

# COLORADO FBLA TODAY

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## STATE OFFICER CANDIDATES

Each year, a group of students is selected to help in the planning, running, organizing, promotion, and expansion of Colorado FBLA. These dedicated members are able to develop their leadership qualities and work on a tight-knit team to bring their visions for the future of FBLA to life. The 2022-2023 state officer team has loved the amazing opportunities they have been given, but it is time to pass the torch. Here are the stories, experiences, and chapter activities of the 2023-2024 state officer candidates!



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## MY FBLA LEADERSHIP STORY

*By Madinatou Kouanda*

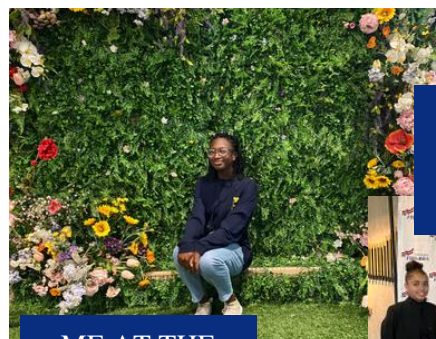
*Vista Peak Preparatory*

Attending the State leadership conference, surrounded by thousands of ambitious members, I became inspired. Inspired by the community Colorado FBLA members created an organization, filled with fun, encouragement, and teamwork. Inspired by the leadership of our then-state officers whose Leadership helped me grow. These are the factors that shifted my perspective of FBLA and pushed me to become more involved. and within the next 7th months, I had a leadership role on a local, state, and national level. My main goal currently is to develop resources for members. My main initiative is a video series that shares competition tips from national winners on YouTube.

When anyone asks me, “Why do you want to be a leader?”, my response is: because I want to give others what I wish I had. I remember, 2 years ago, during Covid, when my chapter barely had meetings, and I could barely compete. The organization that was supposed to empower students, did not exactly spark my confidence. The one thing I wish I had were resources to guide me. But, Last year, with more clarity and guidance from my advisor, I qualified for the state leadership conference, with my partner. And SLC 2022, shaped my path to becoming a leader in FBLA.



What is My motivation you ask? To help every member experience the amazing feeling of a State leadership conference: the rush of the opening session with conga lines, walking across the stage, and most of all, the feeling of belonging. As I continue to serve as a leader, my hope is to improve our membership experience by increasing access to resources, because I believe your success as a leader is determined by the success of those you lead.



ME AT THE  
GAYLORD  
ROCKIES  
DURING SLC  
2022



MY CHAPTER  
AT SLC 2022

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## SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY AND BE A LEADER

*By Bhushali Jain**Silver Creek High School*

“If a window of opportunity appears, don’t pull down the shade” said Tom Peters, a business management writer. We all are given opportunities but taking a chance and stepping off the high dive is a different story. It takes confidence to seize the opportunity, to become a leader.

Through my FBLA journey, I have learned that you must take the opportunities, step up, and become a leader when no one else does. When I first started my freshman year, I didn't know much, I was shy, lacked self-confidence, and didn't have many public speaking skills. I knew that I needed to take advantage of the very few clubs that my school offered, so I joined FBLA. Through FBLA I have tremendously grown, I have developed public speaking skills, leadership skills, business skills, and communication skills. I was able to harness these skills and implement what I learned to better myself, advance my chapter, and also impact those globally.

My chapter this year started off small but mighty, with only 4 people, so our chapter seized the opportunity and wherever we could market FBLA, we did. We had a lot of recruitment activities and events where we made sure people knew about FBLA and had the chance to join. We also participated in FBLA national leadership conference where we were able to network with peers from all around the country and build relationships with them.



FBLA has taught me a key lesson when being a leader it is not about the power or being someone whom everyone follows, it is more about the impact you can have. So using what FBLA taught me I was able to create a non-profit organization that taught me true leadership in the real world. FBLA leadership and real-world experiences have led me to step out of my comfort zone. It has developed a great passion for business for me and shown me that FBLA is truly an opportunity that shouldn’t be passed on. It has given me so many life skills and opportunities, but most importantly it has given me a voice.

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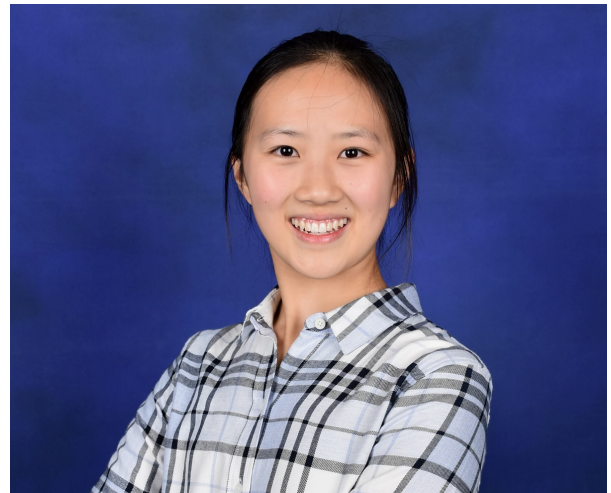
## WHAT MONEY CAN'T BUY

*By Amy Gao**Cherry Creek High School*

A few years back, I took initiative to purchase the Costco transaction. Yet when I replied I'd need \$20 to afford the watermelon in the cart, my mother laughed, asking if I instead was paying for the rice cooker. While I ignored my flushed ears then, only five years later when gifted a debit card, I was obliged to face my embarrassment and dreamland of ignorance—a place where a lucky ten-dollar bill increased my allowance two-fold.

