

Eight FBLA members earn trip to nationals

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Holyoke Future Business Leaders of America journeyed on a “Pathway to Success” at the Colorado FBLA state leadership conference in Vail. Twenty-one HHS members joined over 2,500 others from across the state for the April 21-24 conference.

Because of their strong efforts this year, eight Holyoke FBLA members earned the chance to attend and compete at the national conference this summer in San Antonio, Texas. Those include Molly Brandt, KrisAnna Ham, Kaylee Ham, Alex Quintana, Brooke Parker, Cierra Prella, Margarita Fierro and Whitney Redman.



Holyoke FBLA members who competed at the State Leadership Conference are pictured from left, front row, Teanna Clark, Brittney Prottsman, Brooke Parker and KrisAnna Ham; and back row, Carolina Hermosillo, Cierra Prella, Payin Becerra, Margarita Fierro, Alex Quintana, Meg Strauss, Ben Martinez, Shaylee Krueger, AJ Brandt, Molly Brandt, José Jaquez, Kaylee Ham, Brett Cumming and Gaby Quintana. Not pictured are Whitney Redman, Alex McCallum and Leo Ochoa.

Earning first-place honors at state was the Local Chapter Annual Business Report team of KrisAnna Ham, Kaylee Ham and Molly Brandt.

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Advisor Kristina Ham noted this is KrisAnna's fourth consecutive year to earn first place for the report. This chapter event has a strong history in Holyoke, with Kandi Kramer completing the first report. In addition to siblings KrisAnna and Kaylee Ham, who worked on the report this year, other siblings who have completed the project in the past include Nicole and Darci Tomky, Chris and Aly Brown and Justin and Sarah Heermann.

Also earning a spot at nationals was Brooke Parker and Alex Quintana with their second-place Partnership with Business project. Their Apprenticeship Business Challenge awarded a scholarship to the winner of several business tasks and competitions sponsored by local businesses.

For the 14th time, Holyoke FBLA was awarded the Peak V Award, completed by Margarita Fierro and Cierra Prella. Peak V is the highest award given. Chapter activities are documented in a bound portfolio.

A highlight of the conference, said advisor Kristina Ham, was HHS senior Whitney Redman serving as the 2011-12 state executive vice president. Since her duties began at last year's state conference, Redman has been instrumental in making district, state and national meetings successful throughout the year.

At the conference in Vail, Redman greeted Colorado FBLA members, handed out chapter awards, introduced the keynote speaker at the opening session and gave a farewell speech.



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Colorado FBLA's 2011-12 state executive vice president Whitney Redman awards the first-place plaque to KrisAnna Ham for Holyoke's Local Chapter Annual Business Report. Also on the team are Kaylee Ham and Molly Brandt.

FBLA members who earned awards at last week's conference include:

Payin Becerra and Ben Martinez, management information system team 1, fifth; José Jaquez and Gaby Quintana, management information system team 2, eighth; Brittney Protsman and Teanna Clark, American Enterprise, fifth.

AJ Brandt, introduction to technology concepts, seventh; Brett Cumming, computer problem solving A+, ninth; and Carolina Hermosillo, networking concepts, sixth.

Also competing were Molly Brandt, business communication; Shaylee Krueger, business plan; Alex McCallum, electronic career portfolio; Leo Ochoa, digital design and promotion; Meg Strauss, business plan; and Whitney Redman, future business leader.

First Pioneer National Bank and Grainland Cooperative were recognized as FBLA donors at the state conference.

To develop their leadership abilities, local students participated in workshops during the conference in Vail.

Keynote speaker for the event was E Renae' Antalan, a.k.a. Mama Drill. Known for her sense of humor, her speech made members laugh as they learned about being leaders.

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Misti Redman served as a chaperone for Holyoke FBLA.

FBLA is the student organization that helps today's business students become tomorrow's business leaders, said advisor Kristina Ham. Throughout the year, members have participated in leadership activities and followed the national theme "Gateway to Greatness" by taking advantage of all the opportunities FBLA has to offer.

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