

COMMISSIONER'S RECOGNITION

FOR EXCELLENCE IN NEBRASKA
CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

NOVEMBER 24, 2025





GOVERNOR JIM PILLEN
State of Nebraska



DR. BRIAN L. MAHER
Commissioner of Education



Learning that works
for Nebraska

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CAREER & TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS - STATE LEADERSHIP



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FFA State Advisor



Jamelyn Denny
HOSA State Advisor



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- **PLEASE SILENCE MOBILE PHONES.**
- **THOSE WISHING TO TAKE PHOTOS ARE WELCOME TO COME FORWARD AND DO SO.**
- **APPLAUSE IS APPROPRIATE BUT PLEASE REFRAIN FROM SHOUTING.**
- **THANKS FOR ATTENDING AND ENJOY THE PRESENTATION!**

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Emcee - Miranda Strizek, SkillsUSA

Introduction *Miranda Strizek, SkillsUSA Postsecondary Vice President*
Special Remarks *Dr. Brian L. Maher, Commissioner of Education*
Special Remarks *Governor Jim Pillen*
Presentation of Awards *Career & Technical Student Organization Leaders*

Certificate presentations by Governor Pillen and Commissioner Maher

DECA Gregory Overfield
President
Ralston High School

Educators Rising Grace Johnson
Vice President of Development
Ralston High School

FBLA Jack Cassell
Secretary
Lincoln Southeast High School

FCCLA Suhani Chaudhari
Secretary
O'Neill Jr./Sr. High School

FFA Jake Rezac
President
Bishop Neumann High School

HOSA Pranavi Prakash
Vice President of Membership & Media
Millard North High School

SkillsUSA Miranda Strizek
Postsecondary Vice President
Wayne State College



DECA is an international organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. The association has membership of over 220,000 members internationally and 1,700 members in Nebraska. DECA enhances marketing education by applying classroom instruction to performance-based competitive events directly related to career preparation in related fields.

Nebraska DECA has prepared high school students for their future careers for over 75 years. Through hands-on experiences, marketing students develop the skills and knowledge for life-long career success. Creativity, problem solving, and enhancement of academic skills in addition to economics, marketing, and management concepts are the foundations of the modern marketing curriculum.

Community Giving Project. The 2025 DECA Project Management Community Giving event lets 1 to 3 students plan and carry out a project that supports a cause or nonprofit. Teams follow project management steps like planning, executing, and closing. They submit a written report and give a presentation at ICDC.

8th PlaceChloe Teter, Noah Behrens
Millard West High School
Ashley Dworak, Advisor

Harry A. Applegate - Clearpoint Business Group Scholarship. Claudia Geiseman won a \$1,000 Clearpoint Business Group / DECA scholarship for the 2024–2025 school year. This scholarship, officially named the Harry A. Applegate / Clearpoint Business Group Scholarship, is awarded to DECA members who plan to study marketing, management, entrepreneurship, or related fields. It recognizes students who demonstrate strong DECA involvement, leadership, academic achievement, and character.

Scholarship RecipientClaudia Geiseman
Westside High School
Kalen Carlson, Advisor

School Based Enterprise – Retail Operations. To compete in the Retail Operations track at DECA ICDC 2025, a school-based enterprise must first earn Gold Certification or Gold Re-Certification. At ICDC, students present how their retail business successfully implements a selected business standard, focusing on strategy, results, and professionalism.

10th PlaceElla Daily, Tatum Stanley
Millard South High School
Erin Henry, Advisor



NEBRASKA

Educators Rising is a national organization dedicated to inspiring and developing the next generation of highly skilled educators. With more than 20,000 members across the country, its mission is to inspire and grow rising educators to become community leaders and advocates for high-quality education. Guided by the values of Community, Leadership, Service, Optimism, and Excellence, Educators Rising empowers students to reflect the diversity of their communities and pursue careers that strengthen the future of education.

In Nebraska, nearly 600 members in 42 chapters participate in Educators Rising. Members demonstrate their knowledge and skills through competitive events offered in two divisions: Junior Varsity, for students in grades 9-10, and Varsity, for students in grades 11-12. These experiences provide opportunities for students to showcase their talents, build leadership skills, and engage deeply with the teaching profession.

2025-2026 National Student Officer. *There are four Educators Rising national student officers elected by their peers prior to the National Conference. They engage in critical education conversations at the national level to provide a student perspective; serve as Educators Rising representatives at local, state, and national functions; and ensure that Educators Rising members have a voice in program development.*

Vice President of Communications**Owen Elsasser**
Ralston High School | Wayne State College
Rebecca Dunn, Teacher Leader

Interactive Bulletin Board - Middle/High School, Varsity. In this contest, participants must prepare an interactive display board and an oral presentation introducing the display and summarizing how it could be used in a middle/high school classroom setting to teach a lesson.

