

the leader's link

A Publication of Oregon Future Business Leaders of America



By Kelson Newsome

State Business Leadership Conference Preview



April is the most exciting time of year for Oregon FBLA members. It is when students from all corners of Oregon gather in one place to compete to see who has what it takes to move on to Nationals. This event is none other than the State Business Leadership Conference held in Portland, Oregon. From April 16-18, 2008 Portland will host over 1700 Oregon FBLA members. In these three days, each and every member

will have the opportunity to attend dynamic workshops, meet new people, expand networking skills, compete among the best of Oregon FBLA, and most importantly have fun!



All of the hard work from the year will finally pay off as we crown the top Chapters, recognize the 'Dollars for Doernbecher Challenge' 100% participants, and recognize the

members that will represent Oregon this summer at the National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

This is one of the events that members look forward to each and every year. The State Officer team encourages your chapter to begin recruiting new members to attend and to start preparing for competition. We guarantee that this year's SBLA will be an enjoyable experience and just another opportunity for you to put your 'Leadership in Action.'

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Our National Theme: Leadership In Action

By Megan Mannen

Creative Fundraising Ideas; Fundraise Your Way to SBLC!



The State Business Leadership Conference is right around the corner! There are a multitude of things you can do to fundraise your way to the conference. You can do a fundraiser with just about anything you are interested in. If you are interested in baking, you could hold a bake sale. If you like playing Guitar Hero, you could have a Guitar Hero competition and charge an entry fee. If you like Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, sell them at lunch!

There are four things you need to remember when holding a fundraiser:

1. Brainstorm a great idea- incorporate your members!
2. Have a budget, including costs and expected revenues!
3. Advertise! Advertise! Advertise!
4. Motivate members in your chapter to get involved!

Fundraisers always start with an idea. Use your imagination! One great idea is selling orange Crush soda at your school. A bottle costs \$1 to send to the person of your choice. It then costs another \$1 to send the bottle anonymously. Once the bottle is delivered, the receiver can then pay an additional \$1 to find out who sent it, but if it is anonymous they will never know. You can set this fundraiser up in a popular area at your school and sell during lunch, before, or after school.

Another great fundraising idea is to ask for support from local businesses. Local businesses may help sponsor you, and in turn, you can help highlight their business. It's a win, win situation!

“Find a fundraiser that is right for you, the options are endless! The main stumbling block is getting started. Make up your mind, get started, and have fun with it!”



By Lauren Hines

Keys to Success: Competition



New chapters- listen up, because these are great tips from some of the veteran Oregon FBLA chapters!

When competition time rolls around, every FBLA adviser, chapter, and individual prepares for competition in their own way. But when competition results are revealed and those chapters who prepared well, practiced hard, and presented confidently came out on top, fellow chapters watch them take the stage with envy—hoping one day they can learn their secret to F B L A s u c c e s s .

Last year, Oregon FBLA chapters and members competed among the best at the National Conference. In fact, there were quite a few dominant winners at both the state and national levels. I took it upon myself to talk to these chapters and get some helpful hints on what they feel made their students successful.

Philomath High School is a great example of what a well prepared chapter looks like. Philomath's Desktop Publishing Team snagged 8th place at the National Conference and it's all thanks to the preparation of the project. Philomath's adviser, Sue Van Meter, explained the lengthy and detailed process of producing a successful Desktop Publishing event. "I provide material from Desktop Publishing books to my students and have them study the terminology. I make sure they know how to use Publisher and I really stress to them to make sure and to include every detail and then check off the directions as they go. When that's all finished, we proofread, proofread, proofread!"

Ms. Van Meter wasn't the only adviser that stressed proofreading. Ms. Adriann Spencer from Centennial High School had both her Business Financial Plan and Community Service teams ascending the stage at Nationals. Her two Business Financial Plan teams who placed nationally had a great time writing projects on businesses that had been destroyed in a national disaster.

