



April 2004

Dear Oregon FBLA,

WOW! I cannot express enough how sincerely I appreciate the high honor of being recognized as your Businessperson of the Year. To be honored by an Association of such great distinction, merit, and class in the presence of my closest family, friends, and colleagues ranks among my most cherished memories. **THANK YOU** from the bottom of my heart.

As I reflect on more than 15 years of dedication and involvement in Oregon FBLA—it's truly overwhelming to think about the impact it has had on my life. The last time I was on stage as a member, I was saying farewell after three years of service as a state and national officer. I had just won first place in *Future Business Leader* and was ready to head off to college to make good on the investment of training, experience, and the network that FBLA had given to me. To think that 15 years later I would stand on stage to be recognized by the organization I so cherish is a testimony to the power of FBLA. Without FBLA I wouldn't even have had a business—let alone the skills and talents to contribute that would have made me worthy of such a high honor.

As Executive Director Samantha Kline so graciously and dynamically presented a biography of my contributions and efforts on behalf of Oregon FBLA, I can confidently share that I have not been alone in these efforts. I really see this award not as a “Businessperson” but more of a “Business of the Year” award.

Individual effort in life is not enough to make an impact. It is only through the men, women, and families of **TRI Leadership Resources** behind me that I have been able to accomplish anything meaningful for students and educators of FBLA. Four TRI team members in particular must be recognized for their efforts with me over the years. They have been with me first as a student in FBLA and later as colleagues at TRI. Thank you **Rhonda Bohall** (aka Mom) **Brycen Woodley**, **Lori Pankratz**, and **Larry Hall** for your friendship, support, ideas, direction, leadership and incredible contributions! Through their effort and more than 20 other superb team members who join us (many of whom are former Oregon FBLA members themselves) we are all proud of Oregon FBLA and the tremendous achievement we've made together the past 15 years.

FBLA gave me more than business training, leadership development, and my thirst for business—in every aspect of the word FBLA has given me a **family** of close friends, mentors, and life changing experiences. Through Oregon FBLA I met my mentor and best friend **Dr. Edward Miller** who was the longtime President and CEO of the national organization. He passed away just two weeks before this honor was presented to me and I know he was watching and very proud of Oregon. Through FBLA I met my wonderful wife **Carrie** and together we've

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enjoyed adventures across North America working as partners serving students, associations, teachers, and some of the world's largest corporations. Because of FBLA I'm blessed to work with my closest friends doing work we love and serving incredible customers who have over the years turned into partners and friends as well.

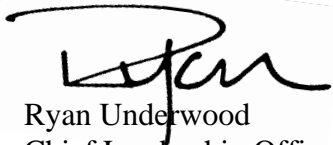
In sharing my genuine appreciation I have to thank **Ron Dodge** from the Department of Education as well as the **Board of Advisers** and **Board of Trustees**. In addition to these committed leaders, I must also thank **FBLA-PBL President and CEO Jean Buckley** and **Oregon FBLA Executive Director Samantha Kline** and her predecessors for their faith in our work and for continually giving us opportunities to test new ideas and continue our support of FBLA. Without the support of these leaders much of what we do at TRI and our success in Oregon and across the nation would not have been as fruitful.

And lastly, where would I or any FBLA member be without our advisers? I always called them my "**second moms**" and they spanned the state and helped me immeasurably (and many continue to be advisers to this day!). My local adviser **Donna Clement** at South Medford High School was the one who got me started in FBLA. She was the first to encourage me to join FBLA, introduced me to retired **Congressman Bob Smith**, **Medford Mayor Jerry Lausman**, and former **State Representative Leigh Johnson** all who supported my three successful campaigns for state and national office and my subsequent local, state, and national leadership projects.

Thank you Oregon FBLA for this wonderful honor. I pledge to continue my company's support of the tremendous work of Oregon's leaders and the high potential of FBLA and student success everywhere!

Gratefully,

TRI LEADERSHIP RESOURCES, LLC



Ryan Underwood
Chief Leadership Officer