, you could pass a first year female, who has been raised around her family's thriving cattle ranch in Texas. A few moments later, it is possible to pass a fourth year African American male. Currently, this young leader resides in New York City, and has no business background since his father has frequently moved their family while serving the United States Army. Put aside the age, set aside the skin color, and these two people are equally accomplishing the goal of representing their state in a business competition. No matter the brand or the material, any suitcase gets the job done.

Therefore, I would like to remind each

Jessica Pierce (Continued)

of my fellow members that while traveling to your next FBLA Conference, whether by bus, airplane, or the "Success Express" to please take a few moments and realize your abilities. You have wheels to keep you rolling. You have pockets to hold all of your new and old knowledge and experiences. You have the support to prove to your community, chapter, state, and your nation exactly why you are a great FBLA member. I wish you good luck in competition, and can't wait to see the wide variety of members with their suitcases at State Conference!

Hope Rheingans

Success is only possible when you push yourself to the limit. I believe that unless we set goals, there is no way of improving what we are doing, and if the goals are set high enough, we will succeed in fulfilling our full potential. Potential is an opportunity that we have been given to take advantage of, so why waste it? I see life as a gigantic staircase. Every time we succeed, we take a step up the staircase. At the top of the staircase, is our final destination. Everyone's final destination has a different time, setting, theme, and feel to it. I picture my final destination somewhere on a beach after a successful, flourishing, and well accomplished life.

When we aim to accomplish something, the goals we set should be higher than the minimum requirement. Strive for your very highest challenge. When you work to accomplish the higher obligation, you are pushing yourself and being confident in whatever you are trying to complete. Self-confidence in any situation helps you to succeed, and pushing yourself to achieve more makes you a much stronger individual.

There are supplementary benefits to setting our goals higher than the minimum

Hope Rheingans (Continued)

requirement. We do not always have to meet the higher target. If we do not aim higher than the originally anticipated target, we may fall short of our targeted goal and then our mission is not complete. By setting higher targets, or goals, we accomplish more. It is easier to fall short of a higher goal than to fall short of the original goal, because you are farther than originally anticipated and have already met your requirements. By this time, you have accomplished more than what needed to be met. Going the extra mile might help get you to better places faster in the long run.

Every time we achieve a goal, we can take another step up our staircase. We cannot get to our destinations unless we take all of the required steps. Unfortunately, we cannot just zoom our way to the end of the stairway. Life is full of obstacles such as broken steps and loose hand-rails. When we strive to meet higher expectations, our step is more guaranteed and there is a better possibility of not falling short of the step. The harder you try, the faster your adventure up your staircase goes, and the sooner you can get to your final destination.

Future Business Leaders of America can be considered a large group of steps on your pathway to success. FBLA offers many different opportunities in many different forms. The business world is full of possible goals. For example, becoming a state officer is one of my goals. I have no doubt that it is possible, but my point is that if I fall short of my goal, I am still making a huge step forward by completing the process. The moral of my article is: Strive

Hope Rheingans (Continued)

to achieve your target, and better. Complete your staircase with a feeling of accomplishment. Never give up, keep taking steps and enjoy your final destination when you arrive.

Emilo Long Elk

America today continues to thrive in its industrialization and technology. Our economy is constantly rising in production of business and service. Jobs and manufacturing are expanding and intensifying more than ever. Demand for leaders of these increasing aspects of technology and business has led many to find opportunities to grow. Such growth has influenced our personal lives tremendously, changing our perspective on today's problems and challenges. This positive outlook has also affected the way it influences the youth today. It is imperative to teach the young the necessities that will benefit them in the future. This critique should not be forgotten, for the future lies with the young. Future Business Leaders of America has done just that. Throughout decades upon decades, FBLA has given many young individuals the opportunity to go beyond themselves and learn the many aspects of leadership in all forms of positions. Through FBLA, we, as young individuals, will learn the views of leadership and how important it is in this thriving country.