Advertised across my high school campus, the name “Future Business Leaders of America” promised on face to instill in me an acute money sense, as would any lecture or textbook reading. But little did I know, the club's purpose was not to churn out the next Bill Gates. Time after time I was proven wrong: every professional speaker invited to the room associated their life's work beyond the dollar, every competition taught me the value of confidence, and with every corporate sponsorship proposal I laid on the table with local businesses, I realized, not only garnered a reputation for my school but also was a lesson on how to secure partnerships and later guide my fellow peers.

FBLA, unlike any textbook, has become a living-breathing community that speaks to learning by doing, like a constructive positive feedback loop...



...Just as Dale Carnegie once said, “We provide [children] with roast beef and potatoes to build energy”, we need to feed appetites with “kind words of appreciation that would sing in their memories for years”. Only when my officer team taught their own events did they strengthen interpersonal relationships so that students felt greater motivation, myself included—and avoid packing their bags if not titled first.

Funny how in 1981, the New York Telephone Company logged “I” as the most frequently used in a telephone conversation, repeated 900 times across 50 telephone conversations. “I.” “I.” “I”. But if we are as invested in others as we are ourselves, the community learns as a whole. Hence the FBLA motto of Service, Education, Process. Let us invest in FBLA, business education, something no amount of 20 dollar bills can buy.



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## WHO'S TRYSTAN TRINH?

*By Trystan Trinh*

*Monarch High School*



Hello Colorado FBLA! I am Trystan Trinh, a current junior at Monarch High School with an ongoing three years in FBLA. Positioned as CFO of my local chapter and a two-time Outreach Officer for District 2. Participation with such an extraordinary organization has not only furthered both my high school and real-world experiences but also engaged me to meet new people and have fun!

Skills varying from networking, team building, community service, communication, etc. were prominent skills that were developed and used throughout my involvement within FBLA. Significant skill sets useful for school activities and within the Program of Work (POW). As claimed by FBLA Alumni, Ninna Trinh, “It definitely formed my traits in leadership; communication, collaboration, and strategies within teamwork.” After graduating high school, Ninna established a legacy runway for her younger siblings, Tylor Trinh and I. Tracing and following in her footsteps, I strive to be a successor and forever benefit the operations of my local chapter and District 2 as both District Officer and (hopefully) State Officer!

Deeming succession within my chapter holds true on several occasions. The most important was the recovery from the pandemic and the transfer to remote learning. Monarch FBLA maintained only 37 members during “The Zoom Era,” though, the following year, the local chapter grew 48% with a total membership of 72. Membership only grew since then! Sean McCoy, the Monarch FBLA Advisor, has unique and effective methods of gaining significant numbers in chapter membership. He maneuvers his curriculum to match any content regarding FBLA and real-world ideals. He engages students within his US Government class and Economics class with learning the abilities to uphold a job interview, and understands Economics 101, along with basic ideas of marketing. With his distinct approach and constant show of love for FBLA, students begin to show interest and join.

Recruits are hoped to show commitment and courage within the chapter for the chapter to be the most productive. MoHi members are rewarded for utmost commitment and productivity for understanding the betterment of the chapter. Benefits are great and all, but it is a necessity that all officers remain a leader and be a significant role model for new members. Establishing fundraisers, community service projects, and chapter activities are useful methods of role modeling and defining leadership to others. Which is the primary factor within such a unique organization. Future Business Leaders of America. Four keywords that evolve the betterment of a student both academically and professionally.

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YHS HIGH SCHOOL

By Jordan Glanz

Yuma High School

In the 2022-2023 school year Yuma High School FBLA had many successful fundraisers. This year we had a very successful Sales Team. Our sales team made enough money for us to go to NFLC here in Denver, the Rockies and Avalanche game, District FBLA, and all of our state qualifiers' state trips.

The YHS sales team sold ads that were shown on the score table in the Pit and the Aux gym. They were also shown on the live stream in commercials. We have lots of people that come to our games in the Pit and lots of people that watch the live stream so many people and businesses want to buy from us.

With the Sales Team making so many sales we only had to do a few small fundraisers to make the rest of the money. We did a “pop shot” at halftime at one of our basketball games. We had people give us money and they got to shoot a basket and if they made it then they won a 2-liter bottle of pop. We also hosted a Trivia Night out at our golf course. We had a very good turnout at both the “Pop Shot” and the Trivia Night. We had a very successful year in FBLA this year!



FLYER FOR OUR POP SHOT



FLYER FOR TRIVIA NIGHT

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TO UNITE, ACCORDING TO ME.

By Brailey Angelovich  
 North Fork High School

During my time as the North Fork High School FBLA Chapter’s Secretary, my chapter has had the privilege of carrying out multiple fundraisers. Throughout the year, we have been able to run the concession stand at volleyball games, basketball games, and wrestling matches.

Additionally, we have had the ability to host a bake sale at our school's Wounded Warrior Dodgeball Tournament. Funds from this successful fundraiser did not go to our chapter, but to the veterans in our community; we were able to give back to the community that is so very accepting and excited about the new chapter of FBLA.

This past autumn, FBLA members had the pleasure of taking our school bake sale out to the community. Every year, the town of Paonia, a rural and flourishing town in Colorado, coordinates a fall harvest festival; this year, we were invited to bring a booth to spread awareness and fundraise for the chapter's expenses. In September, we organized a caramel apple sale, and it was a hit. By adding another option to the concession stand menu, we were able to substantially increase our sales. After that breakthrough, we decided to organize a soup dinner. We all brought a crockpot of soup to sell and worked shifts with jobs that included: taking money, running concessions, and serving soup. The soup dinner allowed us to double our normal profits and apply our business knowledge.



