

FBLA members 'Get the Edge' at annual recognition program

Written by Holyoke Enterprise



- Holyoke High School FBLA's chapter members were challenged to "Get the Edge" during fund raising, community service programs and leadership conferences this year and were commended for those achievements at the annual recognition night Tuesday, April 28.
- Special chapter awards were presented to Nicole Brandt, New Outstanding Member; Elise Nelson, Outstanding Member; and Sydney Nelson, Outstanding Chapter Contributions.
- Members were recognized for their years of participation as follows:
 - First-year members—Valerie Auersperg, Karina Avila, Nicole Brandt, Tiago Cavalcanti, Mark Edmonds, Margarita Fierro, Cassandra Franco, KrisAnna Ham, Carolina Hermsillo, Elle-Jade Megaw, Taylor Overton, Brooke Parker, Broc Pelle, Alex Quintana, Parker Redfern, Whitney Redman, Tessa Reynolds-Dizman and Alyssa Roll.
 - Second-year members—Briar Bergner, Sarah Heermann, Catrina Krueger, Geoffrey Mattson, Chasity Pelle, Kendra Timm and Jake Wolf.
 - Third-year members—Megan Colglazier, Elise Nelson and Samantha Redfern.
 - Fourth-year members—Diana Baeza, Kurtis Brown, Michal Brown, Karla Cruz, Colby Wailes and Mitchell Wittman.
- Current-year FBLA president Elise Nelson gave an overview of the meaning of the letters used in the club's title, representing Future, Business, Leaders and America. She explained FBLA is a national organization for business students who are preparing for careers in business and in business education. She challenged each member to "Peak to Success."
- Shirley Kadlec of Holyoke American Legion Post #90 gave a special presentation honoring the American flag.
- Vice-president Samantha Redfern then shared a multi-media presentation which highlighted the local chapter's goals and activities for the year.
- Members were recognized for numerous district, state and national awards received in the past year as well as chapter awards and achievements.
- On a local level, the Holyoke FBLA chapter was recognized by the Melissa Memorial Hospital Foundation as the Outstanding Youth Volunteers for the four year commitment made to help bring quality healthcare close to home and for the project to bring a clock tower and time

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capsule to Melissa Memorial Hospital.

□ Retiring senior officers Diana Baeza, Karla Cruz and Samantha Redfern were honored for their enormous contributions to the chapter and given special gifts from advisor Kristina Ham.

□ Appreciation was noted for parent sponsors, administrators, school board, business advisory committee, financial sponsors and American Enterprise project sponsors.

□ At the close of Tuesday's program, Kyle Bules installed the 2009-10 FBLA officers.

□ Officers for next year include Sarah Heermann, president; Whitney Redman, vice president; Elise Nelson, ex officio vice president; Sydney Nelson, secretary; Geoffrey Mattson, treasurer; Nicole Brandt, reporter; Brooke Parker and Catrina Krueger, historians; Briar Bergner, public relations coordinator; Karina Avila, fund raising coordinator; and Brian DeBoer, student council representative.