

## **Holyoke brings home 5th place from national FBLA**

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

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Holyoke's chapter of Future Business Leaders of America was represented by four students at the National Leadership Conference June 25-30 in Anaheim, Calif. One trophy was brought home by the competitors.

Students who attended were Kaylee Ham, Anastasia Conklin, Brittney Prottzman and Alyssa Cordova. They were accompanied by adviser Kristina Ham and were also joined by business leader Gary Krumm.



**Holyoke FBLA chapter members who participated in the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, Calif., are pictured from left, Kaylee Ham, Anastasia Conklin, Brittney Prottzman and Alyssa Cordova.**

Kaylee Ham competed against other top contenders in the Local Chapter Annual Business report to place fifth in the nation. With only the top 10 teams in each project being recognized, it was an honor for Ham to walk across the stage during the awards ceremony to receive a trophy for her fifth-place finish.

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The original team consisting of Ham, Molly Brandt and Astolfo Rojo, took first place honors at the state level and earned a chance to compete at nationals. The team created a report outlining the activity of the chapter over the past year. The report was updated after the state competition and then sent to National FBLA to be evaluated.

Holyoke was also represented in two other events. Anastasia Conklin, Tia Huffman and Brittney Prottzman submitted a nomination for Holyoke branch manager of the Bank of Colorado Gary Krumm for the Business Person of the Year competition, earning them first place at state. Conklin and Prottzman represented the team at nationals where they were joined by Krumm.

Flying out to the conference to join Holyoke, Krumm was recognized during the Colorado state meeting as the Business Person of the Year.

Krumm serves on the chapter's business advisory committee and has been dedicated to keeping the school's business department up to date. He has played an integral role in the FBLA chapter events by critiquing, grading, speaking, fundraising and supporting. It was no different at the national conference as he took the time to join Holyoke and even served as an evaluator for competitive events.



**Gary Krumm, Holyoke branch  
manager of Bank of Colorado,**

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**is recognized by FBLA as the  
Colorado Business Person of the Year.**

Holyoke was also recognized during the Mountain Plains regional meeting for an outstanding chapter report. Alyssa Cordova represented the chapter at nationals after earning a Peak V award at the state competition with team members Tia Huffman and Rosa Ochoa.

Kristina Ham completed her final year as the chapter's advisor. Earlier in the year Ham was nominated for inclusion on the national FBLA Wall of Fame and received a plaque during an advisor's forum at the conference.

Ham has served as the Holyoke FBLA Chapter advisor for the past 15 years and has spoken at several national leadership fall conferences, along with serving on the national awards committee.

During the conference, students had the opportunity to polish their skills while having a little fun. Arriving early, the group attended the pre-conference Institute for Leaders. The program is modeled much like the regular conference, but gives FBLA members special training to take on leadership roles.

Also on the first day, the group visited Disneyland. This was especially exciting for Cordova and Conklin who had never been to the park. Conklin and Cordova additionally flew in a plane and visited the ocean for the first time.

The following day, the conference kicked off with state meetings and the opening session.

Holyoke chapter members were treated to a break on the third day with a trip to SeaWorld.

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The fun was followed up by a day of informative workshops and competitive events. During the finals of events, the public is allowed to view competition. Holyoke members were able to check out new projects. It was important for them to see the level competition at nationals, noted advisor Kristina Ham.

The conference concluded with the closing session and the Awards of Excellence program where Kaylee Ham was recognized for her fifth-place finish. The Holyoke chapter wrapped up the trip with a Pirates dinner theatre show.

Other conference activities included voting for new officers where Kaylee Ham, Cordova and Protsman all served as voting delegates. Business exhibits were also set up for delegates to view during the course of the conference.

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