Opportunities like this, allow members to learn business skills they can take with them throughout their lives. To me, fundraising is not about how much money you can make, but rather what you can accomplish when you unite yourselves with a common goal. In this case, fundraising and building awareness of the chapter were ours. I truly believe that when we problem-solve together we can rectify anything.



HARVEST FESTIVAL BOOTH



CARAMEL APPLE SALE



SOUP DINNER FUNDRAISER

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FBLA & THE PEOPLE IN IT

By KayleeAnn Martinez

Sargent High School



I still remember the first time I considered FBLA; I was in Sangre de Cristo High School and Mrs. Sessuems and Makayla had tried to get me to join. At that time I wasn't looking into doing any extracurricular activities. I then moved to Sargent High School and the chapter president, Kyla Davis tried her best at convincing me to join. She asked me what career path I wanted to follow and naturally I responded with "healthcare." She then proceeded to tell me that there was indeed a competitive event in healthcare. I can honestly say that Kyla is the reason I am in FBLA today.

At first, I was skeptical of joining, but Kyla reassured me that it would be fun, and nothing yet has proved her wrong. When we competed at state last year she helped me and showed me the ropes. To this day I am thankful that she convinced me into joining. Kyla graduated last year, and I miss her very much. She showed me that when you open up to new things you might just enjoy them. To this day I am thankful for her and all she has done for me. Another great person is Brooke. She was there for me as I was anxious about competitions. Together we made a lot of memories together in FBLA.

Lastly, we have my chapter advisor, Mrs. Bartee. Recently she has been the biggest supporter that I could ever ask for. As I have questions about FBLA, I know I can go straight to her. She's been there for me through the whole process of competitions, state office applications, and in life in general. These people listed have been some huge supporters and I am more than thankful for them.



KYLA AND I  
READY TO GO  
FOR  
COMPETITION.



BROOKE AND I EXPLORING  
THE GAYLORD ROCKIES  
RESORT & CONVENTION  
CENTER.



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**MY FBLA EXPERIENCE***By Kyndal Richards**Idalia High School*

“Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality,” said Warren Bennis an American scientist. Leadership styles continue to be used all around the world: in the classroom, organizations, and workforce. Every day someone around you is being a leader to accomplish the common goal. Are you that leader?

My FBLA story started in 8th grade when I joined Middle-Level FBLA. From then to now, my leadership skills grew, and I learned to execute a plan because of FBLA. Everyone has ideas but very few are willing to take the leap of faith and lead a group to success. Those who do either complete it or fail but even failure teaches you more than never trying.

In 2021, I took a leap of faith and worked to become a district officer. Knowing this would require hard work, dedication, and commitment to create a conference. Though a leader's job is to execute plans including all behind the scene work and turn them into reality, it does not all fall back on you. Your team will be your best friend through the process. Young business leaders today must prove they have the same strong work ethic as those in generations before them. FBLA is helping this generation and their drive within themselves to become leaders for America.

In 2022, I saw an opportunity to become a Colorado FBLA State Officer and took a leap of faith. This has changed me into the person I am today. Everyone has a comfort zone but exploring outside makes for a strong leader. I have learned that hard work and dedication will take you places you never knew. A leader's motivation helps envision possibilities with no limitations. Raise your sights higher, build your personality beyond limitations, and let us see what leader you are!

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STATE OFFICER CANDIDATE FBLA STORY

By *Yaelyn Chavez*  
*Roosevelt High School*

My journey with FBLA began long before high school and even middle school. When I was much younger, I began following my sister around in her journey with FBLA. As a child, I watched my sister fall in love with the organization and work hard to become a state officer. Before I knew it, I was at an FBLA state conference in Vail, which was my first chance to see her in action. I quickly understood the significance behind FBLA and the power it held because I noticed the impact the organization had on her. I noticed she became much more comfortable with her public speaking skills and shared her opinions more frequently.



MY SISTER,  
 PARENTS AND I  
 AT THE FBLA  
 STATE  
 CONFERENCE  
 IN 2015



ME AT THE  
 NATIONAL  
 LEADERSHIP  
 CONFERENCE IN  
 CHICAGO THIS PAST  
 SUMMER

From that point on, I knew I wanted to be an FBLA member. This is why I immediately joined FBLA middle level at the founding of my middle school’s chapter and soon became Chapter President. Now at the high school level, I’m president of my chapter and ready to take a bigger step. In this position, I help plan and execute member, school, and community events and fundraisers while also preparing for my competitive events and helping members with theirs. Due to the hard work of our officer team, our chapter has increased by over 120% in member count in the past year. FBLA has taught me that anyone that puts their mind to it can become a leader and make a difference. Anyone that puts forth the effort, perseverance, and time can win an event, can apply for a job, or even start their own business. FBLA holds countless crucial opportunities that can impact and benefit its members in the future. I want to make a larger impact and provide these kinds of opportunities for members across Colorado and the nation.

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WHAT INNOVATION AND FBLA CAN DO

By Gabriel Hankins
Vista Peak Preparatory



Leadership for me started by joining Future Business Leaders of America. I am fortunate that at my local chapter, Vista Peak Preparatory, we aggressively pursue service, progress, and education through our school-based enterprises (SBE).