Leadership in business today is defined in many ways throughout the world. Businesses continue to look for the fundamentals of leadership of all kinds so that it is possible to thrive in many aspects of its commerce. Fundamentals may include character such as respect, humbleness, and responsibility. Other leadership values include work ethics, flexibility, and the ability to be driven. Leadership may also have fundamentals such as balance in everything we do.

Emilo Long Elk (Continued)

Balance is a very difficult picture to grasp. Having balance is having stability in everything we do such as sports, school, jobs, family, friends, and vocational activities. To have balance is being able to juggle all of these aspects of our lives and still be able to learn to benefit the lives of others. Not only do we have to show balance, but we also need to be able to identify and perform the different layers of its complexity such as a leader/follower relationship. A leadership counselor of mine once said, "Leaders know when to lead, and leaders know when to be led." Businesses are looking for individuals that are willing to broaden their minds through the help of others. This relationship is an advantage in our understanding of being a leader. Through workshops and keynote speakers, FBLA will open the door for individuals and teach this important aspect of leadership, but it is you, as a responsible leader of FBLA, that has to walk through it.

To lead others is to grasp the fundamentals of leadership. FBLA has long before contributed to this. This thriving organization has proven that its method of teaching through leadership and character has given its members the opportunity to be the leaders they ought to be. FBLA will poise the mind with the ingredients of success and broaden our perspective on the world today. Since competition is fierce, this opportunity should not be passed up. However, it should be taken advantage of to better yourself and the world together. It is your one ticket to success.

Olivia Heel

A big part of FBLA is getting involved in your community and doing things such as community service projects and volunteer work. Volunteer work is often very rewarding and costs nothing but your time and care. Your chapter might already do some community service projects, but if you want to do more volunteer work beyond that, here are some ideas and thoughts that might lead you in the right direction.

First, find what you are really interested in. If animals are your passion then find a volunteer job at the Humane Society or your local veterinary hospital. If people are more your thing then find some work at a hospital, building a home for Habitat for Humanity, or even tutoring. You don't have to just work for a company or non-profit organization; have a bake sale or lemonade stand in your neighborhood to raise money for a good cause such as the March of Dimes or the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Once you find out what your passion or interests are then it will be much easier to find a volunteer job that works for you. Finding volunteer work that you are really into will make doing it much more enjoyable than just volunteering for the heck of it.

Next, act on it! Don't just sit around and think of how great it would be to help build a home for Habitat for Humanity, go out and do it. The simple thought of you doing a good deed is kind but it makes the biggest and best effect when you actually do something with that thought. Think about it, someone that has never had a home before could have one now or a stray kitten could have found a new home just because you decided to get out and make a difference and get involved. That is how much of an impact such a small act can make.

Breanna Fetkavich

Have you ever thought to yourself, sure, FBLA will help me get a job in the future, but what good is it to me now while I'm still in high school? Future Business Leaders of America really *can* help you get the job you want, even while you're in high school.

I was recently hired as the Director's Assistant at my local public library. FBLA has taught me many things that helped me land this job. Without FBLA I would not have known how to write a successful resume, which clearly outlined my talents and showcased those skills that I have learned from the club. This resume was instrumental in showing that I was qualified for the job. Having previously written a resume for the secretarial position at my local chapter gave me the experience that I needed to write a successful one for my library job application. To become the executive secretary for my local chapter, I had to also be interviewed by a panel of judges. This experience gave me more confidence in myself and in my abilities and prepared me for the interview with the public library director.

Being an active member of FBLA has taught me responsibility, which is essential for my job. FBLA also has helped me to become more confident in myself and in the work that I do in my job. I have established goals for a business career, by developing my interest in the business enterprise. Without FBLA I would simply have been lacking many of the valuable skills and attributes I needed to be hired for the job.

Geoff Abel

To Embrace: To take or receive gladly, eagerly; accept willingly. Both in business and in life I encourage you to take this action.

Some of you may have heard Bill Cordes talk at the National Fall Leadership Conference in Denver this year. And yes, he was amazing. He explained the concept of building a "network" of people. Like those obnoxious Verizon commercials... People to contact in case of anything, his example being his friend's wife with cancer. And after calling about eight people, the wife was receiving top of the line care from a specialist in Colorado. Pretty sweet huh?