Red Ribbon Lauryn Breitzkreutz
Centennial High School
Jennifer Bargaen, Teacher Leader

Project Visualize, Varsity. In this contest, competitors showcase a community service project that the chapter completed during the year by developing a visual display and presentation about the project.

Blue Ribbon Lea Hanson, Sophia Bouman
Omaha Burke High School
Andrea Burton & Nadine Reyes, Teacher Leaders



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Teacher Created Materials, Varsity. In this contest, members create their own materials for a lesson of their choice and present it to evaluators. Materials encompass any physical materials a teacher might use to implement a lesson, which may include flip charts, board games, lap books, etc.

White Ribbon Sarah Payne
Centennial High School
Jennifer Bargaen, Teacher Leader

Children's Literature K-3 Spanish, Varsity. This competition offers participants the opportunity to explore the role of author and educator to prepare an original short storybook in Spanish designed for a kindergarten through third grade audience (ages 5-9).

Top 10 Estefani Aguilar Rodriguez
Omaha South High School
Samantha Koehler-Overton & Rachel Landsness, Teacher Leaders

Children's Literature Pre-K Spanish, Varsity. This competition offers participants the opportunity to explore the role of author and educator to prepare an original short storybook in Spanish designed for a pre-kindergarten audience (ages 3-4).

3rd Place Itzel Montoya Hernandez
Omaha Bryan High School
Rae Carlson & Antonio Gullie, Teacher Leaders

Top 10 Denise Acevedo Jara, Camila Martinez Gutierrez
Omaha South High School
Samantha Koehler-Overton & Rachel Landsness, Teacher Leaders

Children's Literature Pre-K, Junior Varsity. This competition offers participants the opportunity to explore the role of author and educator to prepare an original short storybook designed for a pre-kindergarten audience (ages 3-4).

Top 10 Kennedy Geiger
Westside High School
Cassandra Birdsall-Scherer, Teacher Leader



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Educators Rising Moment Spanish, Varsity. In this competition, participants articulate why they aspire to pursue a career in education through a speech entirely in Spanish that reflects their personal experiences, illustrating the impact of being an educator.

Top 10 Daisy Altamirano
Omaha Bryan High School
Rae Carlson & Antonio Gullie, Teacher Leaders

Exploring Education Administration Careers, Varsity. Participants in this competition learn more about education administration careers through eight hours of job shadowing and interviewing a current education administrator.

Top 10 Zachary Havlovic
Omaha Westview High School
Lynn Wray, Teacher Leader

Exploring Non-Core Subject Teaching Careers, Varsity. This competition offers participants the opportunity to job shadow, for eight hours, and learn from highly skilled educators whose work takes place outside the core subjects, which could include CTE, Journalism, Speech, etc.

3rd Place Riley Hopkins
Bayard High School
Mykayla Torres, Teacher Leader

Exploring Support Services Careers, Varsity. This competition offers participants the opportunity to complete eight hours of job shadowing and an interview with a specialized instructional-support professional, which could be a school counselor, speech-language pathologist, school social worker, etc.

Top 10 Amy Albro
Bayard High School
Mykayla Torres, Teacher Leader

Inside Our Schools Spanish, Varsity. This competition offers participants the opportunity to showcase one innovative strategy that their school or school district employs to enhance teaching and learning by developing a video and delivering a presentation entirely in Spanish.

3rd Place Kenya Calderon, Marco Guerrero Miranda
Omaha Buena Vista High School
Aaron McLaughlin, Teacher Leader



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Inside Our Schools, Junior Varsity. This competition offers participants the opportunity to showcase one innovative strategy that their school or school district employs to enhance teaching and learning by developing a video and delivering a presentation.

Top 10 Ariel Horn, Alexis Kennedy, Eliza Raven
Omaha Westview High School
Lynn Wray, Teacher Leader

Job Interview. Competitors in this competition apply for a position as a paraprofessional, which includes submitting a cover letter and résumé, before interviewing for the position with a panel of evaluators.

Junior Varsity

Top 10 Jenna Smith
Omaha Westview High School
Lynn Wray, Teacher Leader

Varsity

Top 10 Shayla Jacobsen
Plainview High School
Ronita Jacobsen, Teacher Leader

Outstanding Chapter, Varsity. This team competition showcases the chapter’s contributions to the field of education. Competitors present evidence of thoughtful planning, reflective practices, and efforts to strengthen leadership, serve their school and community, and promote education through chapter projects and involvement in state and national events.

Top 10 Violet Casady, Esthefany Contreras Suarez,
Genevieve Hodoly, Vivian Hodoly
Omaha South High School
Samantha Koehler-Overton & Rachel Landsness, Teacher Leaders

Researching Learning Challenges, Junior Varsity. This competition offers competitors the opportunity to deeply explore and develop recommendations for effective educational supports for students with a disability in one of the fourteen disability categories. In 2024-25, the competition focused on the specific learning disability, Cerebral Palsy.