School-based enterprises are businesses run by students that can promote their skills and give opportunities for growth. SBEs and FBLA were the solutions to my lacking confidence, stutter, and team leadership skills. I have recently assumed the general manager position of our SBEs: Peak Prints and Vista Eats. Peak Prints is a custom t-shirt and merchandise business, driven toward creating school spirit and incorporating FBLA with our athletic community. Vista Eats, on the other hand, mimics Covid-19 innovation, as it delivers food and drinks directly to the classroom, incentivizing attendance, and outstanding student behavior. From these initiatives I, as well as other chapter members, have learned the complexities of marketing, supply chain management, and customer service, among many other skills and departments of business organizational structure. Thanks to the SBEs of Vista Peak Preparatory, I realized my leadership capabilities as I became a hands-on servant leader, dedicated to leading by example. Resolute in my newfound confidence, I better utilize FBLA networking opportunities, knowing I will be competing against members not only now, but when I am 30, 40, 50, and so on. Through FBLA I have found people that inspire me, push me further, and laugh with me. If there is one thing, I have learned about business so far, is that it takes a team to build a brand, deliver on a promise, and build something meaningful. School-based enterprise is the reason I succeed in FBLA and FBLA is the reason I will succeed in life. It will always be my honor to serve Future Business Leaders of America in any capacity!



PEAK PRINTS FIRST HOODIE & SHIRT



VISTA PEAK FBLA MEMBER MAKING HIS FIRST SHIRT



VISTA EATS LEARNING TO MAKE A SALE AT THE 2022 HOMECOMING FUNDRAISER



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# HOW FBLA CHANGED MY LIFE

*By Jacob Bowen*

*Chatfield Senior High School*

At the end of my freshman year of high school, my family moved, and even though I would be staying in my home state of Colorado, it was really unsettling. However, my experience was not the typical one, where the new kid struggles for a long time trying to make friends and find where they belong. Almost immediately after I started attending Chatfield, I felt assured and optimistic.

This is because, in the first month at my new school, I joined a club called FBLA. I always had an enthusiasm for business and communication, but for the first time in my life, I was surrounded by people with similar passions like my advisor, who has been a wonderful role model in my life. I have learned about so many FBLA categories since joining but My FBLA category is International Business which has given me insight into the major I want to pursue in college. The confidence I've gained through FBLA has flowed into other parts of my life including taking risks like building homes in Juarez Mexico and taking AP and honors classes. Because, through FBLA, I have learned that it is through failure, and the determination to keep trying, that you can succeed. Failure is no longer something I fear and try to avoid.



HOME I BUILT  
IN JUAREZ,  
MEXICO



FBLA's value lies in the fact that it is empowering people like me to feel confident, willing young adults to take risks and push themselves outside their comfort zone. I have used FBLA resources in many other parts of my life too, like using the internship course to help me secure my own internship. FBLA has not just made small unnoticeable changes in my life, it has been the basis from which I have grown and become ready to face my future.



PICTURE OF ME  
AND DISTRICT 2  
STATE OFFICER  
TEAM



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**STATE OFFICER CANDIDATE-CARLEY HASE-FBLA STORY**

*By Carley Hase  
Akron High School*



As a freshman, you are responsible for deciding what organization and activities you are interested in and how you will build leadership during your high school experience. Although the natural thing for me was sports, I soon realized that FBLA would change that. At 2022 District Three Leadership Conference, I competed in Introduction to Event Planning. My team placed second in Introduction to Event Planning and was extremely excited about our success. Approaching the 2022 State Leadership Conference, I was very excited to get started and prepare for what was to come in future years. My team competed in the Local Chapter Annual Business Report and placed second, qualifying for the National Leadership Conference. Since the State Leadership Conference, I knew that being a state officer was a leadership position I wanted to work towards.

I quickly consulted with my adviser on how I would accomplish this. She told me I had four days to fill out a district officer application, and I jumped right into the application and interview process. I soon became the District 3 Vice President of Education. I was ecstatic about the opportunity. I also was elected the Vice President of Progress for the Akron FBLA Chapter. At the 2022 National Leadership Conference, I competed in the Local Chapter Annual Business Report in Chicago, Illinois, and my love of FBLA leadership continued to grow. Before 2023 District Three Leadership Conference, I collaborated with Brynlyn Owens, a fellow district officer, to create a leadership workshop. We named it “Developing Leadership and Teamwork Skills,” which was very popular and full of attendees. The workshop included Minute to Win It, leadership games, and the Five Cs of Communication. Becoming a district officer was very fulfilling, and I am excited to start my journey toward becoming a state officer.

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**MY FBLA STORY***By Samantha Heath**Idalia High School*

My FBLA story started in middle school. I'd grown up watching my brother succeed and go to NLC, so I was excited to join and start my adventure. It didn't take long for me to find out that the more I put into FBLA, the more I got out of it. I competed in Intro to Business Presentation by 8th grade and freshman year and won 1st and 3rd, respectively. In my sophomore year, I mentioned to my business teacher that I was thinking about running for a district office. She suggested I try to be the president of District 3. For the next two months, I worked through the process of applying for state office. I can remember being called on stage at closing ceremonies to fill the District 3 State Officer position. I had no idea about the crazy path that moment would set me on.

FBLA has taught me many valuable lessons. Firstly, being professional doesn't mean you can't be personable. Showing your personality and building relationships is still possible in a professional setting. Secondly, two minds are greater than one. The work that comes from working as a team or asking for advice is always better than working alone. Finally, one of the most important things we can do in life is to be of service to others. Whether it's being kind in the smallest ways or working hard to give others a great experience, serving those around you makes a huge difference in the lives of others and in your own life. FBLA has given me some of my favorite memories and experiences that I will never forget.