This is why we embrace, not only people with business connections, but people with medical connections, friends, family, unemployed. Business connections for obvious reasons, a little thing that makes the world go round, money. Medical connections because life throws curveballs. Friends and family for the emotional and unrelenting support in everything you do. And even the unemployed to get a greater understanding of what they are looking for, as well as what you're willing to hire.

With every person we reject, we close a door. A door that had the potential to open several others, or lead to greater success.

Melissa Rutter

Being a member of an organization is a step, however; taking a risk and demonstrating your leadership skills takes you one step further. Being a member of Colorado FBLA can inspire you to prepare yourself for the future. It's not the road that leads you to where you are today, but the path that will take you to your future. You have chosen to be a member, a part of something great. Now let's broaden your horizon! The next step is becoming a chapter officer and stepping into the leadership role. You can accomplish this by excelling in what you do and becoming a

Melissa Rutter (Continued)
District Officer. There are two positions that are available, District Secretary and District Reporter. When you reach that level your leadership skills will improve and you will gain name recognition. At that point you will become a role model and will set a positive example for fellow members. You must climb "Aboard the Success Express" and guarantee yourself with "Your Ticket to the Future" by running for a state officer position. Not only is this a great opportunity, but also a responsibility that will broaden your lifestyle and future. Numerous activities and meetings will allow you to link with Colorado FBLA as well as members from other states. Challenge yourself and make it your goal to become the best that you can be. Take it one step further in Colorado FBLA.

Kellsie Nienhuser

The mission of the National Awards program is to prepare students for successful careers in business through support for curriculum development and innovative assessment tools." FBLA's Competitive Events program offers students opportunities to demonstrate career competencies, business knowledge, and job related skills, to celebrate their competitive spirit, and to receive recognition for their achievements.

While FBLA has always been successful in achieving this mission, this year, brand new events will offer students more "hands on" opportunities to showcase their skills and talents. In the past, many of the FBLA competitive events involved standardized tests that explore students' knowledge of specific business skills and

Kellsie Nienhuser (Continued)
applications. Although standardized tests may allow students to demonstrate what they know, they lack one key element: experience. Face it, if you walk into any business in any city, do you really think you would see business people taking standardized tests? No, you would see them involved in presentations, projects, designs, and other interactive tasks.

This is where the new events come in. Since FBLA is all about career development, and since so many new and different opportunities have found their way in the business arena, more presentation events have been added to the program. Competitive Events that actually demand that students demonstrate specific competencies not only strengthen FBLA members' knowledge of specific careers, but also give them the confidence and poise needed to compete in the business world. Competitive Events such as Digital Video Production, which actually has students create a film clip and showcase it for an audience; or Global Business, which asks students to orally demonstrate how they might solve issues surrounding problems that could impact world business affairs, both involve real-world applications.

I remember hearing once, but cannot recall when or from whom, the saying, "With experience, you too, gain confidence." If we actually get to experience some aspects of the jobs that we will be doing some day, we will be more confident workers and more assertive leaders. I have always thought if students would have more opportunities to really show someone, like a teacher, what they know and can do, instead of taking an objective test, that education could be a more rewarding endeavor for both students and teachers. Who knows...maybe FBLA will blaze a new trail for all of education.

Jordan Jackson

I remember sitting in the 2nd grade classroom and being asked the question "Tell me about your hero." I knew that most kids would pick historical figures like Abraham Lincoln or George Washington. However, I wasn't like most second graders

My grandpa is an ordinary man, but what most didn't see only made him more of a hero through my eyes. You see, when I was little, even younger than second grade my grandma was diagnosed with breast cancer and everyday grandpa would tend to her.. I'd watch him lift her out of bed and carry her when she needed to use the bathroom, feed her when it was time for dinner, and stay home from golf games and playing cards just to make sure she was all right.