According to Ms. Spencer, a great tool her teams utilized was their chapter's Business Advisory Committee who assisted the students with all the logistics of the report. When it came to deciding a topic for their Community Service Project Ms. Spencer explained, "In light of the 5th anniversary of September 11th we partnered with Tribute to Honor, a nonprofit organization that honors firefighters, police officers and EMS, and their commitment to duty." The team asked students for their spare change and ended up raising \$1,700 for the organization.

Hidden Valley High School also found success at the National Conference this past summer. Hidden Valleys American Enterprise team took 2nd place and their Business Plan team took 6th place. Chris Pendleton, a Hidden Valley adviser, describes his chapters American Enterprise project. "Our project was about teaching middle school students how to bank and learn credit. Although it was their senior year and it was tough, they worked hard and got the result." He adds, "It was a combination of good writing and learning their speech."



National Fall Leadership Conference Re-Cap

By: Elise Heidi



Oregon FBLA was proud and eager to host the National Fall Leadership Conference this past November. For those of you who were able to attend, you know exactly what a thrilling experience this was. The conference gave FBLA members, as well as PBL

and Professional members to interact and get to know each other from all over the nation! States such as Montana, Colorado, Washington, Texas, and many more had the opportunity to put their leadership into action by attending the NFLC.

The conference kicked off the evening of November 2nd with a HUGE opening session. The key note speaker for this session was none other than Mr. Byron Garrett, who many members met this past summer at the Institute for Leaders. Byron Garrett currently serves as the White House liaison to faith-based and community initiatives. He has also served as the director of the division for community and youth development in the Arizona Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families. Mr. Garrett is a former columnist for the *Arizona Informant* allowing him to interview celebrities such as Samuel Jackson, Vanessa Williams and many more.

He is an accomplished author of four books as well as a co-author of three others, including the popular *ABC's of Life* which was on sale after his speech at NFLC. Mr. Garrett gave an entertaining presentation on how our generation could better themselves and prepare for our future. It was truly a great experience to get to hear him once again!

Following opening session was the "Battle of the States." Oregon was represented by three state officers: Willen Sin, Kelson Newsome and Justin Ottman; as well as the previous Rogue Umpqua Region VP, Lindsay Gehres. Although Oregon put up a good fight with their impressive FBLA knowledge, Oregon ended up getting beat by the state of Utah.

The NFLC was full of workshops and exhibits that gave members the chance to learn more about FBLA, improve their leadership skills and prepare for their futures.

The NFLC was drawn to a close by the national FBLA, and PBL officers. But before it was over, we had the chance to listen to one other keynote speaker, Mr. Carmine Gallo, who is a communications coach for some of the worlds most admired companies.

Overall, the National Fall Leadership Conference was a great experience for the State Officers, and I hope all the members of Oregon FBLA that attended felt the same way!



By Willen Sin



FBLA is more than a high school experience. It is about learning lessons that will pay dividends over a lifetime. To understand how true this really is, I interviewed a past member and former State Officer who shares his thoughts on what FBLA is all about and how this organization benefits its members throughout high school and all that lies ahead. Chamroeun Lim, former Mt. Hood Region Vice President took time out of his busy college schedule to answer a few questions.

How involved were you in FBLA?

FBLA was pretty much my life when I was in high school. Sometime I stayed at school until eight o'clock at night just to finish projects and help other members on their work. Senior year was the highlight of my FBLA career. I devoted most of my time as a State Officer assisting not only our local chapter but many other chapters in my region.

What is it about Oregon FBLA that benefited you the most?

I have learned many valuable lessons that have already contributed to my success in college, and will continue to make a huge impact in my future professional career path. Through FBLA I have learned how to network, witnessed the value of working with a team, experienced travel, learned how to be professional and have gained a sense of pride and ownership in my work.



FBLA Benefits Run into the Future

What would you say to students that are thinking about joining an FBLA chapter?

Joining FBLA is more than just another thing to add to your resume. FBLA gives you a preview of the demands of college, and like no other organization, it exposes you to a variety of career paths. It helps you to find out what you are capable of, and where your skills are best suited. More importantly, it gives you the skills that you will need after high school graduation, such as communications skills, organization, public speaking, and the ability to make new friends.