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## MY JOURNEY WITH FBLA

*By Kaylin Trent*

*Rock Canyon High School*

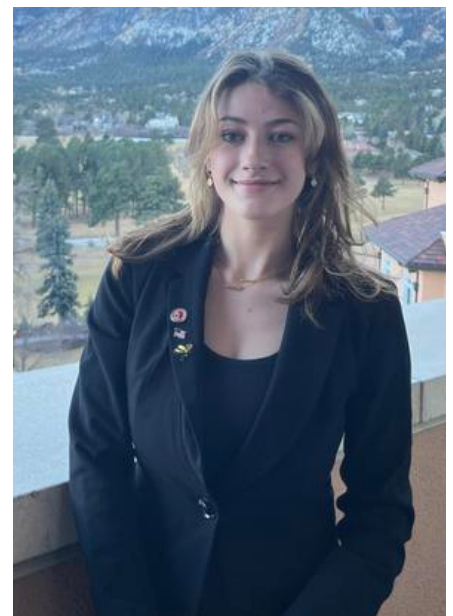
The reason I joined the business program and FBLA at my school was because of the business teacher, Mrs. Robinett. She recommended business courses to me at the incoming Freshman orientation.

During the Intro to Business class in my Freshman year she really pushed me into FBLA. I honestly couldn't visualize this for myself, I was struggling with adjusting to High School during COVID and remote learning, but she was persistent and knew my potential. Finally, in sophomore year I decided to join and I'm so glad I did. It ignited a passion in me. Even though I was totally defeated that year and didn't come close to making state, I still felt proud of myself and declared that I'd be better next year. I didn't let that failure define me and I never will. Failure shows that you are human but what you do after is up to you and you learn from failure.

At the start of this year, Mrs. Robinett pushed me to join DECA and I joined. I made state. This was one of the first times I've ever been so extraordinarily happy and proud. I started involving myself in different activities, staying after school to help with whatever needed to be done, and participating more. I felt as though it had become my responsibility to help. I am naturally drawn to help and serve others. Then I made FBLA state and whether I win or lose I will continue to help my team with everything I can. I love being a part of DECA, FBLA, and this community. I recognize the life skills that I'm learning from it. I'm so happy that I joined and have met so many amazing people along the way. I don't think I will ever be able to thank my advisor Mrs. Robinett enough.



THIS WAS ME AT FBLA DISTRICTS WITH MY FIRST GRADE TEACHER WHO VOLUNTEERED TO JUDGE ALONG WITH MY MOM, DAD, AND GRANDMA!



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**DISTRICT 6 MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE**

*By Ryan Whalen*

*Liberty High School*

Recently, at the Colorado FBLA District 6 Leadership Conference, a community service workshop was hosted to give members an opportunity to improve their leadership skills by giving back to their community.

Members were given the opportunity to make tie knot blankets and write valentines cards and letters for the non-profit Soldier's Angles, which provides support to actively deployed and disabled veterans.

One District 6 leader, Soumya Devulapalli, Vice President of Education and Workshop Liaison, describes why the district chose a community service workshop over more conventional workshops held in the past, "A community service workshop gives students the opportunity to support members in our community, especially considering the military presence in our local community". Devulapalli also describes the student reception to this new workshop structure for District 6, "Instead of sitting in on a lecture, students were able to do a hands-on activity that was not only fun and engaging but also actively helps the world around them. I think that this was a great opportunity and many students enjoyed participating in a hands-on activity".



This proved to be a successful workshop opportunity when in total, the district made six tie knot blankets and 130 valentines cards and letters. Students were also given the opportunity to financially support the costs of these community service projects.



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## FBLA: MY STORY - MY JOURNEY

*By Olga Montano**Weld Central High School*

When contemplating whether or not I should join FBLA, I had one question in my mind: What if I was not good enough? As a freshman in high school, I did not feel confident in my abilities and did not believe I could break out of my silent shell. However, when I decided to take a risk and join Sangre De Cristo's FBLA chapter, that when my perspective seemed to change.

I started FBLA, a quiet timid person, in the midst of the pandemic. During the pandemic, I isolated myself during the pandemic not knowing how to reach out and speak to others. I found myself with little to no friends, but in the end, I found myself contemplating competing in FBLA. While taking a business class, the teacher Mrs. Sessums wanted to break this silent shell and decided to put me into public speaking, a way of forcing me into having some human connection in my life. It was tough, knowing how uncomfortable I was with people, and nevertheless my anxiety with speaking. During my first year competing in impromptu speaking, I was lucky enough to have been surrounded by the most supportive people I have ever met. FBLA was not just competing, it was also the family bond you have with your chapter. In my sophomore year, I decided to once again compete in the same event, and I did even better my second time. I found myself happy being surrounded by the people in my chapter and made many new friends from different places. I did not place, but in the end, my confidence became stronger, and so did my speaking abilities.



Transitions are always scary, and I encountered one when I was told I would be moving across the state of Colorado, to Keenesburg, Colorado. I had no idea if I would continue FBLA, due to the fact I was new to the school and district. In the end, I decided to not only continue to do FBLA but to continue to thrive and become my chapter's president and district officer. Here at Weld Central High School, I have made another strong family bond with my chapter, and I would not change that for the world. I will continue wanting to grow and take charge of becoming the best FBLA member that I can be. Sometimes, it will be stressful and hard, but I like to remember where I started. I began my FBLA career lacking confidence, shyness, and not knowing what FBLA was, to becoming a strong, confident leader in my new chapter that I am proud to call my own.

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# FBLA: MY STORY - MY JOURNEY (CONT.)