It would have been easy for my grandpa to give up. He could have sent her to a nursing home or brought in a nurse to stay with her, but Grandpa knew he'd made a commitment. He'd made a promise and he was going to stick to his word "in sickness and in health". Grandpa set a perfect example of what every human being should be like. He taught his grandchildren things most people can only hope to truly learn in their lifetime. He showed us that life's not about how many enemies we have but how to show our appreciation for those who love us just as we are. It's also not about how many setbacks we encounter but how to overcome those bumps in the road. And it's not about how many hours are actually in a day, but what we do with that time. My grandpa always made the most of everything through good times and bad.

Jordan Jackson (Continued)

Grandpa taught me that when life gives you lemons your only option is to make lemonade.

Chapter Articles

Sand Creek

During the year of 2006- 2007, FBLA has accomplished many things. In the beginning of the year we had many meetings getting the new FBLA members accustomed to what FBLA was and how it works.

This year we also held our annual holiday party. During the holiday party we had a give exchange/ white elephant. Many members came to this party and we had a great time enjoying the season. During the Christmas season we sold Christmas grams. Throughout the year we held many fundraisers. During football season we sold entertainment books. Along with the entertainment books at football games we had a dance. When homecoming came around we sold roses that were handed out. Around Valentine's Day we held a dance and sold roses and candy. The last fundraiser we did was sell breakfast burritos. Throughout the year we worked at concessions during different sport events. With all of these fundraisers we raised a lot of money that benefited FBLA. Once we decided what events each member was taking at District, we set up study nights and packets to help them prepare for what was coming. We held a Pre- District, where you came in proper dress attire and took a practice test and attended a workshop, just as if you were in Pueblo. After district many people placed and are attending the state level competition.

After state we are holding an end of the year banquet. We will also be electing new officers and committee chairs.

Centennial

This year, like so many years before, thousands of students who participate in FBLA will try and reach the pinnacle of performance in FBLA, that pinnacle being the National Conference in Chicago, Illinois. Having been to the National Conference in Nashville, we can safely say that the experience is worth all of the effort put forth. The National Conference is an incredible event to be part of, and the experiences that you will gain will benefit you throughout your lifetime.

The FBLA National Conference is not only about students competing against each other in various events, but it is also a valuable opportunity to broaden one's horizons. It introduces you to working in a team setting for a common goal, such as working with the other chapters in your state to bring recognition to your state's FBLA program. Through the national conference, we have learned that FBLA is much larger than just your school or even your district. The Conference is an incredible learning experience, and we encourage everyone to put forth the effort to qualify in whatever event piques your interest.

Not only is the National Conference a valuable opportunity to learn, but it is also an incredible opportunity to have some fun. Don't be discouraged from going to a National Conference for fear of it being all work and no play. During our experience in Nashville, most of our time was spent with our friends enjoying everything from checking out the local mall, to playing golf on a world class golf course. The possibilities for fun are literally endless, and

Centennial (Continued)

it is up to each student to create their own adventure. The NLC in Chicago promises to offer the same opportunities to learn and to grow, and we look forward to attending the Conference. If this year's trip is anything compared to 2006, we are all in for an incredible experience.

Monte Vista

The Monte Vista FBLA has been preparing for our ticket to success. We started the year off with a membership drive lunch. We then sent our officer team to the National Conference in Denver, then followed up with the fall leadership conference in Pueblo. After many long study sessions for district competition we are on our way to state with a goal of going to the National competition.

Middle Park

The Middle Park chapter of FBLA mixed things up this year. Instead of hosting the usual Homecoming Carnival, they waited a month to host an exciting Halloween Social on Saturday, October 28. Female officers dressed up as the "Fanta Dancers", with red, orange, yellow, and purple represented. That next weekend, officers and upperclassmen members attended the National Fall Leadership Conference held in Denver; there, the chapter represented Colorado at the Battle of the States, but sadly lost it for Colorado – sorry! Seniors Zez Ready, Bridget Korkowski, and Ashley Cray competed in the Virtual Business Challenge for the first time this year and ranked 22nd in the nation – not too shabby! They look forward to competing in the second round as team "Chicago or Bust".

