



NEWS RELEASE

For additional information, please contact Jacqui Garrison by phone (402-471-4865) or email (Jacqui.garrison@nebraska.gov) or David Jespersen by phone (402-471-4537) or email (david.jespersen@nebraska.gov).

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NEBRASKA FBLA MEMBERS RECOGNIZED WITH TOP 10 HONORS AT FBLA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN ANAHEIM

More than 9,600 of America's best and brightest high school students traveled to Southern California to establish their own Legacy of Leadership as they competed for the opportunity to win more than \$170,000 in cash awards.

The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National Leadership Conference was held June 29–July 2 in Anaheim, California. Participants from across the United States and abroad attended this exciting conference to enhance their business skills, expand their networks, and participate in more than 70 business and business-related competitive events.

Nebraska members brought home 24 Top Ten awards. The Top Ten award winners are:

First Place

- Cole Tessendorf, Lakeview - Sales Presentation

Second Place

- Colton Patrick, Lindsay VanRyckeghem and Quianna Logans, Bellevue East - American Enterprise Project
- Terese Navarra, Bellevue West - Job Interview
- Corbin Johnson and Keegan Shuck, Chadron - Banking and Financial Systems
- Matteo Antunez, Syracuse – Microsoft Office Specialist – Excel

Third Place

- Alek Timm, Rachel Kraemer, Arlington - Partnership w/ Business Project
- Garrett Richters and Preston Stuhr, Centennial - Virtual Business Management Challenge
- Hunter Guru and Luke Bigelow, Lincoln East - Global Business
- Ashley Stewart, Grayson Wegener and Julia Niven, Lincoln Southwest - Hospitality Management

Fourth Place

- Aubree Noble, Brooklyn Stack and Hunter Hawk, Chadron - Graphic Design

Fifth Place

- Jack Hansen-Reed and Joseph Walther, Bellevue East - Sports and Entertainment Management
- Andy Zhu, Jesse Lin and Shruti Mishra, Lincoln East - Global Business

Sixth Place

- Emily Standage, Jonna Bart and Megan DeVries, Aurora - Business Ethics
- Jacob Sorensen and Thomas Simonson, Blair - LifeSmarts

Seventh Place

- Audrey Lausterer, Bellevue West - Job Interview
- Blair Stuthman and Jennifer Jimenez, Lakeview - Publication Design
- Aaron Buller, Ethan Hall and Leslie Braun, Heartland - Entrepreneurship

Eighth Place

- Brad Ernesti, Logan Sampson and Reece Krueger, Arlington - Management Decision Making
- Josiah Clements, Elmwood-Murdock - Accounting I
- Blake Beran, Grand Island Career Pathways Institute - Help Desk
- Akshay Sharma, Lincoln East - Securities and Investments

Ninth Place

- Claire Thomas and Halie Lewin, Ashland-Greenwood - Business Ethics

Tenth Place

- Jenna Swaney, Jeremiah Mejia and Brian Lacy, Bellevue West - Community Service Project
- Braden Hadwiger, Pleasanton – Agribusiness

The following students were Top 15 Finalists:

- Community Service Project: Katrina Hansen, and Payton Frahm, Elmwood-Murdock
- Electronic Career Portfolio: Alyssa Noble, Chadron
- Help Desk: Ethan Wagner, Grand Island Career Pathway Institute
- Public Speaking I: Jessie Freeland, Dundy County Stratton

Other national awards included:

First Place:

- Market Share – Wausa – Nationally and Mountain Plains Region

Second Place:

- Largest State Chapter – Mountain Plains Region
- Market Share – Dorchester – Mountain Plains Region

National Business Achievement Awards – America Level (top award in this four-level program)

- Hundter Biede of Adams Central High School
- Sierra Richey of Adams Central High School
- Emily Vonderfecht of Adams Central High School
- Brad Ernesti of Arlington High School
- Elizabeth Lowe of Conestoga Junior Senior High School
- Layla Parmer of Conestoga Junior Senior High School
- Jacee Weber of Dorchester Public School
- Stephanie Babella of Fillmore Central High School
- Halla Paschold of Lakeview High School
- Savannah Brich of Lawrence-Nelson High School
- Molly Dane of Sandy Creek Public High School
- Lauren Shackelford of Sandy Creek Public High School
- Shyla Oberhauser of Twin River High School
- Maddy Rinkol of Twin River High School
- Calista Shanle of Twin River High School
- Madison Ternus of Twin River High School
- Elizabeth Kubicek of Wilber-Clatonia High School

National Community Service Awards – Achievement Level (top award in this three-level program)

- Kati Jurrens of Adams Central High School
- Kailee Pohlson of Adams Central High School
- Brad Ernesti of Arlington High School
- Terese Navarra of Bellevue West High School
- Emily Flint of Broken Bow Public Schools
- Michelle Kotas of Dorchester Public School
- D. J. Hardwick of Dundy County Stratton High School
- Payton Zarkowski of Dundy County Stratton High School
- Ashley Stewart of Lincoln Southwest High School
- Brennan Cole of McCool Junction High School
- Hali Giesbrecht of McCool Junction High School
- Kyra Kennedy of Sandhills High School
- Bailey Coons of Sargent High School
- Shelby Schneider of Sargent High School
- Abbey Borgman of Silver Lake High School
- Megan Borg of Wakefield High School
- Shani Ramirez of Wakefield High School
- Joseph Hiatt of West Boyd High School