3rd Place Adilyah Torres, Mario Torres, Thuy Nguyen
South Sioux City High School
Shawn Carlson & Ashley Jorgensen, Teacher Leaders



Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) provides innovative leadership and career development programs for students interested in business administration, management, finance, and information technology careers. Over 4,500 students in grades 5-12 in 178 Nebraska secondary schools annually join Nebraska FBLA.

Bringing business and education together in a positive working relationship, FBLA provides students with the skills needed to successfully pursue further education, compete in the job market, or manage personal skills. Benefits of FBLA membership include career preparation, partnering with business professionals, networking with community leaders, leadership development, service opportunities, and challenging competitions.

National Officer. A National FBLA Officer is a student leader who represents Future Business Leaders of America members across the nation. They help set the organization's vision, lead national initiatives, and promote leadership, career development, and business education. Through their role, they serve as ambassadors, mentors, and voices for over 200,000 members nationwide.

National Parliamentarian..... Annabelle Kumm
Lincoln East High School
Lori Anderson-Stowe, Adviser

National Mountain Plains Region Vice President James Fletcher
Litchfield High School
Hillary Rasmussen, Adviser

Business Etiquette. Business Etiquette provides members with the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge around competencies in business etiquette. This competitive event consists of an objective test. It aims to inspire members to learn about the expectations of social and business behavior, practices, and conduct.

1st Place..... Maria Adle
Chase County Middle School
Julie Sparrow, Adviser



LifeSmarts. The LifeSmarts FBLA Challenge is a competitive event that begins online, and the 12 top-scoring teams from both the Fall and Spring Challenges advance to live, in-person competition at the National Leadership Conference. LifeSmarts is a national educational competition focused on personal finance and consumer topics.

1st Place Tara Buzek, Austin Schmidt
Heartland Community Schools
Karma Yantzie, Adviser

FBLA Esports Competition. The FBLA esports Competition tests a team's ability to research and create strategies to effectively compete in a virtual esports competition. Teams submit a research paper on the provided esports topic, compete in an esports tournament, and create a presentation highlighting strategies used and lessons learned.

2nd place..... Braxton Soll, Lucas Chappellear,
Wyatt Flesner, Trent Koger
Arlington High School
Shawna Koger, Adviser

Economics. Economics challenges members to demonstrate their understanding of key economic concepts and principles through an objective test. This event covers topics such as supply and demand, market structures, fiscal and monetary policy, and the global economy, encouraging members to explore how economic forces shape the world.

2nd place.....Konnor Garrett
Lincoln East High School
Lori Anderson-Stowe, Adviser

Business Management. Business Management challenges members to demonstrate their understanding of core management principles through an objective test and a role play scenario. Members apply their knowledge to real world business situations involving planning, organizing, leading, and decision-making within an organizational setting.

3rd Place August Burns, Joe Burns
Arlington High School
Shawna Koger, Adviser



Introduction to FBLA. Introduction to FBLA allows members to demonstrate their knowledge of the organization's history, structure, programs, and leadership through an objective test. This event encourages members to deepen their understanding of FBLA and become more engaged in its mission and opportunities.

3rd Place Emily Kumm
Lincoln East High School
Lori Anderson-Stowe, Adviser

Young Leader Award. The Young Leader Award recognizes middle school members with extraordinary commitment to leadership and community service.

National Recognition..... Mia Deras
Fairbury Middle School
Tammi Mans, Adviser

Who's Who Award. The Who's Who Award honors exemplary high school FBLA members who have made outstanding contributions to the association at the local, state, and national levels.

National Recognition..... Sarah Lange
Raymond Central High School
Keely Schaffer, Adviser



FBLA Collegiate prepares members for careers in business and information technology, or related occupations. Nearly 200 college and university students from 15 colleges in Nebraska participate in FBLA Collegiate's innovative leadership and career development program.

The competitive event program for FBLA Collegiate is designed to prepare students for successful careers in business and information technology through support for curriculum development and innovative assessment tools. Members demonstrate and validate their mastery of essential business concepts, skills, and knowledge.

Community Service Project. Community Service Project gives chapter members the opportunity to highlight a service initiative that addresses a need within their school or local community. The project must involve active chapter participation and demonstrate meaningful impact. This event includes a pre-judged report and a live presentation before a panel of judges.

3rd Place Georgia Ramsey, Heidi Taylor
Wayne State College
Kelly Legler, Adviser

Foundations of Marketing. Foundations of Marketing challenges members to demonstrate their understanding of basic marketing concepts through an objective test. This event covers topics such as market research, branding, promotion, consumer behavior, and the marketing mix used to effectively reach and engage target audiences.

2nd Place Tavian Willsea
Nebraska Wesleyan University
Samee Kaus, Adviser



Foundations of Selling. Foundations of Selling challenges members to demonstrate their understanding of fundamental sales concepts through an objective test. This event covers topics such as the sales process, customer relationship management, prospecting, handling objections, and closing techniques used in various selling environments.