This February will provide many learning experiences for Middle Park. Chapter President, Zez Ready, also serves as the District 2 Vice President, therefore making Middle Park the host chapter for Districts on February 9th. Two weeks after hosting

Middle Park (Continued)

an amazing conference, the chapter once again went into the limelight as the host the *Clue Mystery Winter Formal Dance* at Middle Park. Watch out for Middle Park at State, they have already boarded the Success Express!

Eads

The Entrepreneurship class, all FBLA members and students in the Eads High School Business Department has been busy laying the ground work to open a business. This business will be an ebay store and will be run by business students and FBLA members and will provide a continuous source of revenue for the FBLA chapter. The store will sell an assortment of items, including, photographs taken by Jon DeLorenzo. There are many beautiful photographs of wildlife and wonderful Colorado sceneries already posted on the page. A percentage of the proceeds from these photos will go to the Hunt of a Lifetime Foundation. Our store will also sell items for anybody in the community or surrounding area that needs something sold. A percentage of the profits will be kept by the FBLA chapter, but the majority of the profit will go to you. This option will save those who choose to participate much time and effort. We encourage everyone to go and view our store at <http://stores.ebay.com/The-Eagles-Store>. Thank you for your support!

Battle Mountain

This year Battle Mountain High School FBLA had the unique opportunity to host the Colorado District 9 District Conference in Grand Junction. We have hosted this

Battle Mountain (Continued)

conference in the past, but this year, we were faced with numerous new challenges that we successfully coordinated. We also decided to break from the traditional conference mold, and added some original and fresh ideas to the conference.

To keep the students occupied in between testing, we created the "Success Express Career Expo." Our chapter officers brought together community business leaders, career information sessions, and collegiate and technical school advisors for a career fair. The Expo was a tremendous success and allowed students to take an active role in the conference outside of their competitive events.

Additionally, we created the "Internet Café" test, allowing students to use their technological and internet-surfing skills to find answers online to current business and entrepreneurship related trivia.

This year we also decided to host the awards ceremony in an old, historic theater in downtown Grand Junction. Traditionally students have had limited interaction with the town of Grand Junction, and they usually show up, compete, leave, and rarely break out of their hotel rooms. However, having the ceremony away from the conference center, allowed the students to interact with the town more, and experience the awards in a grand setting adding a more formal air to the ceremony.

Change can be risky, but the changes made at this year's District 9 conference were extremely successful.

Grand Junction

This year Grand Junction High School's FBLA chapter has done some exciting things! One of these amazing activities was our spectacular American Enterprise Day Business Tour. On American Enterprise Day our chapter set out to tour locally run

Grand Junction (Continued)

businesses, such as Main Street Bagels and Roper Music. Throughout our tour we talked to the business owners on their strategies to running a successful business. Each business owner taught us techniques on how they draw attention into their store, and many of them taught us how they use technology to enlarge their business from community to global. Many of these businesses sell their products to customers across the world for a much higher value than in the U.S. They showed us how you put higher priced items in the back of the store so that people aren't intimidated by the pricey items and gradually work their way farther back. By the end of the day we had learned a little something about managing businesses from food to music to photography to fishing! Our whole chapter now has more knowledge about how to take something we love and make it in the market!

Over Spring Break, we are traveling to Denver to learn more. We will start with FBLA night at the Nuggets. On Saturday, we will tour Johnsons and Wales University. Sunday and Monday will include a walking tour of the LoDo business district, a tour of the Denver Mint, and a visit with executives from the World Trade Center.

Bear Creek

When children start up new clubs with their friends, the only things that are necessary is a tree house and a pitcher of Kool-Aid. However, the Bear Creek FBLA is finding out the hard way that what might work well for a bored five-year-old does not necessarily work very well for a team of

Bear Creek (Continued)

motivated high school students.

The lists of tasks to be completed are virtually endless and there is always at least one aspect that needs to be either completed or improved. There are always forms to complete, officers to elect, state representatives to contact, and events to plan. In spite of the hoards of work that need completed, Bear Creek is gladly taking on the new challenges and is looking forward to all that is to come.