Describe your FBLA experience in five words?

Most rewarding experience in high school.

What skills have you used in college that you captured while being in FBLA?

Too many to mention! I basically used every single aspect that I have learned in FBLA to assist my college career right now. Compiling Portfolio, writing concrete letters, time management, and networking are the most important lessons I learned in FBLA that have been a huge asset to me in college.

After reading Chamroeun's thoughts and lessons, take this as an opportunity to recruit new members for your chapter, and promote the knowledge and skills that will benefit each and every one of your members today and tomorrow!



By Tosha Walsh

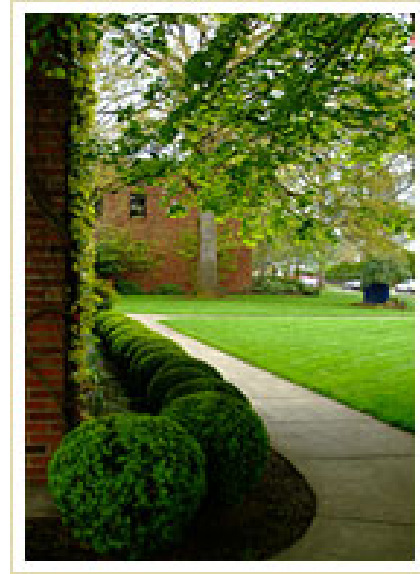


Concordia University and Oregon FBLA – a Great Partnership!

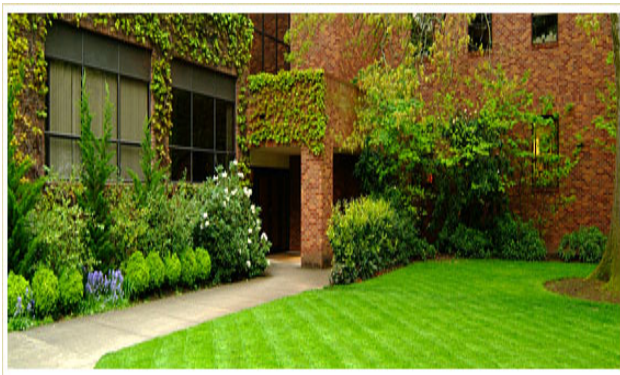
Aristotle once said, “Friendship is essentially a partnership.” Concordia University, located in Portland and Oregon FBLA have not only created a partnership with each other, but have built a great friendship. One of the important ways that Concordia University partners with

Oregon FBLA is through Dave Albrecht. Mr. Albrecht is a professor at Concordia University and is an active supporter of Oregon FBLA. He donates his time and energy to serve on the Oregon FBLA Board of Trustees, where he shares valuable information and insight that helps keep Oregon FBLA competitive and moving forward.

In addition to Mr. Albrecht’s support, Concordia University hosts the Board of Trustees Meetings and Regional Skills Conferences for the Mt. Hood and the Northwest Territory regions. Concordia offers two college credits for all state officers.



Thank you Concordia University for all you do! It has impacted the lives of so many of our members. You have our deepest appreciation. We are very excited to see what the future holds for this important partnership!



If you want to learn more about the exciting things that Concordia University has to offer, visit www.cu-portland.edu

FBLA Member Spotlight

By Tosha Walsh



"In times of great stress or adversity, it's always best to keep busy, to plow your anger and your energy into something positive." -Lee Iacocca

This quote is often used by this month's member spotlight, Thomas Stratton. Thomas Stratton was elected FBLA Western Region Vice President at the National Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee in 2006. During his campaign in Nashville, Tom promised to "Make it Happen with Stratton" and build FBLA by informing members and building unity. Tom represented his home state of Oregon with honor as he challenged local members, voting delegates, and state leaders to hear members concerns, develop ideas, and forge strong bonds of leadership that would bring exceptional service and communication to the associations' members and advisors.

