

□□ Holyoke students attending the 2010 National FBLA conference in Nashville, Tenn. are pictured from left, front row, Brooke Parker, Catrina Krueger, Whitni Redman, Sydney Nelson, Elise Nelson and Megan Colglazier; and back row, KrisAnna Ham, Alex Quintana, Sarah Heermann, Duncan Brandt and Logan Ramseier from Idalia.

Ten students represented Holyoke Future Business Leaders of America at the organization's National Conference in Nashville, Tenn. July 14-18.

Megan Colglazier, Elise Nelson, Sarah Heermann, Sydney Nelson, Catrina Krueger, Brooke Parker, Whitni Redman, KrisAnna Ham, Duncan Brandt and Alex Quintana competed against the top FBLA members in the nation. Members attended leadership workshops throughout the week and also participated in state and national meetings.

Holyoke's local chapter annual business report team, made up of Heermann, Redman and Ham, finished in second place at the national competition. Their business report documents all of the chapter's projects and events throughout the year.

At the end of the conference, the team was honored with the opportunity to walk across the stage in front of 7,500 fellow competitors and advisors to accept their trophy.

Accompanying advisor Kristie Ham and the students was chaperone Lori Nelson. As owner of Computers Etc., Nelson has been working with the chapter's fundraising efforts. She also had a workshop that reached many other participants from different parts of the country with the help of Sydney Nelson and Brandt.

The conference began with an opening session which was developed specifically for FBLA members to improve their leadership skills. The session featured keynote speaker Robin Crow.

Crow is best known for his many books, which include Jump and the Net will Appear and Evolve or Die. He also owns his own business, Dark Horse Recording which is home to the likes of Faith Hill, Neil Diamond, Michael W. Smith, Tim McGraw and Alison Krauss to name just a few.

He inspired members and reminded them about how only they can make their dreams come true, and that they are an important part of the world. Workshops included in the conference focused on bringing out personal leadership qualities.

In addition to gaining leadership skills, members competed in various events against FBLA chapters from across the country. Holyoke had five teams competing in different events.

Parker, Krueger and Quintana conducted an American enterprise project consisting of a 30-page report and a seven-minute powerpoint presentation.

Sydney Nelson and Brandt participated in the partnership with business project that required they make a 30-page report and a seven-minute powerpoint as well.

Colglazier completed the website development project in which she had to develop a website and present it in front of judges.

Elise Nelson conducted the state chapter annual business report which had to cover the period from the previous state leadership conference to the end of the current state leadership conference.

National conference a success for Holyoke FBLA members

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Only those placing in the top 10 in each event were recognized at the awards ceremony. The entire ceremony, including Heermann, Ham, Redman and Elise Nelson receiving their trophy is available for viewing at www.fbla-pbl.org. The team's trophy will be displayed in the HHS business room.

While students were busy at workshops and competitions, Kristie Ham saw many long days as well. This year she completed her fourth year on the national awards program committee.

The committee is responsible for ensuring a quality conference for all attendees by providing judges, event administrators, event coordinators and grading for over 50 contests. At the advisor meeting, Ham was honored with a speech outlining her contributions to FBLA.

In addition to the work students did throughout the week, FBLA members spent time seeing the sights of Tennessee. They took a ride on the General Jackson Showboat, learned to do some line dancing at the Wildhorse Saloon and were able to see where the American Idol auditions were held.