1st Place Daniel Bargholz
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Dr. Christopher Decker & Jacob Stodola, Advisers

2nd Place Braxton Dalton
Wayne State College
Kelly Legler, Adviser

Future Business Executive. Future Business Executive is FBLA's premier event recognizing Collegiate members who exemplify leadership, business knowledge, and active involvement in the organization. Competitors are evaluated through pre-judged materials, an objective test, and a presentation (interview), showcasing their readiness for success in business and leadership roles.

1st Place Courtney Cox
University of Nebraska at Kearney
Theresa Yaw, Adviser

2nd Place Aditi Rai
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Dr. Christopher Decker & Jacob Stodola, Advisers

Future Business Facilitator. Future Business Facilitator gives competitors the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in delivering effective training, whether in a corporate setting or a traditional business education environment. This event includes pre-judged materials and a live presentation, showcasing members' ability to design, organize, and communicate instructional content.

1st Place Savannah Boedigheimer
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Dr. Christopher Decker & Jacob Stodola, Advisers

3rd Place Connor Nichols
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Dr. Jennifer Davidson, Adviser

Hospitality Management Case Competition. Hospitality Management Case Competition challenges members to analyze a case study that addresses real-world issues in the hospitality industry. Members present their findings and recommendations to a panel of judges, demonstrating knowledge in areas such as financial management, operations, human resources, customer service, legal compliance, and sustainability.

3rd Place Trinity Black, Bailey Taylor
 University of Nebraska - Lincoln
 Dr. Jennifer Davidson, Adviser

Impromptu Speaking. Impromptu Speaking challenges members to think quickly and deliver a well-organized, engaging speech on a topic revealed onsite at the competition. Members demonstrate their ability to communicate effectively, organize ideas on the spot, and present with confidence under time constraints.

2nd Place Mekenna Fisher
 Chadron State College
 Dr. Gary Dusek & Dr. Nicholas Fisher, Advisers

3rd Place Bailey Klanderud
 Nebraska Wesleyan University
 Samee Kaus, Adviser

International Business. International Business challenges members to explore the complexities of the global economy through an objective test. This event covers topics such as international trade, cultural differences, global marketing, economic systems, and the challenges and opportunities businesses face in a globalized world.

2nd Place Raiquen Raffin
 Midland University
 Rita Bristol & Erik Hoegemeyer, Advisers

Job Interview. Job Interview challenges members to develop professional job application materials and demonstrate effective interviewing skills. This event includes pre-judged résumé and cover letter, along with a live interview to evaluate communication, poise, and readiness for the workplace.

2nd Place Brodie Arnold
 Midland University
 Rita Bristol & Erik Hoegemeyer, Advisers



Retail Management. Retail Management challenges members to demonstrate their understanding of core retail operations and strategies through an objective test. Members are assessed on key competencies such as inventory control, customer service, sales techniques, merchandising, and store operations.

3rd PlaceLander Imbimbo
Peru State College
Sheri Grotrian, Adviser

Supply Chain Management. Supply Chain Management challenges members to demonstrate their understanding of the flow of goods, information, and finances within a supply chain through an objective test. This event covers topics such as logistics, procurement, inventory control, distribution, and the technologies and strategies that support efficient and effective supply chain operations.

2nd Place Courtney Cox
University of Nebraska at Kearney
Theresa Yaw, Adviser

Technology and Computer Science Case Competition. Technology & Computer Science Case Competition challenges members to analyze a real-world case involving multiple areas of technology and computer science. Members present their findings and solutions to a panel of judges, demonstrating knowledge in areas such as cybersecurity, IT support, information management, networking, programming, website design, and system integration.

1st Place Connor Nichols
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Dr. Jennifer Davidson, Adviser



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Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a national organization for students enrolled in Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) education. Through pathways such as Arts and Design, Hospitality and Tourism, Financial Services, Education and Training, Human Services, and Public Service, more than 255,000 FCCLA members nationwide are preparing for careers that strengthen families and communities. In Nebraska, over 2,500 middle and high school students participate in FCCLA each year.

Since 1945, FCCLA has empowered young people to achieve personal growth and develop their leadership through FCS education, focusing on the multiple roles of family member, wage earner, and community leader. Members gain valuable experience through a variety of competitive events offered at three levels: Level 1 for grades 6-8, Level 2 for grades 9-10, and Level 3 for grades 11-12.

Stand Up National Program Award. The FCCLA Stand Up national peer education program guides members to develop, plan, carry out, and evaluate advocacy activities to improve the quality of life in their communities. Members develop their voice to make a positive impact as they assess current needs, educate others regarding concerns, and advocate to make a difference now and in the future. Battle Creek FCCLA raised over \$2,500 for the HOPE Fund at Faith Regional Hospital, benefiting local cancer patients in need of financial support.

