

## Focus on FCCLA

A publication of the Michigan Association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America

Volume 11, Issue 2  
 Winter 2014

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### 2013-2014 State Executive Council

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### Articles & Letters Welcome for Publication

The policy of the Michigan Association of Family, Career & Community Leaders of America is that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program or activity or in employment.



## Run for State Office!

Audrey Koutny, State President

- Are you an active and current member of your chapter?
- Have you taken at least one semester of a Family Consumer Sciences class?
- Have you completed or plan to complete one module of Power of One?
- Are you in 9th, 10th or 11th grade?
- Do you have at least a 2.7 Grade Point Average? (4.0 scale)

If you meet all these requirements, then you are eligible to run for office to become a Michigan FCCLA State Officer!

Being a state officer is an experience of a lifetime. If you love FCCLA and are looking to take your leadership to the next level, this could be your perfect opportunity! As a state officer you experience the organization in a whole new way. For example, you get the chance to network and collaborate with an amazing group of people as you travel the state and even the country! In addition to the travel, there is the sensational state officer training! Learning from some of the nations top trainers, state officers enhance their leadership skills at the National Leadership Conference as well as at CTSO training in Dearborn.

The travel and training experiences are rewarding, but you must not forget about the opportunity that exists to make an impact on your peers! The spotlight will be on you at both the Fall and State Leadership conferences as you speak on stage and present original workshops. If you enjoy being on stage, performing skits, and stepping out of your comfort zone, becoming a state officer is definitely something to look into.



On top of all the above-mentioned opportunities, you also get to make your mark on the organization. You, along with the rest of the state officer team, will plan the theme for the year, the community service project, and numerous other essential behind the scenes decisions. Do you have something you would like to see the Michigan FCCLA take on? Becoming a state officer enables you to advocate for and execute upon your ideas.

I would recommend becoming a state officer in a heartbeat! I can honestly say it has changed my life in a way that nothing else ever has. I've gained an uncountable amount of amazing opportunities, networking skills, and lifelong friends. I've traveled to new places, learned new things, and made lasting memories. If you're even the slightest bit interested, I would love to talk with you! Please don't hesitate to email me at akoutny@mifccla.org or any of the other state officers. Applications along with all additional information are available under the Students tab on the Michigan FCCLA website. I hope to see a lot of applications coming in! Best wishes for the New Year!



## The Whos Need Sponsors!

Hannah Schultz, State Secretary

Hello FCCLA members! Now that the year has gotten off to a great start with the Fall Leadership Conference, the State Executive Council needs your help. In order to continue to have many amazing conferences, Michigan FCCLA needs sponsors. Sponsors are businesses or organizations that will give a donation (could be monetary, a product, or a service) to Michigan FCCLA and then they will be recognized for their donation at the conferences. We challenge you to ask around in your area and see if you can recruit some sponsors.

The first step is to create a list of possible businesses and organizations in your area who may be interested in contributing to our organization. Once you have thought of some possibilities, email one of your State Officers and we can help you from there. We have created a generalized letter that can be sent out to businesses and organizations providing information on FCCLA and how their money, service, or product could potentially help us out. If you know of any FCCLA members who now own a business or organization near your town, they could be an excellent sponsor. After a potential sponsor has been contacted, replied, and you have talked to the owner personally, you MUST contact a State Officer or Mrs. Rodrigues, State Coordinator directly, because she must be the one involved from that point on. This step is also crucial so we can alert the other members so an organization or business is not asked more than once.

Dr. Seuss once said "Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the things you can think up if only you try!" C'mon Whos, I know you can help us out!



## "Gimme Five!" Membership Award

Lynn-Marie Tomlinson, Vice President of Membership

Are you excited about the recruitment efforts of your chapter? Have you increased your membership by at least five members? Then your chapter can receive the "Gimme 5!" membership award. Your chapter will receive a special plaque at the State Leadership Conference to recognize your efforts in helping increase our state membership by adding five new members to your chapter roster since last year. Not only do you earn a plaque that you can display at school, you will also be recognized in "FOCUS on FCCLA" our state newspaper, and on the Michigan FCCLA website! The best part about

# GIMME 5 FIVE!

MICHIGAN FCCLA

earning this award is the fact that you do not have to remember any deadlines to submit paperwork to get it. If you recruit five new members, and they affiliate by March 1st, you will automatically earn the "Gimmie 5!" membership award.