In addition to his term as a National Officer, Tom also served as Oregon FBLA's Executive Vice President, and was the Vice President for Union High School FBLA for two years. Tom joined FBLA as a freshman at Union High School. Tom was a fierce competitor in the FBLA Digital Video Production event, one year submitting an entry based on Doernbecher Children's Hospital. Tom achieved his Leader and Business levels of the Business Achievement Awards program. Tom later went on to graduate from Union High School in 2007 and since then has been attending college in Denver, Colorado working towards a degree in business.

Even though Tom Stratton has a passion for business, he also has a huge love for music. He was selected to sing the National Anthem several times at rodeos and other events in the town stockyards and has also performed with choirs on the local and regional levels. But Stratton has much bigger aspirations. His ultimate dream is to sing before a stadium full with 50,000 people. Tom was one step closer to this dream when he was a contestant on the ABC show "Six Degrees of Martina McBride" last summer. Even though Tom did not win, he felt as though the experience alone was amazing.

Tom Stratton is an inspiration to all his peers. For this over-achiever and big dreamer, this is only the beginning. He has so much to offer the world; you haven't seen or heard the last of him!





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FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA-PHI BETA LAMBDA is a non-profit professional technical student education organization for students who are interested in or preparing for careers in business or business education. It is composed of four divisions: FBLA at the high school level, FBLA at the middle school level, PBL at the post-secondary level, and the Professional Division.

The Oregon Chapter of FBLA, referred to as Oregon FBLA, was chartered by the National organization in 1959. The State Program Coordinator plans, organizes, coordinates and conducts statewide student activities along with being responsible for the clerical and bookkeeping activities involved with Oregon FBLA. The current State Program Coordinator is Samantha Kline.

The responsibility for overseeing Oregon FBLA is in the hands of a Board of Advisers (BOA). The Board of Advisers consists of eight FBLA advisers representing each district, the Professional Division Liaison, the current state president and state secretary of FBLA, as well as ex-officio membership by the State Program Coordinator and State Specialist. The current Business and Management specialist from Oregon Department of Education is Ron Dodge.

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www.oregonfbla.org

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Send in your articles today!

By Megan Mannen



Foundation for Teaching Economics

“I hope you can see that this internship is a great opportunity, take full advantage of the chance to intern for the Foundation of Teaching Economics!”

Foundation for Teaching Economics (FTE) is a program that provides teachers and students with an advanced economic education. The program's goal is to promote an appreciation and better understanding of market economies. FTE gives teachers of economics and social studies developmental opportunities and lesson plans. It also provides students with week-long programs to improve their leadership skills.

After you have completed the FTE program, there are additional opportunities available, such as the Internship for Leaders. This program gives one lucky intern the opportunity to work with an FTE partner organization for two months in Washington D.C. The intern's housing and living expenses (up to \$2,500) are paid for by FTE.

To learn more about this program I interviewed past-intern of the Internship for Leaders program, Bryan Timonere. Bryan had many reasons for wanting to take part in the program. One of the biggest reasons for him was the opportunity to spend a summer in our nation's capital. Instead of reading about business skills, he had the chance to put classroom/textbook theory into action. Bryan recommends, “If you have a chance to surround yourself with bright, intelligent, and determined individuals...engage the opportunity!”

When asked about the skills and abilities he learned through this internship Bryan said, “I looked at every moment, every interaction, and every project as an opportunity to practice and develop my own leadership skills.” Bryan's specific internship was primarily about logistics and event coordination. He learned how to run efficient meetings, how to lead and how to contribute to the planning processes. He also noted that he learned how to manage his time and achieve a work-life balance. He believes that the ability to network and interact with others is one of the most valuable traits you can learn in business.

I hope you can see that this internship is a great opportunity! When completing your application, Bryan encourages you to show your passion and enthusiasm about the chance to work and live in Washington D.C. This internship will help you meet career objectives as well as help you grow personally. Take full advantage of the chance to intern for the Foundation of Teaching Economics!

If you have any questions feel free to contact Bryan at bryan@teamtri.com