*By Olga Montano*

*Weld Central High School*

My advice to you, the reader, is to know that you are good enough. No matter what, you can always continue to grow and learn throughout your FBLA experience. Just because you did not place, get a medal, or plaque, does not mean you cannot grow to be at that level. You as a person need to understand that change can happen, it just takes time. From one growing FBLA member to another, \*you got this!\*



SANGRE DE CRISTO  
FBLA CHAPTER AT  
SLC



MY FRESHMAN YEAR  
IN FBLA: AFTER  
DISTRICTS



MY FIRST YEAR AS A  
DISTRICT OFFICER:  
HANDING OUT  
AWARDS

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**MY FBLA STORY***By Arjun Singh Bumrah**Broomfield High School*

I joined FBLA during my sophomore year of High School. When I didn't believe in myself, lacked confidence, and was a shy person. I was very reluctant to join at first but decided to give it a shot. My FBLA journey began by doing community service events such as cleaning my school to help janitors and donating books for needy kids. This motivated me to be more involved in FBLA.

Then, A few months later, I competed in my 1st District competition, placing 4th in Digital Video Production, during this time I wasn't confident, and didn't think I would succeed. After achieving this goal, a fire lit up inside me that I shouldn't underestimate myself, and rather believe in myself, this helped boost my confidence into a higher gear. Then competing at the SLC, I had various opportunities such as networking with members, competing, and refining my business skills through multiple workshops such as money management.

After placing 3rd at SLC and attending NLC in 2022, I realized what an incredible organization FBLA is. And the massive impact it has on student's lives, by demonstrating how the sky is the limit. This motivated me to show others the various opportunities FBLA offers.



As a result, I became a Treasurer in my local FBLA chapter. This gave me the opportunity to serve my local community, motivate chapter members, and honor FBLA's legacy. After some time as Treasurer, I decided to join the District 2 Officer Team, as Social Media Director. This allowed me to showcase member achievements, and service projects, and unite the FBLA community. To me FBLA is a Family, it is a place where I feel heard, and can grow both as a person and a leader. I have had ups and downs, but the experience outweighs the struggle.



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## HOW I BECAME INVOLVED IN FBLA

*By Brisa Zubia*

*Granada High School*

To begin, I joined FBLA during my sophomore year of high school when it was first introduced to Granada High School. When I attended my first chapter meeting, we talked about what FBLA is and how it will impact you. My intentions right away were that this will make a big impact on me in the future. There were so many reasons that this organization opened my eyes.

One reason FBLA has helped me is that I have always been such a shy person, and attending conferences, zoom calls, etc. has helped me so much. The reason it has helped is that my adviser has a rule that at each conference, we attend we must meet five or more new people. In my opinion, this is a great rule, because it gives me the opportunity to interact with so many different people from so many different backgrounds. Another big reason FBLA has had an impact on me is definitely in the public speaking area. I dislike giving speeches and having to present in front of crowds. However, when we attend conferences, we also attend workshops, and engaging with the guest speaker and answering questions is not as worse as I thought. I am a District 7 Officer, so recently we had our District Leadership Conference which meant I had to speak in front of a big crowd. I was very nervous at first, but after a while, I thought to myself this isn't so bad, and I feel like I am definitely more open now and it is easier to present in front of people. Lastly, the main reason I enjoy FBLA is that after High School I hope to attend Cosmetology school, and eventually open my own salon. Participating in FBLA has shown me what steps to take and what it is like to become an entrepreneur. I have also learned some things about how to start a business, and what accounting tools to use and so much more.



Overall FBLA has really made a big impact on my daily life and future plans. I am so grateful for all the new people and opportunities I have had. The most important thing I am grateful for is building bonds with everyone in our FBLA chapter, especially my adviser. I am glad to have Mrs. Rink as my adviser, she has helped me learn so much about this Organization and help me be where I am today.



OUR CHAPTER, GRANADA, AT DISTRICT 7 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Service | Education | Progress

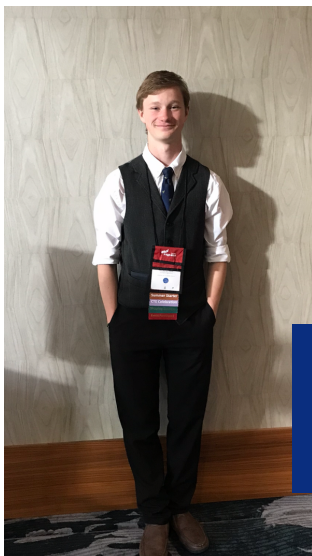
WHAT FBLA HAS DONE FOR ME.

By Riley Barnes

Burlington High School

When I had first begun high school and joined FBLA, I generally had no idea or thought about what it was or why I was told to join it. I practically just cruised through the meetings our chapter had and wasn't paying attention to much of it. Then, I went to District 3 competitions in Sterling, CO, and had an amazing experience and time there as I began to open up the organization. I became engrossed in FBLA and started to work on what I saw as a way to become a better business owner, leader, and all of the important skills that FBLA teaches.

I had placed 4th in my competition, with the opportunity to attend Colorado State FBLA and I happily accepted as I knew that FBLA was going to be one of the best things I can do for myself to better myself, the people around me, my chapter, my community, and state. A known fact of FBLA is that our members are the future of employees, employers, inventors, innovators, and leaders.



MY FIRST TIME ATTENDING COLORADO FBLA STATE, AND LIVING IN THE MOMENT.



Without FBLA teaching these students and advisers, we won't have the next generation of amazing leaders and people to lead our economy and society in the right direction to make us all better people, not just in Colorado or the United States of America, but around the world, making us more united across nations. I may not have seen it earlier, but FBLA is incredibly important for all of our futures. FBLA is one of the best things I could have joined and I enjoy it more and more every day. It will never be forgotten and I plan to continue in this organization for many years to come.