Runner UpJaiden Ertzner, Alaina Rogat, Presley Wolf
Battle Creek High School
Brianna O'Brien, Adviser

#TeachFCS - Level 3. This Skill Demonstration Event showcases participants' marketing and public relations skills to plan and implement a week-long public relations project to encourage teaching Family and Consumer Sciences Education as a potential career choice.

2nd PlaceIvy Korus
Lindsay Academy
Blair Kula, Adviser



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Culinary Food Art - Level 3. This Skill Demonstration Event highlights participants' creative and artistic skills in utilizing an assortment of fruits and vegetables to design and create an interesting food art item that could be used as a centerpiece for an animal-themed children's party.

3rd Place MaHaylee Dotson-Monroe
Cross County Community Schools
Sarah Hubel, Adviser

Interviewing Skills. This Skill Demonstration Event recognizes members for their ability to prepare employment materials and utilize job interviewing skills for an entry-level position in an FCS-related field.

Level 2

2nd Place Karyl Korth
Lindsay Academy
Blair Kula, Adviser

Level 3

2nd Place Clara Preister
Twin River Public Schools
Britton Andreasen, Adviser

Lesson Plan Development and Modification - Level 2. This Skill Demonstration Event recognizes participants for their ability to develop an original lesson plan and offer tailored modifications based on a provided student profile, ensuring that the student's specific learning needs are met.

3rd Place Briley Dohmen
Lindsay Academy
Blair Kula, Adviser

Career Investigation - Level 1. This STAR Event recognizes participants for their ability to perform self-assessments, research and explore a career, set career goals, create a plan for achieving goals, and describe the relationship of FCS coursework to the selected career.

1st Place Lynn Miner
O'Neill Jr./Sr. High School
Angie Ehlers, Adviser



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Chapter in Review Display. This STAR Event recognizes chapters that develop and implement a well-balanced program of work and promote FCCLA and FCS to the community and then showcase their work on a display.

Level 1

3rd Place Brittin Fink, Madisyn White
Medicine Valley Jr./Sr. High School
Suzanne Martin, Adviser

Level 2

3rd Place Claire Holoubek, Chloe Indra
Clarkson Public School
Caitlin Kabes, Adviser

Chapter in Review Portfolio - Level 1. This STAR Event recognizes chapters that develop and implement a well-balanced program of work and promote FCCLA and FCS to the community and then showcase their work in a portfolio.

1st Place Hadley Grutsch, Nora Lange, Jocelyn Reyes
Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools
Kelsey Schumacher, Adviser

Chapter Service Project Display - Level 1. This STAR Event recognizes chapters that develop and implement an in-depth service project that makes a worthwhile contribution to families, schools, and communities by taking action on a community need; the project is then showcased on a display.

2nd Place Layla Borowiak, Lausyn Matthes
Twin River Public Schools
Britton Andreasen, Adviser

Chapter Service Project Portfolio - Level 1. This STAR Event recognizes chapters that develop and implement an in-depth service project that makes a worthwhile contribution to families, schools, and communities by taking action on a community need; the project is then showcased in a portfolio.

2nd Place Zuri Booth, Brylee Ramaekers
Twin River Public Schools
Britton Andreasen, Adviser



Digital Stories for Change - Level 1. This STAR Event recognizes participants who demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and abilities to actively identify an issue concerning families, careers, or communities, research the topic, and develop a digital story to advocate for positive change. The 2024-25 topic was: Mental Health and Wellness in Today's Families and Communities.

1st Place Jozy York
O'Neill Jr./Sr. High School
Angie Ehlers, Adviser

Fashion Construction - Level 1. This STAR Event recognizes participants who apply Fashion Construction skills to construct a garment or ensemble, which must include specific construction techniques, and then display the finished product along with appropriate accessories.

2nd Place Addilyn Doke
Ainsworth Jr./Sr. High School
Pam Barrow & Tammy Hancock, Advisers

FCCLA Chapter Website - Level 1. This STAR Event recognizes participants who use a chapter website to educate and inform members and the general public about the importance of the FCS program and the FCCLA chapter.

2nd Place Quinn Ross
Elmwood Murdock Jr./Sr. High School
Lisa Hynes, Adviser

Focus on Children. This STAR Event recognizes participants who plan and conduct a child development project that has a positive impact on children and the community.

Level 1

2nd Place Jailyn Romesser
O'Neill Jr./Sr. High School
Angie Ehlers, Adviser

Level 3

2nd Place Aracely Negrete, Lillie Shoemaker
Ord Jr./Sr. High School
Rachel Hornickel, Adviser



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Food Innovations - Level 1. This STAR Event recognizes participants who demonstrate knowledge of basic food product development by creating an original prototype formula, testing the product through focus groups, developing a marketing strategy, and highlighting the development process through a visual display. The 2024-25 challenge was to develop a nutritional drink featuring a unique superfood ingredient while focusing on strict nutritional guidelines and appealing to students of all ages.

