**For Immediate Release**

**Headline:** Nebraska FCCLA Members Learn About Endless Opportunities at the 2022 State Leadership Conference

*Lincoln, Nebraska –* Over 1,000 youth members and adult sponsors gathered for the Nebraska Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) State Leadership Conference held April 3-5, 2022 at Pinnacle Bank Arena and the Haymarket area in Lincoln. This conference provided students opportunities to hear from the keynote speaker, participate in breakout sessions, compete in STAR Events, be recognized for their work throughout the year, and elect the 2022-2023 State Officer Team.  # of students from Name of Chapter attended this year’s conference.

Students began their conference leadership journey on Sunday, April 3, with the Opening General Session led by the 2021-2022 State Officer Team. During this time, members also heard from keynote speaker, EJ Carrion. EJ shared an inspiring message all about “making the jump.” He encouraged members to go after their dreams and not let fear or chance of failure stand in their way.

Throughout the day on Monday, April 4, participants had the opportunity to attend breakout sessions where they learned about balancing their time, pursuing leadership roles, leading with their values, exploring FCCLA opportunities, and much more! The Opportunity Fair also featured over 30 colleges, organizations, and businesses for members to connect with. In addition to the great sessions, students had the opportunity to give back to the Lincoln community through the FCCLA Serves projects. Over 125 students participated in service projects at places such as the Child Advocacy Center, Lincoln Children’s Zoo, and People’s City Mission. Members also had the opportunity to choose from many tour options such as Hudl and the Capitol Building, as well as several other tourist destinations across Lincoln.

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

Presentation of awards and recognition for involvement is a focal point of the State Leadership Conference each year. Awards were presented during the Recognition Session on Monday evening where recipients were recognized on-stage for their accomplishments. 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 virtually prior to the conference. Name of Student(s) received 1st, 2nd, 3rd place in the subject area test.

Teams from Hemingford, Milford, Mullen, and West Point-Beemer High School faced off head-to-head in the FCCLA Knowledge Bowl competition, with Milford being crowned the champion. *[Insert information about the FCCLA Knowledge Bowl Team from your chapter]* Eleven students were also 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. *[Insert sentence about the student(s) from your chapter who participated in this event]*

The on-site service project included purchasing socks from WeHelpTwo to help a young girl from Uganda Angel Nafula receive an education. Conference attendees went above and beyond to not only sponsor Angel, but two other students in Uganda as well. Additionally, 200 pairs of socks will be donated to organizations in the Norfolk, Kearney, and Scottsbluff communities to help individuals across Nebraska! Chapters participating in this project were vying for the opportunity to take home the Community Service traveling trophy. The Milford chapter took home the trophy for the second year in a row for their participation in this project and the SPOT service project earlier this spring.

This year, over 550 students will compete in STAR events at the State Leadership Conference. STAR Events (Students Taking Action with Recognition) recognize members for proficiency and achievement in individual and chapter projects, leadership skills, and career preparation in over 30 national 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 competition in San Diego, California in late June. *[Insert information about the STAR Events participants from your chapter]*

The conference wrapped up on Tuesday, April 5, with the Closing General Session. During this session, a conference in-review video highlighted the exciting moments of the conference. The Callaway chapter received the Chapter Spirit Award for their participation, positive attitude, and strong leadership skills throughout the conference. Additionally, the 2021-2022 State Officer Team reflected on their year of service to Nebraska FCCLA prior to the installation of the 2022-2023 State Officer Team. *[Insert information about State Officer Candidate(s) from your chapter]* The 2022-2023 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]*

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 2,700 members in 100 chapters across the state. For more information about FCCLA, please visit [www.nebraskafccla.org](http://www.nebraskafccla.org).