The idea that new clubs can't perform well was disproved this year at the district conference. Bear Creek de-bunked the myth. The students did extremely well and the vast majority placed into the top ten of their event. Mike Yang, who competed in computer applications, qualified for the state conference in Vail. In support, Jon Bon Jovi once said in his speech at Oxford University, "Sometimes, the advantage is having to work twice as hard to accomplish your goal. The success is sweeter and the failure less bitter when you know you gave everything you had." Bear Creek proved this statement.

With 2006-2007 being the maiden voyage of the BCHS-FBLA, the sails are set and the possibilities are endless. With the hard work and dedication of the Bear Creek team, the foundation is set strong for the future students to come.

Sterling

The Sterling High School FBLA has had a busy year aboard the Success Express. The year began with a renewed emphasis on recruitment. We began the year with a pizza party recruitment night in September. Marketing skills were used to recruit members that swayed from FBLA to have them rejoin. Our recruitment paid off and the chapter now consists of 102 members.

November and December were very eventful months for us. We teamed up with

Sterling (Continued)

several local organizations to help out the community. Members rang the bell for the Salvation Army, delivered food baskets for Logan County Cooperating Ministries, and aided the Chamber of Commerce as "Santa's Elves". We began fundraising in hopes of defraying the cost for the Colorado State Leadership Conference. For fundraising we sold Barn Yard Candles, print cartridges and our most recent fundraiser which was done for Valentine's Day was a school wide survey called Data Match. Also during these months, members were busy preparing for their FBLA competitions and projects.

All of the members who had been working vigorously on their competitive events attended the District IV Competition on February 13, 2007 at NJC. Eighty-four members attended the conference, which 75 members placed in the top ten. There will be 55 SHS students preparing for competition and projects for the State Leadership Conference in April.

The first annual Colorado FBLA Nuggets night is a great way to reward our members. We will be participating by taking 57 members on a field trip to Denver, March 9th and then attend the festivities at the Pepsi Center. The trip includes lunch and sightseeing of businesses on the 16th Street Mall. Economic Development in downtown areas is a huge concern for every city. Visiting the 16th Street Mall will allow our members to see the creativity and development to rebuild an area for growth.

We are looking forward to the State Leadership Conference and hopefully

Sterling (Continued)

sending members to the National Leadership Conference in Chicago this summer. So far this year, Sterling High FBLA has certainly jumped aboard the Success Express.

Sangre De Cristo

The Sangre de Cristo FBLA Chapter participated in a highway clean in the fall for their community service project. This is their way they say of giving back to their community. For the clean they had a total of twenty-two members show up to help. And the members who did not show up or were unable to had the chance to participate in another project later this year.

The SDC Chapter cleans a total of two miles (from the five to the six mile, the six to the seven mile, the seven to the six mile, and the six to the five mile) on both sides of Highway 17. The members enjoy getting a chance to give back to their community. They also enjoy getting a free drink from the local Pit Stop after the clean has been completed.

Burlington

This year our FBLA chapter has conducted several activities including from pool parties, blood drives, and a digital sign project for our school.

During the summer, to keep members involved, our FBLA chapter held two pool parties, one on Saturday, July 1, and the other on Tuesday, August 1. Both were big hits with all who attended! FBLA members and other middle through high school students had a chance to kick back and have some fun in the sun!

On Wednesday, October 18, FBLA members volunteered at a local blood drive. They supported the blood drive by helping set up, operate, and clean up the blood drive, not to mention that many of the members gave blood! Our next blood drive will be January 17th. This has been a great

Burlington (Continued)

partnership with the Bonfils Blood Center.

For the past year our FBLA members have been conducting a fundraiser to raise \$12,000 for a new digital sign to be put up in front of our school. In order to raise money for the project, our students have been selling engraved bricks to people in which the person chooses their name or a saying on their brick. We recently raised enough money to purchase the sign.

We have had a great year with all that we have accomplished and are anticipating upcoming activities and events such as FBLA District Competition and State FBLA. We also look forward to doing fun and exciting activities and events. We would like to thank all of our members for all their hard work!