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MY FBLA STORY

By Naisha Naik

Discovery Canyon Campus

I joined FBLA during my freshman year, to learn more about business but also I just wanted to join an extracurricular my friends were part of. I didn't expect it to be an important part of my life or a memorable experience, but upon joining I gained knowledge, skills, and connections that changed my perspective.



MY FBLA CHAPTER DURING OUR SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES PARADE



MY FRIENDS AND I SETTING UP OUR FBLA CREPE FUNDRAISER

I have had experiences that taught me key business knowledge that I wouldn't have gained by limiting myself to classroom experiences. Attending workshops contributed to my knowledge of skills like leadership. A seminar by Kyle Wilkom taught me that being a leader is a choice, and that to lead a community means representing others by taking time to understand and educate yourself on others' viewpoints and ideologies.

This knowledge was vital this year when, as my chapter's vice president, I was responsible for organizing a fundraiser. I coordinated business activities for others and used our collective understanding of business to strategize a successful event. With leadership skills learned in FBLA, I led the team to make and sell crepes to our local community and raised over \$200.



A PICTURE OF ME WITH MY FRIENDS BY THE BEAN DURING FBLA NATIONALS IN CHICAGO(2022)

Attending state and nationals this past year provided opportunities to expand my network by building lasting relationships with various qualified and intelligent individuals. In my freshman year, I was competing with two of my friends and I remember being scared the first time I presented. As I kept competing and presenting I developed self-confidence and gained public-speaking skills. I remember the joy and feeling of accomplishment when my team and I were the state champions.



MY PARTNER SOUMYA DEVULAPALLI AND I AT COLORADO SLC 2022

Every FBLA experience is meaningful whether I am competing, attending workshops, or simply talking with others and learning about their own FBLA experiences. I am grateful to FBLA, for giving me the opportunity to learn more about business, myself, and the community around me.

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FBLA FOR EVERYONE!

By Tayla Wiedeman

Eaton High School

FBLA is just one of the many opportunities that high schoolers may experience throughout their time in high school. High school is designed to help students prepare for the future, however, there are many life skills that are difficult to work into a curriculum. Clubs such as FBLA offer the opportunity to gain valuable experience in various workplace-related areas. Not only does FBLA allow you to develop your leadership skills, but it also allows you to mingle with professionals in different career pathways that could help you find your future employment.



My FBLA experience has provided me with opportunities to grow and develop as a leader and make valuable connections across the state and this nation. It hasn't always been easy though. Joining FBLA as a freshman, I missed out on district and state conferences as Covid put a halt to most group events. I was hesitant to continue

my journey through FBLA after my freshman year, especially after our advisor left at the end of the year. I am so glad that I chose to continue on with my FBLA journey, as I earned the opportunity to compete at Nationals in my competitive event, "Introduction to Social Media Strategy." Through FBLA, I have been given the opportunity to travel and see different parts of the United States all the while developing and enhancing my leadership and organizational skills which will assist me in all facets of my future.



OUR CHAPTER AFTER A SUCCESSFUL DAY AT THE DISTRICT 1 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE!

I recommend FBLA to everyone. There is a wide array of events offered in order to reach all interests of students and encourage curiosity into different career pathways. The events not only expose you to different careers, but the setting of preparing a project or studying for a test in order to be judged on your performance prepares you for the expectations in any industry. Strong communication skills are a vital characteristic of any successful person. Conferences allow students to meet with their peers and connect with adults, mentors, and industry leaders, all of which provide opportunities to hone and enhance communication skills.



Service | Education | Progress

FBLA FOR EVERYONE! (CONT.)

By Tayla Wiedeman  
Eaton High School

FBLA isn't always a "business professional" environment. It is designed to allow you to meet students from other schools and states. My most memorable experiences are those that have happened away from the conference setting. Touring and sightseeing Chicago via bikes with some of my closest friends will forever be an experience I remember. Through opportunities like these, FBLA provides learning environments that are not in the typical setting but contribute to life skills development.



CHICAGO WAS FULL OF MEMORIES AND SORE FEET!

FBLA isn't limited to only those looking for a future in business but anyone who wants to connect with others and build their leadership portfolio. I will forever be grateful for the experiences and growth opportunities provided to me through FBLA and I strongly encourage anyone and everyone to get involved in some way!



CHECKING OFF BOXES AT THE COLORADO STATE CONFERENCE 2022!



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**Service | Education | Progress**

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**FBLA: WHAT IS THE VALUE***By Ben Kleve**Holyoke High School*

My FBLA story is out of the ordinary. I originally had no clue about the organization until my seventh-grade year and I was put into a business class rather than a choir. When I first walked into the classroom on that first day I felt like I had found my home, and that led to me becoming increasingly involved in the chapter even if I was not yet a member. And my interest in FBLA during my middle school years helped determine the need for a middle school chapter, which was started the next year.

My love for FBLA continued to grow as I met State officers, first in 2021-2022 at my county fair. She inspired me to strive for more than I may settle for, and that hard work and determination can get you just about anywhere. This is a principle that I carry with me to this day. I believe that the opportunity to be so involved in FBLA has helped me grow into the successful young man that I am today. All of these upsides have had a few downs. I applied to be on the National Mountain Plains Regional council and sadly did not get selected to serve on the council. This was a huge learning experience for me and taught me to keep success in life in your mind, even if something that I wanted did not happen. My FBLA story is quite interesting, and this has led me to firmly believe that FBLA can help members develop in the areas of service, education, progress, and so many more.

