

## FCCLA qualifies 2 teams for nationals

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

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Two Holyoke High School FCCLA teams made up of 11 students qualified for the FCCLA National Leadership Meeting in Nashville, Tenn. July 5-11.

They earned their national-qualifying rank at the FCCLA State Leadership Conference held at the Denver Marriott Tech Center April 11-13.

Six Holyoke teams competed in six different Students Taking Action with Recognition events. In addition to the top two teams, two other teams won gold medals and placed in the top four, while another team earned silver medal status and another earned bronze medal status.



**Members of the HHS chapter of FCCLA who attended the State Leadership Conference April 11-13 are pictured from left, front row, advisor Karen Pieper, Anastasia Conklin, Dani Brandt, Brenda Hernandez, Rubi Canales, Ana Olivas, Audi Peña and Brittney Prottsman; second row, Austin Vieselmeyer, Dennis Amaya, Alex Yanez, Ben Martinez and Erin Vieselmeyer; third row, Molly Brandt, Megan Vieselmeyer, Marques Harvey, Luke Stewart and Logan Tharp; and back row, Matt Golden, Tito Fierro, Trevor Dalton and Brett Cumming.□□**

—Enterprise photo

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The theme of the state conference was “See What We See: Possibilities” with the tagline “Dream, Design, Deliver.”

Keynote speaker Scott Bachovich was a highlight for the conference attendees. His main message, delivered in a highly energized, humorous presentation, was that people get out of life what they put into it and that their fate is not predetermined by their circumstances or past events.

Members also attended workshops focusing on leadership development, cyber safety, stress relief and sexual harassment.

Another major presentation was “Rachel’s Challenge,” promoting bullying prevention and challenging participants to begin a “chain reaction” of kindness.

Many of the Holyoke chapter members were recognized in the opening session for completing a variety of FCCLA national programs. Those awards will be presented to students at the chapter awards program on Monday, April 29.

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

Brenda Hernandez, Ana Olivas and Rubi Canales, focus on children—occupational, “It’s a Girl Thing—Teenage Self Worth,” score 99/100.

Molly Brandt, Ben Martinez, Erin Vieselmeyer, Matt Golden, Brett Cumming, Dani Brandt, Austin Vieselmeyer and Alex Yanez, senior parliamentary procedure, 97.96/100 (test score 29.63/30, presentation 68.33/70).

Two more groups also earning gold medals and placing in the top four were:

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Luke Stewart, Megan Vieselmeyer and Tito Fierro, senior national programs in action, "Fitness Challenge," 95/100.

Brittney Prottzman, Anastasia Conklin and Audi Peña, senior chapter showcase manual, "Chapter Program of Work," 94/100.

Earning a silver medal for their senior chapter service display, "Community Up-Lift" weight room lift-a-thon were Trevor Dalton and Logan Tharp.

Marques Harvey and Dennis Amaya were awarded a bronze medal for the junior illustrated talk on gun control.

Chapter adviser Karen Pieper and Principal Susan Ortner served as event chairpersons for the parliamentary procedure event. Other sponsors included Bob and Brenda Brandt, as well as Dan Ortner.



**Brenda and Bob Brandt receive  
Friends of FCCLA recognition at the  
State Leadership Conference in**

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### **Denver last weekend.**

Bob and Brenda each received special recognition at the awards banquet, receiving the State Friend of FCCLA Award in honor of all their hard work and contributions over the past several years.

“Both Bob and Brenda, along with The Holyoke Enterprise, have been wonderful supporters of our chapter for a long time, and members were happy to succeed in surprising them with this award,” said Pieper.

“Our community should be proud of our students as well. Each team left their competition rooms beaming, knowing that they had done their project justice,” added Pieper. “Throughout the conference, they worked hard, performed very well and represented Holyoke in a manner that we can all be proud.”

Holyoke Enterprise April 18, 2013