**For Immediate Release:**

**Contact:**

Chelsey Greene, Nebraska FCCLA State Adviser

chelsey.greene@nebraska.gov

**Headline:** Members Attend Mind Bending Careers Conference

*Kearney -       # of students*from *Name of Chapter*recently attended the Mind Bending Careers conference, which was hosted jointly by Nebraska HOSA|Future Health Professionals and Nebraska Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). This annual event was held on Monday, November 7th, 2022, with 125 students from 20 different HOSA and FCCLA chapters attending the event.  This conference, for high school juniors and seniors, works to bring awareness to mind-bending careers in the fields of behavioral and mental health. The generous support of BHECN (Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska) makes this conference possible.

The opening session was hosted by Erin Jensen, Nebraska HOSA President and Alivia Olson, Nebraska FCCLA First Vice President. Dr. Krista Fritson, Director of BHECN Kearney, spoke about the difference between behavioral healthcare and mental healthcare. She also shared updates about the work of BHECN and the need for behavioral and mental healthcare professionals in rural Nebraska.

Students were able to hear from professionals in various behavioral health careers, which are high need in Nebraska. Sessions about behavior analysis, sports psychology, school psychology, social work, post-secondary scholarships, and UNK’s pre professional programs were scheduled throughout the day. The HOSA and FCCLA Vice Presidents of Competitive Events, Emily Maw and Jayna Moses, presented a session about the different competitive event opportunities available through each organization that connect back to behavioral and mental health. Attendees were also able to tour the UNMC College of Nursing and UNMC College of Allied Health while on campus in Kearney.  *Name of Students*were participants at this conference. They participated in *[list the sessions they attended].*

*Include a quote from your student about one of the sessions they attended.*

“The 2022 Mind Bending Careers Conference was a very informational experience, and I enjoyed attending. The event was a great opportunity to learn more about mental and behavioral health career options available in Nebraska,” said Ashlyn Simonson, Nebraska FCCLA Vice President of Public Relations 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 2,700 members in 103 chapters across the state.  For more information about FCCLA, please visit* [*www.nebraskafccla.org*](http://www.nebraskafccla.org)*.*