**For Immediate Release**

**Headline:** Nebraska FCCLA Members Blaze New Paths at the 2024 State Leadership Conference

*Lincoln, Nebraska –* Over 1,000 youth members, chapter advisers, and guests from all areas of Nebraska gathered for the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America’s (FCCLA) State Leadership Conference held in Lincoln, Nebraska, April 7-9, 2024 at Pinnacle Bank Arena. Over the three-day conference, students attended general sessions, participated in workshops on relevant youth issues, gave back to the Lincoln community through service projects, networked with organizations and postsecondary institutions, competed in various competitive events, and much more!  *# of students*  from  *Name of Chapter*  attended this year’s conference.

Students started on their conference path on Sunday, April 7, with the Opening General Session led by the 2023-2024 State Officer Team. During this time, members also heard from keynote speaker, Vera Jo Bustos (Coach VJ). Her message focused on helping members improve their performance through the mental game. She guided attendees in developing mindsets for forging team dynamics, nurturing a high-performance culture, instilling confidence, and imparting the principles of resilience and mental fortitude in the face of challenges.

Throughout the day on Monday, April 8, participants had the opportunity to attend a variety of breakout sessions presented by FCCLA leaders and outside partners, including Jana’s Campaign, Nebraska Department of Education, National Center for Families Learning, Buffet Early Childhood Institute, and UNL Husker Venture Fund. Breakout session topics included FCCLA competitive event opportunities, growing leadership skills, chapter event planning, FCCLA National Programs, pursuing careers in Early Childhood, advocating for Career & Technical Education, and much more.

The Opportunity Fair featured over twenty 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. Students participated in service projects at the Lincoln Children’s Museum and Food Bank of Lincoln. Members were also able to choose from a variety of tours, including Hudl, Lied Center, UNL Food Innovation Center, Nebraska State Capitol, and Memorial Stadium.

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

In addition to the sessions held at SLC, members had the opportunity to give back to the Lincoln community through the on-site service project with Visionary Youth. Visionary Youth’s mission is to impact families and change lives by supporting youth to reach their full potential. Chapters were asked to bring in various school supplies to help support Visionary Youth, and over 50 bags of supplies were donated to the organization through this partnership! Chapters were vying for the opportunity to take home the Community Service traveling trophy, which was won, for the second year in a row, by the Howells-Dodge chapter for donating the most items.

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 Cross County, Howells-Dodge, Neligh-Oakdale, Ord, Pierce, Southern Valley, Wayne, and West Point-Beemer faced off head-to-head in the FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl competition on Monday afternoon, with Cross County 1 being crowned the champion. *[Insert information about the Knowledge Bowl Team from your chapter].*

Ten 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 included Middle/Secondary Education, Early Childhood Education, and Family & Consumer Sciences Education. *[Insert sentence about the student(s) from your chapter who participated in this event].*

This year, over 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 Seattle, Washington, June 29-July. *[Insert information about the STAR Events participants from your chapter]*

The conference wrapped up on Tuesday, April 9, with the Closing General Session. During the session, the Twin River chapter received the Chapter Spirit Award for their participation, positive attitude, and strong leadership skills throughout the conference. Additionally, the 2023-2024 State Officer Team reflected on their year of service to Nebraska FCCLA prior to the installation of the 2024-2025 State Officer Team. *[Insert information about State Officer Candidate(s) from your chapter]* The 2024-2025 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]*

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*FCCLA is a useful and dynamic national career and technical student organization that aids middle and high school students 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 nearly 100 chapters across the state. For more information about FCCLA, please visit* [*www.nebraskafccla.org*](http://www.nebraskafccla.org)*.*