**For Immediate Release**

**Headline:** Nebraska FCCLA Members Find Ways to Aspire to Inspire at the 2023 State Leadership Conference

*Lincoln, Nebraska –* Nearly 1,100 youth members and adult sponsors gathered for the Nebraska Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) State Leadership Conference held April 2-4, 2023 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 2023-2024 State Officer Team. *# of students*  from  *Name of Chapter*  attended this year’s conference.

Students began their conference leadership journey on Sunday, April 2, with the Opening General Session led by the 2022-2023 State Officer Team. During this time, members also heard from keynote speaker, Melvin Adams, a former Harlem Globetrotter. He retired to follow his dream to challenge individuals to succeed through focus, work and determination. With lots of humor, he did just that by inspiring members to fulfill their dreams by sharing his personal story.

Throughout the day on Monday, April 3, participants had the opportunity to attend four career panels where they heard from professionals in each of the FCCLA Career Pathways: Education & Training, Hospitality & Tourism, Human Services, and Visual Arts & Design. The UNL Engler Entrepreneurship Program also hosted an Entrepreneurship panel with their alumni and students. Nebraska CommonGround also hosted a Consumer Fair where attendees could hear directly from farm women in Nebraska and learn more about where their food comes from. The Opportunity Fair featured 30 colleges, organizations, and businesses for members to connect with. Students also had the opportunity to give back to the Lincoln community through the FCCLA Serves projects. Over 50 students participated in service projects at the Lincoln Children’s Zoo, Lincoln Children’s Museum, and Food Bank of Lincoln. Members also had the opportunity to choose from a variety tour options such as Hudl, Lied Center, Temple Building, and Memorial Stadium.

*[Insert quote from members about their participation in the breakout sessions, FCCLA Serves, tours, etc.]*

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 Centennial, Creighton, Cross County, Howells-Dodge, Minden, Neligh-Oakdale, Ord, and Southern Valley faced off head-to-head in the FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl competition on Monday afternoon, with Cross County being crowned the champion. *[Insert information about the Knowledge Bowl Team from your chapter]* Five 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 Fashion Design & Marketing 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 bringing items to donate to the Food Bank of Lincoln, which serves Lincoln and 16 surrounding counties. Conference attendees brought more than 50 pounds of food to be donated! Chapters participating in this project were vying for the opportunity to take home the Community Service traveling trophy. The Howells-Dodge chapter took home the trophy for their participation in this project and the SPOT service project earlier this spring.

This year, 570 students participated 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 Denver, Colorado in July. *[Insert information about the STAR Events participants from your chapter]*

The conference wrapped up on Tuesday, April 4, with the Closing General Session. During this session, a conference in-review video highlighted the exciting moments of the conference. The Battle Creek chapter received the Chapter Spirit Award for their participation, positive attitude, and strong leadership skills throughout the conference. Additionally, the 2022-2023 State Officer Team reflected on their year of service to Nebraska FCCLA prior to the installation of the 2023-2024 State Officer Team. *[Insert information about State Officer Candidate(s) from your chapter]* The 2023-2024 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 2,800 members in 100 chapters across the state. For more information about FCCLA, please visit* [*www.nebraskafccla.org*](http://www.nebraskafccla.org)*.*