**For Immediate Release:**

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**Headline:** FCCLA Members Attend the First Ever Virtual State Leadership Conference

*Held Virtually -*  # of students from Name of Chapter recently attended the first ever Nebraska Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America virtual State Leadership Conference. This annual event was held virtually from Monday, April 12 through Tuesday, April 13. Over 700 students from 81 chapters across the state attended this virtual conference. This conference provided students opportunities to hear from the keynote speaker, participate in breakout sessions, receive STAR Event results, be recognized for their work throughout the year, and elect the 2021-2022 State Officer Team.

Presentation of awards and recognition for involvement is a focal point of the State Leadership Conference each year. Due to the virtual nature of the event, all awards were presented virtually on the event website for chapters to view. This year, the Chapter Name received recognition for our involvement in Award name for our describe project . Additionally, Name of Students participated in the FCS Knowledge Tests that were completed prior to the conference. Name of Student(s) received 1st, 2nd, 3rd place in the subject area test.

Students began their conference leadership journey with the live Opening General Session. The 2020-2021 State Officer Team kicked off the virtual event. During this time, members also heard from keynote speaker, Molly Kennedy. Molly shared an inspiring message all about “Flipping your 20” or flipping your perspective on things. She spoke about how one’s circumstances don’t have to define them and how anyone can change their outlook simply by taking a step back and adjusting the perspective.

On Monday afternoon, participants had the opportunity to attend breakout sessions where they learned about running for office, creative careers, navigating college, red flags in relationships and much more! A variety of activities were also available for members to participate in ranging from a digital escape room to a financial literacy poster contest to a National Programs scavenger hunt.

 Name of Students were participants in this virtual conference. *[Insert sentence about the sessions/events members participated in]*

*[Insert quote from members about their participation in the conference]*

Nebraska FCCLA also kicked off the celebration of its 75th Anniversary during the State Leadership Conference with a fun and interactive event on Monday evening! This event featured a “Nailed It!” competition where the State Officer Team had to replicate the 75th Anniversary Red Velvet cupcake design on sugar cookies. Chapters who participated in the Red Velvet Cupcake decorating competition over the last few months were also recognized. Teams from Neligh-Oakdale and Boyd County went head-to-head in the Nebraska FCCLA Knowledge Bowl competition, with Neligh-Oakdale being crowned the champion. Participants also competed in two rounds of trivia with topics ranging from famous families to iconic toys. The top five finishers in each round received Nebraska FCCLA prizes. Overall, Nebraska FCCLA had an amazing celebration!

On Tuesday, April 13, ten students were recognized during the Say Yes to FCS signing event for declaring a major in a Family and Consumer Sciences-related field at their respective post-secondary institution. Areas of study ranged from Early Childhood Education to Interior Design to Family and Consumer Sciences Education to Sociology. *[Insert sentence about the student(s) from your chapter who participated in this event]*

Following the Say Yes to FCS signing, the top three competitors in each STAR Event were recognized live as the State Champion and Runner-Ups were announced. The virtual STAR Event competition took place during March and featured over 425 student competitors in 30 national events and five state events. Students who were named the State Champion or Runner-Up and earned a Gold or Silver medal also qualified to compete in the national STAR Event competition which will take place virtually in May. *[Insert information about the STAR Events participants from your chapter]*

The conference wrapped up on Tuesday morning with the live Closing General Session. During this session, a chapter highlight video spotlighted the work of Nebraska FCCLA chapters throughout the year and participation in the hybrid National Leadership Conference was promoted. Additionally, the 2020-2021 State Officer Team reflected on their year of service to Nebraska FCCLA prior to the installation of the 2021-2022 State Officer Team. *[Insert information about State Officer Candidate(s) from your chapter]* The 2021-2022 State Peer Officer Teams and overall SPOT council were also announced prior to the conference adjourning. *[Insert information about SPOT candidate(s) from your chapter]*

*[Insert information about the service project your chapter completed on Tuesday afternoon]*

“The 2021 Virtual State Leadership Conference will definitely be one of the most memorable experiences of my high school career. I think that being able to see the impact we made come across social media platforms helped tie the experience together. It’s amazing how much impact we can have without being together; all because of our members’ ability to take action and build their future,” said Samuel Coble, 2020-2021 Nebraska FCCLA Vice-President of Competitive Events from Mullen.

FCCLA is a useful and dynamic national career and technical student organization that aids young men and women in their journey to become leaders and teaches them lifelong skills. It demonstrates the importance of understanding how to address important career, community, family, and societal issues through Family and Consumer Sciences education. Nebraska FCCLA has over 2,600 members in 98 chapters across the state. For more information about FCCLA, please visit [www.nebraskafccla.org](http://www.nebraskafccla.org).