



# the good news series

Nebraska students have a strong history of providing leadership at both a state and national level in Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs). This year five Nebraska students are taking on national responsibilities and leadership roles in CTSOs.



Maddie Wittstruck from Milford Public Schools was elected as the FCCLA National Vice President of Finance. Maddie is very involved in her school and community. She is co-captain of the dance team and participates in theater, band, and choir. She is planning to go to medical school to become a pediatrician.

“Becoming a national officer for FCCLA has truly been a dream come true. As a new member in eighth grade I never would have imagined that someday I would be leading at the national level! It means so much to me that people understand my vision for FCCLA and that they elected me into my office. After working so hard every night to achieve this lofty position, it’s very rewarding to be able to serve over 175,000 members nationwide. I’ve learned so much during my term already. I’m glad I can share my knowledge and experience when talking about FCCLA. We provide so many opportunities for everyone. Whether it be in your family, community, or career, FCCLA touches many hearts, and I’m so excited to be a part of that!”

Jarod Harris from Seward High School is serving as the SkillsUSA Parliamentarian. Jarod has been the Seward SkillsUSA Chapter Vice-President and the SkillsUSA Nebraska State Reporter. Jarod is also active in speech, band, choir, and FBLA. His goal is to study chemical engineering after high school.



“My title as a SkillsUSA National Officer is truly a door-opener when it comes to the opportunities I will be afforded. In the short time that I’ve served as a national officer, I’ve flown to Louisville, Kentucky, and our nation’s capital. I’m leading 417,000 members to give them the best chance at reaching success. I’ve seen firsthand the impact organizations like SkillsUSA have had on students and I want to do my part to enhance that experience even more. Getting elected was a milestone in my life, but the adventure is only beginning. In the coming year I will help career and technical education students and SkillsUSA members unlock their potential and I’m ready to see the change I can foster.”



Drake Vorderstrasse from Adams Central High School was elected as the

FBLA Mountain Plains Vice President. Drake has served various terms as a local officer and back-to-back terms as a state officer. He says the connections he has with fellow members are what make FBLA feel like home.