3rd Place Mary Licking, Emerson Pettit
Theford Jr./Sr. High School
Mikaela Franzen, Adviser

Interpersonal Communications - Level 2. This STAR Event recognizes participants who apply communication techniques to develop a project designed to strengthen communication in a chosen area: family, peer groups, school groups, community or employment relationships. Participants also develop a written response to a related case study.

3rd Place Vayda Lippert, Ziva Stratman
Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools
Kelsey Schumacher, Adviser

Job Interview - Level 2. This STAR Event recognizes participants who select a position they are currently qualified for then develop a portfolio with materials that highlight their knowledge, skills, and qualifications and participate in an interview

1st Place Gracen Eckert
Boyd County Public Schools
Sherry Black, Adviser



National Programs in Action - Level 2. This STAR Event recognizes participants who explain how the FCCLA Planning Process was used to plan and implement a project related to one of the National Programs: Career Connection, Community Service, Families Acting for Community Traffic Safety (FACTS), Families First, Financial Fitness, Stand Up, or Student Body.

1st Place.....Charlotte Welsh
O’Neill Jr./Sr. High School
Angie Ehlers, Adviser

Promote and Publicize FCCLA. This STAR Event recognizes participants who develop an FCCLA promotion and publicity campaign to raise awareness and educate the school, parents, and members of the community about the importance of FCCLA and FCS education.

Level 1

1st Place..... Lily Heikes, Brooke Kalin, Lauren Uldrich
Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools
Kelsey Schumacher, Adviser

Level 3

3rd Place..... Brooklyn Eckert
Boyd County Public Schools
Sherry Black, Adviser

Repurpose and Redesign - Level 3. This STAR Event recognizes participants who apply recycling and redesign skills and create a display using a sample of their skills. Participants select a used fashion, home, or other post consumer item to repurpose into a new product.

1st Place..... Cheney Dishman, Angel Johnson, Kaygan Witthuhn
Callaway Public Schools
Charmayne Popp, Adviser



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Teach or Train. This STAR Event recognizes participants who demonstrate their ability to explore and experience the career of teaching or training. Participants present research on the teaching/training career and prepare and execute a complete lesson/workshop plan as part of their project.

Level 1

1st Place Kiarra Kennedy
O'Neill Jr./Sr. High School
Angie Ehlers, Adviser

Level 2

1st Place Katelyn Uldrich
Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools
Kelsey Schumacher, Adviser

Teaching Strategies - Level 3. This STAR Event recognizes competitors who exhibit knowledge, expertise and competency in incorporating research-based teaching strategies into an original Lesson Plan Activity for any grade level and content area in a presentation role-play.

2nd Place Klayton Rinne
Dundy County Stratton Jr./Sr. High School
Lindsay Anderson, Adviser



FFA is an organization of agricultural education students preparing for careers in agriculture, food, and natural resources. As an integral part of the agricultural education curriculum, FFA provides a real-world laboratory to demonstrate technical skills and develop personal and leadership abilities.

Founded in 1928, Nebraska FFA membership is over 12,700 members in 218 chapters. National FFA membership is over 1,000,000 student members as part of over 8,000 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Nebraska FFA offers a continuum of leadership experiences and career development events for students from seventh grade to post-secondary.

Nebraska FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

National Officer. Each year, six student members to represent the organization as a national FFA officer. National officers dedicate one year of service with the organization. The primary responsibility of a national officer is to serve the organization in local, state, national and international activities in a way that will inform, motivate and inspire FFA members, advisors, state staff, teachers and others to achieve the mission, strategies and core goals of the organization.

Central Region Vice President **Claire Woepfel**
Chambers High School | University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Rylee Dexter, Advisor

Agriscience Fair- Social Science. Students use scientific principles and emerging technologies to solve complex problems related to agriculture, food, and natural resources.

Division 1 - 6th Place Reece Steiner
Elm Creek High School
Danie Brandl, Advisor

Division 3 - 5th Place Katelyn Melvin
Johnson-Brock High School
Dawn Metschke & Ashton Bohling, Advisors



Agriscience Fair- Food Products and Processing Systems. Students use scientific principles and emerging technologies to solve complex problems related to agriculture, food, and natural resources.

Division 6 - 6th Place Ashley Beethe, Catherine Wendt
Johnson County Central High School
Christy Hodges & Connor Bartels, Advisors

Agriscience Fair- Power, Structure, and Technical Systems. Students use scientific principles and emerging technologies to solve complex problems related to agriculture, food, and natural resources.

Division 1 - 2nd Place Craig Anthony
Johnson-Brock High School
Dawn Metschke & Ashton Bohling, Advisors

Division 4 - 4th PlaceElizabeth Olson, Ansley Cadwallader
West Holt High School
David Gibbens & Katie Lewin, Advisors

Division 6 - 3rd PlaceMolly Weber, Saige Rother
Johnson County Central High School
Christy Hodges & Connor Bartels, Advisors

Agricultural Communications. This event develops students' communication skills and teamwork abilities in advocating for agriculture. Participants create a media communications plan for FFA New Horizons magazine, which includes writing a feature story, designing a magazine layout, producing a broadcast piece, and developing a social media strategy.