National Recognition Event Winners

- Hundter Biede, Adams Central High School, Who's Who in FBLA
- Tennille Allison, Kearney High School, Nebraska Outstanding Local Chapter Adviser

Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit

- Arlington
- Ashland-Greenwood
- Auburn
- Bellevue West
- Blair
- Centura
- Chadron
- Crete
- Dundy County Stratton
- Elmwood-Murdock
- Fairbury
- Fillmore Central
- Johnson-Brock

- Kearney
- Lakeview
- Litchfield
- Raymond Central
- Sargent
- Syracuse
- Tri County
- Twin River
- Weeping Water
- Wilber-Clatonia

MOST SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE EVER FOR NEBRASKA PBL

More than 1,800 of America's best and brightest college students also traveled to Southern California to establish their own Legacy of Leadership as they competed for the opportunity to win more than \$95,000 in cash awards.

The Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) National Leadership Conference (NLC) was held June 24–27 in Anaheim, California. Participants from across the United States attended this exciting conference to enhance their business skills, expand their networks, and participate in 60 business and business-related competitive events.

Nearly 100 Nebraska PBL members and advisers were among the 1,800 at the Anaheim NLC.

Nebraska PBL members captured a best-ever nine first place finishes and the state chapter brought home a record-setting 54 Top Ten finishes.

Scott Riley of the Peru State PBL chapter was elected to serve as the Mountain Plains Vice President for the 2017-18 year. Riley is currently serving as the president of the Nebraska State Chapter this year.

Nine First Place Event Winners

- Tori Tetrick (Auburn), Sara Bournia (Ilf, Colo.), Tami Myers (Franklin), Abi Sheen (Kearney) – Parliamentary Procedure
- Michaela Mapes (Bennington) and Kurt Cronicon (Omaha) from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Business Decision Making
- Alexandra Kenney (Milford) from Peru State College – Client Services.
- Emily Karr (McCook) from McCook Community College – Computer Animation and Desktop Publishing.

- Brenna Backemeyer (Elmwood) and Rose Wehrman (Kenesaw) – University of Nebraska – Lincoln – Emerging Business Issues
- Trevor Lockard (Lincoln) – University of Nebraska – Lincoln – Macroeconomics and Microeconomics.
- Stephanie Alfred (Mitchell) and Dawson Brunswick (McCook) – Network Design

Second Place Winners

- Ashlyn Draper (Lincoln), Samantha Hinrichs (Ankeny, Iowa), and Brooke Rudebusch (Thousand Oaks, Calif.) – Peru State College – Business Sustainability
- Kurt Cronicon (Omaha) – University of Nebraska – Lincoln – Economic Analysis and Decision Making
- Brady Conant (Hastings) and Rose Wehrman (Kenesaw) – Lincoln – Global Analysis and Decision Making
- Michaela Mapes (Bennington) – University of Nebraska – Lincoln – Human Resource Management
- Madisyn Ayers (Minden), Reba Burgett (Humboldt), Anna Bauerle (Imperial), and Corbin Heller (Sidney) – Doane University – Parliamentary Procedure

Third Place Winners

- Rebecca Lorens (Stratton) and Jessica Premer (McCook) – McCook Community College – Computer Animation
- Kandace Ward (North Platte) – North Platte Community College – Computer Applications
- Dustin Hageman (Omaha) – Doane University – Economic Analysis and Decision Making
- Kate Richerson (Lincoln) – Nebraska Wesleyan University – Justice Administration
- Rebecca Otten (Crystal Lake, Minn.) – University of Nebraska – Lincoln – Microeconomics
- Kate Richerson (Lincoln) – Nebraska Wesleyan University – Organizational Behavior and Leadership
- Abi Sheen (Kearney) – University of Nebraska at Kearney – Retail Management
- Drew Kasch (Highlands Ranch, Colo.) – Chadron State College – Sales Presentation
- Troy Fields (Halsey), Drew Kasch (Highlands Ranch, Colo.), and Molly O'Connell (Belle Fourche, S.D.) – Chadron State College – Strategic Analysis and Decision Making

Fourth Place Winners

- Reba Burgett (Humboldt) – Doane University – Accounting for Professionals
- Kenneth Erickson (Omaha) – University of Nebraska – Lincoln – Accounting Principles

