

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**NEBRASKA FCCLA MEMBERS RECOGNIZED WITH SUCCESS AT NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) brought more than 7,500 of its student leaders, members, and advisers to Atlanta, Georgia June 28th-July 2nd to participate in the annual National Leadership Conference (NLC). Nebraska was well represented by more than 250 students, advisers, and guests.

The conference provided opportunities for participants to listen to inspiring speakers, expand leadership skills, sharpen talents, and explore career pathways. The theme of the 2018 NLC was, “Inspired by FCCLA,” encouraging attendees to make the right choices and commit themselves to making a positive impact within their families, schools, FCCLA, and communities.

"Our National Leadership Conference was a great success this year, with a record-setting attendance. During the past week, we've watched thousands of students come together and realize their full potential through competition, career training, and workshops. The relationships developed and training experienced during this conference have empowered students to go into their schools and communities and make a difference, bringing with them the values and passions FCCLA brings to our members," said Sandy Spavone, executive director of FCCLA.

During the NLC, Nebraska’s FCCLA State Officer Team participated in the Leadership Academy, developing leadership, employability, and 21st Century skills. Through the program, members were given the opportunity to explore and practice essentials for the roles of family member, wage earner, and community leader.

Tracy Way, a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Lincoln Southwest High School received the 2018 Spirit of Advising Award. Nicki Pedeliski, a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Platteview High School in Springfield was recognized as a Master Adviser during the conference.

Four FCCLA Chapter Advisers participated in the FCCLA Adviser Academy, a five-track certificate program open to any adviser with fewer than five years of experience. Chapter Advisers participating in Adviser Academy this year include Miranda Bright, High Plains Public Schools; Carmen Hall, Omaha Bryan High School; Lisa Hynes, Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools; and Michelle Irvine, Cozad High School.

In addition to the many learning and networking experiences offered at the conference, more than 30 Family and Consumer Sciences-related competitive events, also known as STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) events, were offered with more than 4,500 event participants. These events support foundational, leadership, and workplace skills. Nebraska came home with 80 gold medals and 57 silver medals and had multiple individuals and teams score in the top 10 nationally.

Ashlynn Putnam from Minden High School, received First Place Overall and First Place Senior Category in the Fashion Construction STAR Event. Jenna Abers, Emmalee Harder, and Baylie Shearer from Randolph Junior/Senior High School received Third Place Overall in the Food Innovations Jr. STAR Event.

Nebraska members brought home 47 Top Ten award-winning events. The Top Ten award winners nationally include:

**First Place**

* Hailey Schademann, Boone Central– Advocacy, Gold
* Yasmine Bender, Triniti Gembica and Mikayla Martensen, Humphrey – Chapter Service Project Display, Gold
* Mercedes Heckert, Neligh-Oakdale – Chapter Service Project Portfolio, Gold
* Sidney Enochs and Jaycee Wallace, Overton – Chapter Service Project Portfolio, Gold
* Ashtynn Putnam, Minden – Fashion Construction, Gold
* Zach Thomas, Gibbon – FCCLA Chapter Website, Gold
* Jenna Albers, Emmalee Harder and Baylie Shearer, Randolph – Food Innovations, Gold
* Wyatt Ehlers, Chambers – Nutrition and Wellness, Gold
* Tessa Metschke and Mary Walnofer, Chambers – Promote and Publicize FCCLA, Gold

**Second Place**

* Sophia Birch, Milford – Advocacy, Gold
* Claire Harrison, Franklin – Chapter in Review Display, Gold
* Sabra Schmidt, Medicine Valley – FCCLA Chapter Website, Gold
* Emma Bixler and Hailey Bixler, Neligh-Oakdale – Interpersonal Communications, Gold
* Marissa Lichty and Haley Schmeichel, O’Neill – National Programs in Action, Gold

**Third Place**

* Alexis Butterfield and Ryann Haburchak, Chambers – Chapter in Review Portfolio, Gold
* Natalie Engel, Sydney Lindstedt and Margaret McGinnis, Cozad – Chapter in Review Portfolio, Gold
* Emma Hoffschneider, Burwell – Entrepreneurship, Gold
* Skyler Saathoff, Franklin – FCCLA Chapter Website, Gold
* Daisy Kanode, Exeter-Milligan – Illustrated Talk, Gold
* Alice McDonald, Aurora – Job Interview, Gold
* Alexis Richmond, Chase County – Teach and Train, Gold

**Fourth Place**

* Isadora Schwab, Fairbury – Chapter in Review Display, Gold
* Madison Brainard, Scribner-Snyder – FCCLA Chapter Website, Gold
* Hayley Vitosh, Chase County – Life Event Planning, Gold
* Caitlin Murphy, Exeter-Milligan – Recycle and Redesign, Gold

**Fifth Place**

* Payton Fitchner and Madison Reeves, Saint Edward – Advocacy, Gold
* Emma Krysl and Blair Langan, O’Neill – Digital Stories for Change, Gold
* April Johnson, Boone Central – Fashion Construction, Gold
* Ashley Robinson, Nebraska City – Nutrition and Wellness, Gold

**Sixth Place**

* Hannah Pedersen, Aurora – Career Investigation, Gold
* Sheldon Johnson and Hope Stone, Medicine Valley – Chapter Service Project Portfolio, Gold
* Cade Farewell and Elli Metschke, Chambers – Environmental Ambassador, Gold
* Moriah Aberle, Franklin – Focus on Children, Gold
* Haley Jones, Mullen – Hospitality, Tourism and Recreation, Gold
* Kyler Horn, Brady – Recycle and Redesign, Gold

**Seventh Place**

* Tessa Metschke and Mary Walnofer, Chambers– Promote and Publicize FCCLA!, Gold
* Troia Drey and Brooklyn Reynolds, Logan View – FCCLA Chapter Website, Gold
* Hannah Horne, Exeter-Milligan – Leadership, Gold
* Andrea Hipke, Kiryn Kayl and Kaci Mashino, Boyd County – Promote and Publicize, Gold
* Kade Youngblood, Chambers – Teach and Train, Gold

**Eighth Place**

* Audrey Coufal, Cara Dvorak and Janessa Schmidt, Howells-Dodge – Sports Nutrition, Gold

**Ninth Place**

* Natalie Reeg and Whitney Schmidt, Twin River – Chapter Service Project Display,
* Kaylee Hilbers and Kaitlin Mundil, Logan View – Food Innovations, Gold
* Colton Giesselman, Bloomfield - Hospitality, Tourism and Recreation, Gold

**Tenth Place**

* Taylor Svoboda, Mullen – Career Investigation, Gold
* Ashley Pischel, O’Neill – Recycle and Redesign, Gold
* Mercedes Peterson, Chase County – Entrepreneurship, Silver

***Other national award winners included:***

**Say Yes to FCS National Signing Day Recognition:**

* Emma Krysl, O’Neill (Family & Consumer Science Education Major at Wayne State College)

**Raye Virginia Allen State President’s Scholarship**

* Mia Kegley – Kearney; former Nebraska FCCLA State President

**Kikkoman Foundation Japanese Exchange Scholarship:**

* Destiny Henne – Kearney
* Mia Kegley - Kearney

*Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a dynamic and effective career and technical student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through Family and Consumer Sciences education. Nebraska FCCLA is supported through the Nebraska Center for Student Leadership and Extended Learning at the Nebraska Department of Education.*

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