If you are a new chapter, you can still win the award if you recruit five members over the minimum members needed to start a chapter, which is twelve. So, recruit a total of seventeen members, and your chapter will also win the "Gimme 5!" membership award! For recruiting ideas, check out [www.fcclainc.org](http://www.fcclainc.org) and [www.mifccla.org](http://www.mifccla.org) and look for their 2013-2014 recruitment brochures.



## Fall Leadership Conference

Raven O'Rourke,  
Vice President of Competitive Events

The date was November 6th, 2013. It had been a busy morning of preparation and rehearsal. The State Executive Council eagerly awaited Michigan's many FCCLA chapters from all across the state. Finally, high school students and their advisers began to arrive at the conference. The Lansing Center filled with excited, enthusiastic members; dozens more than last year's, in fact!

The Dr. Seuss theme kept things fun and bright, and made for a hilarious opening skit (be sure to attend the State Leadership Conference to see what happens next!). The community service theme, "Be Safe with Seuss" was introduced to inspire chapters to create their own projects inspired by the theme.

The attendees of the Michigan FCCLA Fall Leadership Conference had a truly amazing time. Matt Meuleners led an awesome FOCUS Training session. Members worked on leadership and presentation skills while mingling in groups from all different chapters. One minute, everyone was wandering around in flocks, chanting a stranger's name; the next, small groups confessed mildly embarrassing mistakes that they had made in the past. The session provided both fun memories and useful skills that will be applied to many other situations.

The afternoon workshops were fun, informational sessions about different FCCLA activities. "Plan to Be a Star" was an explanation of the Planning Process and its role in STAR Events. Everyone that attended now holds the skills they need to plan and prepare their own project for competition, as well as plan a chapter community service project for "Be Safe with Seuss". "Seuss-ing it Up With Programs" was a creative, interactive session about FCCLA's National Programs. "Dream Team Building" helped members to discover what kind of leader they were and what was needed to be a successful team leader. "The 3 R's of Membership" provided many examples of recruiting, retaining, and recognizing chapter members. In addition to these workshops, several chapter advisers set up a display of previous STAR Event projects to provide some inspiration for competition.

Thank you to everyone who attended for making it such a wonderful experience. The Fall Leadership Conference was great, but the State Leadership Conference is bound to be even better!



## Soar with FCCLA

Noah Brooks, National Vice President of Programs

The 2014 National Leadership Conference theme is "Soar!" Thousands of energetic FCCLA members will soar with motivating speakers, many networking opportunities, and onsite service projects while enjoying all that San Antonio has to offer. If you have been to a National Leadership Conference before, you know how much fun it can be. If you have never been to a National Leadership Conference, than be sure to work extremely hard on your presentation this year, so that you can qualify to compete at the national competition this year. You might take this opportunity to represent your state as a delegate.

The entire National Executive Council invites you to join us at the 2014 National Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas, July 6 - 10. Some of you may be wondering, "What is there for me to do in San Antonio?" Well, not only will you be able to compete at the highest level, attend trainings through Leadership Academy, network with members from across the country, and attend fantastic general sessions, but you also have the opportunity to make a splash at SeaWorld®, venture out to Six Flags®: Fiesta Texas, or even see the oldest mission in Texas - The Alamo.

FCCLA does not just come to National's for excitement. As members of FCCLA, we try to enhance the beauty of the city we are staying in. Every year, we hold a National FCCLA Onsite Outreach Project. Be sure to keep an eye out on the national website to see what it is we will be doing this year.