6th Place Erika Donahue, Kiarra Eppenbach,
Marissa Tvrdy, Carlee Wolfe
Raymond Central High School
Katie Donahue, Advisor

Extemporaneous Public Speaking. The event develops FFA members' abilities to express themselves on a given agriculture-related topic without prior preparation or rehearsal. Participants formulate and present their remarks in a limited time, showcasing their spontaneous speaking skills.

3rd PlaceCarson Reiman
Gothenburg High School
AnnaLisa Mosel & Elise Johnson, Advisors



Environmental & Natural Resources. Participants engage in various activities and practicums, working under challenging conditions to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in environmental and natural resources management. This includes soils, water, ecosystems, waste management, navigational mapping, and environmental monitoring skills through GPS.

1st PlaceMason Dutro, Toby Orvis,
Parker Walahoski, Paige Walahoski
Overton High School
Juliana Loudon, Advisor

Livestock Evaluation. This event is for evaluating and selecting livestock, including beef cattle, swine, sheep, and meat goats. Participants develop the ability to make accurate observations, determine desirable traits, and make informed decisions based on these observations. They also learn to discuss and defend their decisions, understand industry standards, and effectively communicate using industry terminology.

4th PlaceBela Jedlicka, Abigail Reyna,
Addison Vavricek, Allison Vavricek
Schuyler High School
Casey Harper, Hal Moomey, & Abbie Pieke, Advisors

Proficiency: Agricultural Sales - Entrepreneurship. Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs), have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers.

1st Place Cora Hoffschneider
Centennial High School
Holly Luettel, Advisor

Proficiency: Grain Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement. Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs), have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers.

Finalist Sam Wells
St. Paul High School
Boyd Bowder, Advisor



HOSA - Future Health Professionals is part of an instructional program that prepares students for a health care career. With programs found in high schools, middle schools, technical schools, community colleges, and universities, the organization develops leadership and technical skill competencies through a program of motivation, awareness, and recognition, which is an integral part of Health Science Education. The organization strives to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill, and leadership development of all health science education students, helping meet the needs of the health care community.

Over 1,800 Nebraska students join the more than 330,000 HOSA members around the world in pursuit of health professions. Members engage in activities that reinforce classroom instruction and students develop, practice, and refine their leadership and teamwork skills.

Microbiology. This testing event measures knowledge and understanding of microbiology at the recall, application, and analysis levels.

2nd PlaceAngela Cui
Millard North High School
Christina Preuss, Advisor

Allied Health Statistics. This testing event measures knowledge and understanding of allied health statistics at the recall, application, and analysis levels.

Top 10Emily Alison
Millard North High School
Christina Preuss, Advisor

Clinical Laboratory Science. This event provides members with the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills required for a traditional laboratory setting. Event components include a multiple-choice test, and the top-scoring competitors advance to round two for the skills assessment.

Top 10Zahraa Alison
Millard North High School
Christina Preuss, Advisor



Family Medicine Physician. This competitive event allows HOSA members to gain knowledge about the family medicine career path through interviews, research, and a peer presentation before a presentation in front of judges.

Top 10 Emma Baldeh
Dundy County Stratton Jr./Sr. High School
Elisha Hinojosa, Advisor

Barbara James Service Award. This event recognizes individual HOSA members who have a commitment to community service in health. The award is in memory of Barbara James, whose leadership skills and contributions to HOSA exemplify the caring and compassion of HOSA members.

Gold Level-over 250 hours Vyshnavi Perisetla
Millard North High School
Christina Preuss, Advisor

Gold Level-over 250 hours Khang Nguyen
Millard North High School
Christina Preuss, Advisor



The SkillsUSA national organization represents over 444,000 career and technical education students and teacher members. Our mission is to empower students to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders, and responsible community members. This is accomplished through the SkillsUSA Framework of Personal Skills, Workplace Skills, and Technical Skills Grounded in Academics, which is integrated into classroom curriculum.

Through the Framework, SkillsUSA students hone their hands-on skills against current industry standards in more than 130 occupational areas, from 3D Animation to Welding and nearly everything in between. At the same time, they develop the transformative career-readiness skills, teamwork, communication, professionalism, leadership, and more that fuel career and life success.

A vital solution to the ongoing skills gap, where more highly skilled jobs are available than skilled professionals ready to fill them, SkillsUSA has served over 15 million diverse, difference-making members since 1965.

Advertising Design. This competition tests technical skills and creative aptitude as though competitors worked for an advertising agency. Layout, drawing, and illustration skills are used, as well as the ability to create vibrant, effective designs using a computer.

2nd Place Roger Meraz
Wayne State College
Grant Schrick, Advisor

Automotive Service Technology. The competition is consistent with the automobile technician task list outlined in guidelines published by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) and the ASE Education Foundation.

