

17 local FCCLA members qualify for nationals

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Four Holyoke High School FCCLA teams made up of 17 students qualified for the FCCLA National Leadership meeting in Orlando, Fla. July 6-12.

Teams competed at the State Leadership Conference at the Denver Marriott Tech Center April 12-14.

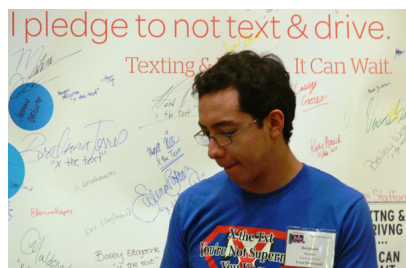
Six Holyoke teams competed in five different STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) events. In addition to the top four teams, one other team won a gold medal and placed in the top four, while another team earned silver-medal status.

Mission: Launch Innovation was the theme for this year's conference, highlighted by keynote speaker Chris Bowers.

Bowers focused on strategies related to the importance of attitude, influence of character and the impact of values in a highly-energized, humorous presentation.

Members also attended workshops focusing on leadership development, networking, drug prevention and depression awareness.

Holyoke's own Molly Brandt, Jacob Vasa and Ben Martinez put on a workshop on distracted driving as part of their chapter service project.



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Ben Martinez is pictured during the FCCLA state convention workshop “X the Text,” which he and team members Molly Brandt and Jacob Vasa conducted last Thursday. The presentation was featured on Fox31 and CBS News Thursday and Friday.

The workshop, sponsored in part by AT&T, received media attention and was featured on both Fox31 and CBS News.

In October of 2011, students from around the country, including Brandt, Vasa, Martinez and Erin Vieselmeyer, participated in the first-ever teen-led, teen-focused National Teen Distracted Driving Summit in Washington, D.C.

One outcome was for each team to create these locally-focused summits to continue to raise awareness on the risks of texting behind the wheel. The local students organized a summit for HHS students several weeks ago and also for the state conference attendees last week.

Many Holyoke chapter members were recognized in the state meeting opening session for completing a variety of FCCLA national programs. Those awards will be presented to students at the chapter awards program Monday, April 30.

National qualifiers who earned first place and gold medals in their competition follow:

Brandt, Martinez and Vasa, chapter service project display, “Distracted Driving,” score 99/100.

Erin Vieselmeyer, Trevor Dalton and Logan Tharp, chapter showcase manual, “Chapter Program of Work,” 99.3/100.

Luke Stewart, Ana Olivas, Alex McCallum, A.J. Brandt, Megan Vieselmeyer and Tito Fierro, junior parliamentary procedure, 97.5/100 (test score 28.5/30, presentation 69/70).

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