

Nelson serves as FBLA State Secretary; 12 qualify for national conference

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Twenty-two Holyoke Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members joined 2,500 other high schoolers in Vail April 17-20 for the annual State Leadership Conference. Many members were recognized on the stage for their efforts in FBLA.

“This has been an outstanding year to be a Holyoke Future Business Leader,” said advisor Kristie Ham. Throughout the year, organization members participated in leadership activities and followed the national theme by taking advantage of all the opportunities FBLA has to offer by working towards being “Simply the Best.”

During the year, the chapter received much recognition as a result of their planning and organization of chapter projects and activities.

A highlight of the conference was Elise Nelson serving Colorado FBLA as the 2009-2010 State Secretary. She left early Friday afternoon and joined her other State Officers in Vail to begin final preparations for the Leadership Conference. Sunday evening found Nelson on stage in front of over 2,500 participants.

Throughout the past year, she has carried out many responsibilities including officer training, visiting other chapters, attending three District Leadership Conferences, helping with the Fall Leadership Conference and keeping accurate records of State Officer meetings.

During the closing meeting, Nelson said, “I have learned leadership skills, persistency, teamwork and compassion through my state officer experiences.”

In addition to serving as State Secretary, Nelson was awarded the “Business” award. This award focuses on local, regional/district, state and national involvement; advanced business skills; and community leadership. It requires presentation of a business portfolio to include a resume and verifying documentation of activities completed. She has also created the State Chapter Annual Business Report and will compete with it at the National FBLA Leadership Conference.

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Other FBLA members who qualified for nationals this summer in Nashville, Tenn. with first place honors are Duncan Brandt, Brian DeBoer and Sydney Nelson in Partnership with Business; Megan Colglazier, Website Development; and Briar Bergner, KrisAnna Ham and Sarah Heermann, Local Chapter Annual Business Report.

Those receiving top placings and a spot at nationals were Elise Nelson in Who's Who, second; Catrina Krueger, Brooke Parker and Alyssa Roll, Partnership with Business, second; and Jeremy Loutensock, Business Law, third.

Others who placed at the state conference were Elise Nelson, Future Business Leader, fourth; Whitney Redman, Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure, fifth; and Nicole Brandt and Alex Quintana, Community Service Project, 10th.

Also competing at the state level were Severine Barras, Becca Brandt, Christa Durbin, Lindsay Helgoth, Preston King, Sara Kumm and Geoffrey Mattson.

Although she was not awarded a state office, Ham reported Whitney Redman ran a top notch campaign. In order to run for the office, she had to finish a variety of tasks including writing an article and submitting it to the state publication, Colorado FBLA Today. She also submitted her resume and three letters of recommendation.

Redman then wrote and presented a two and a half minute speech and participated in a personal interview. She plans to run for a State FBLA office again next year.

For the 12th time, Holyoke FBLA was awarded the PEAK V Award. This event was completed by Ham. The Peak Awards range from Peak I to Peak V, with Peak V being the highest award available. This award requires chapters to submit information in a bound portfolio (report) format.

Each FBLA chapter completes and documents a total of 21 activities including six activities from the Membership and Chapter Management section, four activities from the Community and School Service section and 11 activities from the Education and Progress section.

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Three local businesses gave donations to Colorado FBLA to help keep the costs down for all participating students attending the conference. Businesses helping students attend this year included First Pioneer National Bank, Grainland Cooperative and Bank of Colorado.

Chaperones traveling with Holyoke FBLA this year were Lori Nelson and Misti Redman.