## Service | Education | Progress

## STATE OFFICER CANDIDATE ARTICLE

*MaLeah Calderon**Roosevelt High School*

Future Business Leaders of America has provided me with knowledge, connections, teamwork, problem-solving, and communication skills. My greatest FBLA experience was attending the State Leadership Conference last year at the Gaylord Rockies Resort. In the past two years, I have been honored to attend the State Leadership Conference; unfortunately, Covid prevented me from attending in person in 2020.

Last year, attending state gave me the opportunity to learn so much from speakers, advisors, judges, and other FBLA members. It was such a fun environment to be in and I was given the chance to collaborate with so many other FBLA members. As a member of FBLA, I have been given the opportunity to learn about future careers that I am interested in. I was able to step outside my comfort zone and try new things I would have never tried. It opened so many doors for me, such as being invited to start an internship with the Town of Johnstown. I would have never been able to accomplish this internship if I had not joined FBLA.



Additionally, becoming a chapter officer allowed me to improve my communication skills a lot more! I can start a conversation with my peers and even adults. I can never thank Hamden L. Forkner, “FBLA’s founder,” enough to create such a remarkable organization where teenagers and adults can learn many different skills. This club will forever have an extraordinary place in my heart.

## Service | Education | Progress

## STATE OFFICER CANDIDATE ARTICLE

*Anthony Bermudez**Longmont High School***The Start**

As a kid, I always thought that shoes were the most important part of any outfit. I loved collecting them and trading shoes with my friends, but it wasn't until middle school that I never thought about making a profit off shoes. In 7th grade, I finally understood the potential and decided to make a shoe business. This shoe business was completely new to me and I realized I needed to learn more about business if I was going to be successful and profitable. A way to earn more, sweet cash.

Nevertheless, when I learned more about FBLA, I knew I had to join. My FBLA chapter is the community that has changed and shaped my life as I know it. It brought me the happiness and much-anticipated friendships I had longed for, even before stepping into Longmont High School. First, let's take it back to May 2021. I was so intrigued by the Longmont High School business program that I thought I should take my shot and apply.

**Becoming part of FBLA**

Three weeks later, I was happier than a little boy with ice cream opening my official acceptance letter from Longmont's High School of Business and FBLA. As more time passed by and I stepped into my first business class a couple of months later, I got so involved with the class and anything to do with FBLA that my business teacher noticed my commitment and invited me to my first FBLA Fall Leadership Conference (FLC).

**Involvement in FBLA**

As a freshman then, this was my first step into the life of FBLA. An experience I'll never forget from that same conference was seeing everyone be brought together, simply based on shared interests and wanting to have fun while learning about business. For example, I recalled we did an event where we engaged in a lecture on formal business attire. We proceeded to dress our FBLA state officers as the incorrect examples, and after that, the crowd erupted in laughter. This was one of my first tastes in the FBLA community. Now that I recall this cherished experience I had, it makes me think, "Why did I get involved in FBLA?"

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**Service | Education | Progress**

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**STATE OFFICER CANDIDATE ARTICLE (CONT.)***Anthony Bermudez**Longmont High School***Why did I get involved in FBLA?**

Well, the short answer is, it gave me a better connection with my cross-country coach and made me feel like I belonged somewhere. The answer is that FBLA brought my life as a professional together. It got me involved as it taught me the principles that I now use to enhance my personality and morals. Education is a vital part of my career path in my future and the opportunities I hope to seek further on in life, thankfully FBLA has shown me to strive for greatness. Another reason I joined FBLA was because of my past and ongoing entrepreneurial business of selling sneakers in a profitable aftermarket. I believed that if I opened up and got involved in FBLA it would help me achieve and gain more skills and help bring in more revenue. Thankfully it did.

**Improving my Community Through FBLA**

FBLA has also taught me that I should put my community first and help them grow and become better, as doing so also benefits me and my surroundings. One of the great examples I've learned is a project called LHS for LHS, where we fundraise money to help animals at the Longmont Humane Society. Not only does it help out the dogs and cats, but it also has been a way to get closer to my local FBLA chapter members and community. These experiences and skills are the reason I now stand as an FBLA member and chapter officer because they've helped develop my progress as a person, leader, and community member and continue to help me strive for a better future.

**Then, Now and The Future**

So, when someone asks me why I ran for state office or why I'm writing this, I'll always look back to my younger self walking into my first business class not knowing the bright future FBLA held for him. FBLA has brought my life together from coaches to relationships. I admire this community, and I'll embrace it well into the future. That's what got me involved and that's who I am. From little Anthony only thinking about becoming rich, to a much more mature Anthony who strives to show the benefits of FBLA who will strive every day to make this community a better, more inclusive place. This is why I am running for a state office, District 2, and why I decided to join this incredible business community.



# FBLA: NOT JUST A COMPETITION

## WHAT IS FBLA?

FBLA is a non-profit that helps students help high school students prepare for careers in business through academic competitions, leadership development, and educational programs



## AIMS TO DEVELOP FUTURE LEADERS

FBLA is known to hone future leaders. The organization is incredibly active in organizing national leadership events, annual conferences, and mentorship programs. If you want to become the best you can be, learning FBLA lessons is critical to providing you the most promising future.

## OPENS UNIQUE DOORS AND OPPORTUNITIES



FBLA gives you something beyond what you learn in your classes. It gives you the opportunity to network, and share your thoughts and ideologies. You'll also develop a web of mentors and other aspiring leaders early on. As you grow, you will find that these opportunities assure you of a brighter, better future.



Colorado

# FBLA

Colorado FBLA  
2022 2023



## TEACHES YOU WHAT IS IMPORTANT



FBLA opens your eyes to what matters. Remember that you are never too young to start on the path to success. So allow yourself to be surrounded by the right support group, peers, and mentors.