- Megan Copsey (Gering), Rebekah Otten (Crystal Lake, Minn.), and Demi VanReeuwijk (Eagan, Minnesota) – University of Nebraska – Lincoln – Business Ethics
- Brenna Backemeyer (Elmwood) and Jacey Olmer (Humphrey) – University of Nebraska – Lincoln – Community Service Project
- Leyna Brummels (Ewing) – Chadron State College – Forensic Accounting
- Tristen Nelson (Lincoln) – Peru State College – Future Business Executive
- Marleigha McDonald (Gillette, Wyo.) – Chadron State College – Retail Management
- Melissa Strong (Giltner) – York College – Small Business Management Plan

Fifth Place Winners

- Kendra Alberts (Auburn) – Peru State College – Community Service Project
- Christian Dauel (Waverly), Trevor Koger (Arlington), and Logan Riley (Eagle) – University of Nebraska Omaha – Financial Services
- Haley Benedict (Springfield) and Sara Chaloupka (Grand Island) – Peru State College – Integrated Marketing Campaign
- Alexandra Kenney (Milford) – Peru State College – Job Interview
- Amanda Prosser (Loup City), Artur Rodrigues (Norfolk), and Chelsea Wortmann (Crofton) – Northeast Community College – Social Media Challenge

Sixth Place Winners

- Sara Granfors (Seward) – Peru State College – Business Communications
- Jessica Premer (McCook) – McCook Community College – Desktop Publishing
- Molly O'Connell (Belle Fourche, S.D.) – Chadron State College – Small Business Management Plan

Seventh Place Winners

- Trevor Koger (Arlington) – University of Nebraska Omaha – Accounting Principles
- Kendra Alberts (Auburn) – Peru State College – Future Business Educator
- Logan Riley (Eagle) – University of Nebraska Omaha – Management Concepts

Eighth Place Winners

- Megan Copsey (Gering) – University of Nebraska – Lincoln – Help Desk
- Kenneth Erickson (Omaha) – University of Nebraska – Lincoln – Social Media Challenge

Ninth Place Winners

- Dustin Hageman (Omaha) – Doane University – Human Resource Management

- Trey Nelson (Lincoln) and Tristen Nelson (Lincoln) – Peru State College – Marketing Analysis and Decision Making
- Kiana Borengasser (Waianae, Hawaii), Lauren Robertson (Omaha), and Brooke Rudebusch (Thousand Oaks, Calif.) – Peru State College – Strategic Analysis & Decision Making
- Haley Benedict (Springfield) and Sara Chaloupka (Grand Island) – Peru State – Website Design

Tenth Place Winners

- Emma Wiebalhaus (Fordyce) – Northeast Community College – Administrative Technology
- Cassandra Hunter (Lincoln) and Yorgelys Jaspe (San Carlos, Venezuela) – Peru State College – Business Sustainability
- Axel Klaussen (Fremont) and Anna Watts (Ogallala) – Midland University – Forensic Accounting
- Eirikur Arnason (Taconite, Minn.) and Jonathan Quintanilla (Emporia, Kan.) – Midland University – Global Analysis and Decision Making
- Bailey Kool (McCook) – McCook Community College – Help Desk
- Stephanie Alfred (Mitchell) and Troy Fields (Halsey) – Chadron State College – Integrated Marketing Campaign
- Trey Nelson (Lincoln) – Peru State College – Job Interview
- Rachael Cole (Wymore) and Lindsay Harlow (Dawson) – Peru State College – Local Chapter Annual Business Report
- Who's Who in Phi Beta Lambda
- Molly O'Connell (Belle Fourche, S.D.) – Chadron State College

Other Finalists

- Rozlyn Cole (Wymore), Sara Granfors (Seward), and Spencer Kerwin (Omaha) – Peru State College – Emerging Business Issues
- Brooke Hays (Oxford) – Peru State College – Financial Analysis and Decision Making
- Hannah Hanke (Culberston), Taylor Stettner (Hampton), and Brad Wessels (Arapahoe) – McCook Community College – Financial Analysis and Decision Making
- Lindsay Harlow (Dawson) – Peru State College – Financial Services
- Axel Klaussen (Fremont), Danielle Martin (Le Mars, Iowa), and Anna Watts (Ogallala) – Midland University – Management Analysis and Decision Making
- Jacey Olmer (Humphrey) – University of Nebraska – Lincoln – Marketing Analysis and Decision Making

The awards were part of a comprehensive national competitive events program sponsored by FBLA-PBL that recognizes and rewards excellence in a broad range of business and career-related areas. For many students, the competitive events are the capstone activity of their high school academic careers. In addition to competitions, students immersed themselves in interactive workshops, visited an information-packed exhibit hall, and heard from motivational speakers on a broad range of business topics.

About FBLA-PBL, Inc.

Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda, Inc., the premier student business organization, is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) education association with a quarter million members and advisers in over 6,500 active middle school, high school, and college chapters worldwide. Its mission is to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs. The association is headquartered in Reston, Virginia, just outside of Washington, D.C. For more information, visit fbla-pbl.org.

Nebraska FBLA is supported through the Nebraska Center for Student Leadership and Extended Learning at the Nebraska Department of Education.

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*David Jespersen
Public Information Officer, Nebraska Department of Education
402-471-4537
david.jespersen@nebraska.gov*