Swink

In the business world, you tend to only look out for number one, but at the FBLA National Leadership Conference I recently attended, this was not the case. This conference, which took place in Denver on November 3 and 4, 2006, was an excellent opportunity for me and many others to mingle and have a glimpse at what business life may be. We did this several ways. The first of these was basic networking. While there, I increased my collection of business cards tremendously. These are people that actually want me to contact them if I have a problem. In turn I gave them my card and with any luck they will call me and ask for a favor. This can be a great tool in the business world because you never know who you might need a helping hand from.

Swink (Continued)

Another thing that helped us along the path was the workshops we attended. There was a great variety to choose from and their topics included everything from networking to college searching to marketing. Just about anything you might like to know, even how to avoid sexual predators on Myspace.com, was right there in that one building.

Also, students learned about team work. This may have been achieved in small groups during a workshop but the most prevalent example of this was at the general sessions, when each state yelled themselves hoarse to try and out-yell the other states. But I feel that I learned many skills that will be most helpful in the future, whether I pursue a business career or not.

Finally, at this conference, we all developed some sense of ethics and morality. For some, making ethical decisions can be tough. "Do I sabotage my competitor or risk losing my job?" But nearly all the workshops I attended, whether that was its intent or not, bestowed small doses of ethics onto the listeners and at least planted a seed of morality.

I feel that the conference I attended for FBLA was one of the best experiences of my life. I met tons of people and learned quite a few things I did not know before. Put those together with some good old fashioned fun, and you have yourself a learning environment!

West Grand

By participating in FBLA many young adults are learning life skills that are needed in every day challenges. Out of all the many skills three really stand out to me; leadership, organization, and responsibility.

By joining FBLA at any level you gain a great amount of leadership. Whether it's engaging in an officer position or just observing those in office you get to see first hand how to manage and be

West Grand (Continued)

managed. This is a very important skill in life because you need to learn to lead and not just to follow.

Another import skill to have is organization. With out being organized you would never get anything accomplished during meetings and/or activities. Not to mention preparing for districts would be near impossible.

Responsibility, a skill that you will not only gain but show in everything that you try and accomplish in life. It's very important to be responsible especially having other people rely and trust in you.

FBLA is a great way in learning many life skills. Not that the ones I mentioned above are the most important it's just that they play an important role in what we are trying to accomplish in this organization.

Important Events:

State Leadership Conference

April 15-17, 2007

Vail, CO

National Leadership Conference

June 28-July 1

Chicago, IL



<p><i>Aries (March 21- April 21)</i> Get ready for State! Study up as well as help your fellow members while they are preparing!</p>	<p><i>Libra (September 24- October 24)</i> Mark your calendar now! The State Leadership Conference is April 15-17 and the National Leadership Conference is June 28- July 1.</p>
<p><i>Taurus (April 21-May 21)</i> Set up a summer program for fundraising! This would be a great way to get a head start on the next year!</p>	<p><i>Scorpio (October 24- November 22)</i> Get going on a fundraiser for State or Nationals.</p>
<p><i>Gemini (May 22-June 22)</i> Use the practice tests available from National FBLA to study up so that you perform well in the State Leadership Conference!</p>	<p><i>Sagittarius (November 23-December 23)</i> Organize your chapter for an FBLA banquet. Invite members and their families for a celebration!</p>
<p><i>Cancer (June 23-July 23)</i> It's never too late to prepare for State! Make sure you know your subject inside and out so that you do well at SLC!</p>	<p><i>Capricorn (December 24- January 19)</i> Talk to some local businesses about having a summer internship. This is a great way to sharpen your FBLA skills!</p>
<p><i>Leo (July 23-August 24)</i> The next year will be full of business surprises! Make sure you are ready for them by sticking with FBLA over the summer</p>	<p><i>Aquarius (January 20- February 19)</i> Run for a chapter office and lead your chapter into the next FBLA year!</p>
<p><i>Virgo (August 23- September 24)</i> Put together a chapter fundraiser for your members headed to the National Leadership Conference!</p>	<p><i>Pisces (February 20- March 20)</i> Make contacts with some local businesses and government to make your chapter even stronger.</p>