1st Place Levi Vaughan
Central City High School
Matt Shrader, Advisor

Cabinet Making. Competitors build a small cabinet or piece of furniture from the supplied materials and drawings.

3rd Place Natalie Salt
Metropolitan Community College
Drew Henrichs, Advisor



Chapter Display. SkillsUSA student members build a three-dimensional display that articulates the annual SkillsUSA competition theme. The members of the chapter build the display and three students present information about the display during a presentation and interview with judges.

2nd PlaceJackson Nordhues, Joe Grone, Brett Staab
Wayne State College
Grant Schrick, Advisor

CNC 2-Axis Turning. This competition evaluates each competitor's ability to independently plan and program jobs for CNC (Computer Numerical Control) turning centers and provide instructions for operators to execute.

3rd Place Nathan Middleton
Southeast Community College
Josh Beck, Advisor

Collision Damage Appraisal. The competition is consistent with expectations and competencies associated with collision repair center estimators (Blue Printers), insurance auto claim appraisers/adjusters, and independent appraisers.

3rd PlaceKyle Ferguson
High School Academy - Metropolitan Community College
Chris Cogan, Advisor

Electrical Construction Wiring. Competitors are required to complete a written test of questions formulated from the latest edition of the National Electric Code (NEC), a practical conduit bending exercise, and hands-on installation of a conduit system, cabling system, and wiring devices.

3rd PlaceEvan Schuetze
Northeast Community College
Nathan Simpson, Advisor



Extemporaneous Speaking. The competition requires competitors to give a three- to five-minute speech on an assigned topic with five minutes of advance preparation.

2nd PlaceDelainey Mumm
Thayer Central Community Schools
Louie Keim, Advisor

Fire Fighting. The competition evaluates the competitor's preparation for fire fighting careers through hands-on skill demonstrations and both written and oral presentations.

2nd Place James Strawn
Metropolitan Community College
Boomer Strawn, Advisor

Heavy Equipment Operations. Heavy equipment operators demonstrate the skill and knowledge of equipment operation, day to day maintenance, and activities (such as surveying and blueprint reading) on various machines in different applications.

2nd Place Chase Ostdiek
Central Community College - Hastings
Jason Baker, Advisor

Industrial Motor Controls. Students demonstrate their knowledge of electrical principles, equipment, and industry codes and standards as it relates to the design and installation of motor control systems.

1st PlaceChristopher Kovacs
Southeast Community College
Jeff Ives, Advisor



Information Technology. Students correct end-user computing issues, configure and secure networks, manage virtual machines, navigate and modify operating system internals, deploy operating systems, leverage troubleshooting software and tools, identify virus and malware origins, work with mobile devices, and proficiently use command line interfaces.

2nd Place Liam Blanchard
Metropolitan Community College
Guillermo Rosas, Advisor

Mechatronics. The competition requires competitors to have the ability to understand complex systems that integrate various elements in the mechanical, fluid power and controls domain, combined with the ability to work in a team environment with people with different areas of expertise.

1st Place William Grosch, Joseph Fickenscher
Central Community College - Columbus
Landon Hunt, Advisor

Mobile Robotics Technology - High School. The competition includes activities that simulate situations encountered by robotic programmers and support professionals.

2nd Place Chase Langan, Bryton Bower
Omaha North High School
Jeremy Wiemer & Natalie Runyon, Advisors

Power Equipment Technology. Power equipment technology competitors must demonstrate knowledge of two-stroke, four-stroke, compact diesel engines, and battery-powered equipment and their associated mechanical, hydraulic and electrical systems.

1st Place Callan Scholz
Metropolitan Community College
Terry Kuebler, Advisor

2nd Place Jaxson Fleming
Lincoln Northeast High School
Sarahi Lopez, Advisor



Robotics Urban Search and Rescue. (Team of 2) Teams are required to build a robot and arm mechanism that must be capable of locating, grabbing and moving simulated ordinances on the challenge course.

1st Place Hailey Hoffman, John Mann
Wayne State College
Grant Schrick, Advisor

3rd Place Lilla Mather, Anna Stuckwisch
Lincoln Lutheran Middle School
Jeff Rickords, Advisor

Video Production. Competitors are required to plan and shoot a video 30 seconds or one minute in length with special emphasis on professional production of the video by industry standards, quality of audio and video and adequate conveyance of the theme to the viewer of the final piece.

1st Place Jacie Ambrose, Michelle Soto
Northeast Community College
Mark Harleman & Drew Dolezal, Advisors

The Nebraska Department of Education recognizes the value of Career & Technical Student Organizations in the personal and professional development of students through Nebraska Career and Technical Education. Per Nebraska Revised Statute 79-775, the Nebraska Department of Education provides financial and administrative support for state leadership and administration of Nebraska Career & Technical Student Organizations.

It is the policy of the Nebraska Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, age, national origin, or genetic information in its educational programs, admission policies, employment, or other agency programs.

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