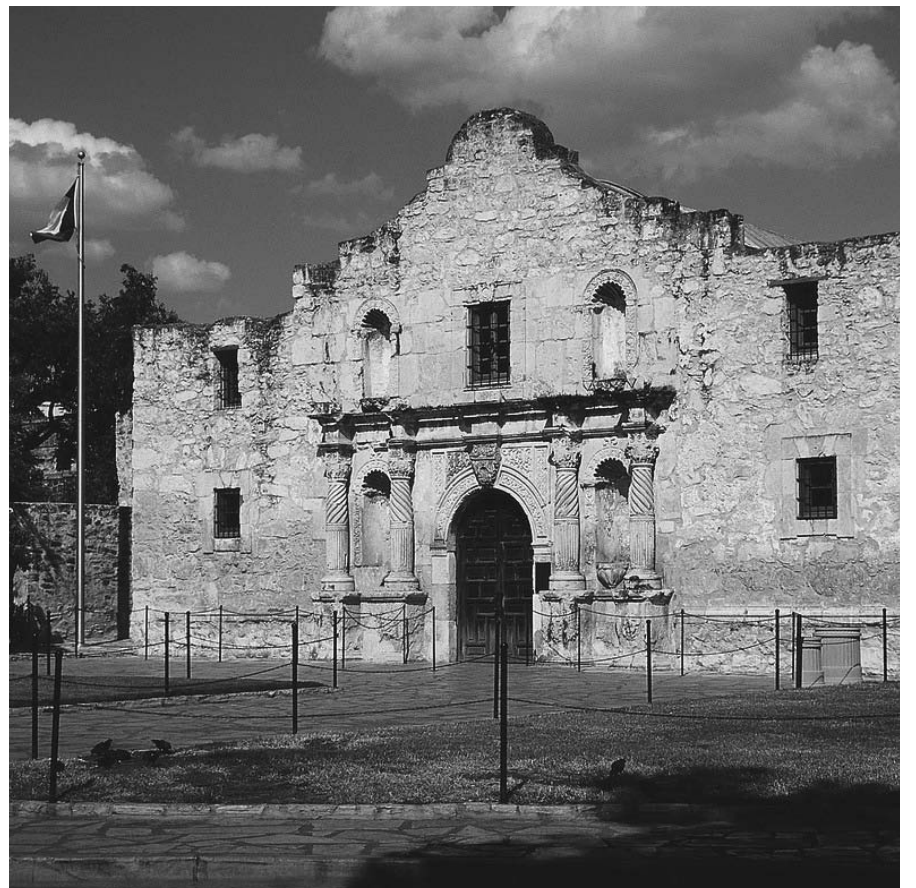
# SOAR

2014

## FCCLA National Leadership Conference

On top of all of this, your 2014-2015 State Executive Council will have the opportunity to attend State Officer trainings lead by the National Leadership Training Team. This will give them the opportunity to serve you to their maximum capacity. If you are interested in running for a state officer position so that you can attend these amazing trainings, feel free to contact any state officer.

FCCLA members will have the opportunity to dream and envision themselves "soaring" in San Antonio at the 2014 National Leadership Conference. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [nbrooks@fcclainc.org](mailto:nbrooks@fcclainc.org). The entire National Executive Council is excited to see you there!





# State Leadership Conference

Raven O'Rourke, Vice President of Competitive Events

We know you love FCCLA, but are you ready to spend three days with other people that love it as much as you do? You better be! The Michigan FCCLA State Leadership Conference will be held from March 26-28 this year at the Valley Plaza Resort in Midland, Michigan.

By now, you have probably put a lot of time and effort into your STAR Event project. You may want to begin working on the Planning Process and presentation aspect as you prepare for the conference. Presenting is a blast, and there is only one secret: do not be nervous! Let your passion for your project shine through as you talk, and prepare yourself for the shiny medal that you will be receiving.

If the project you meant to plan in October never got started, there is another option. Students are able to attend the conference as a "timer". You will go to all the same events as everyone else; you simply won't be presenting a project. Instead, you will help the judges by sitting in on other members' presentations and letting them know how much time is left. This can be very

inspirational, as you will be seeing many original projects created by your peers. In fact, this is a great option for first-year members that may be nervous about competing and are not quite sure what it entails.

Wednesday evening will kick start the conference with an opening session featuring a guest speaker. Competitions are held the next morning, and in the evening we will hold a banquet followed by a dance. The closing ceremony is the next morning, where competitors win medals. Other awards, such as those for the door sign contest, are also announced. FCCLA's events are fun, but the hotel is reason enough to come! The hotel features an indoor pool, hot tub, arcade, bowling alley, movie theater, and putt-putt golf. You are sure to enjoy your stay. This conference is a wonderful opportunity to break out of your shell and put yourself out there! There is ample free time to meet other members from across the state as you relax in the hot tub, hang out at the bowling alley, or

"get down" at the dance. Compliment someone's project or ask about their role in their chapter; you may find yourself with a new friend!

Do not forget about the chapter point challenge; you can still earn points for each member who attends. The chapter with the most points will receive an ice cream social with the state officers. Make sure that you turn in your Intent to Compete form by February 1, and your chapter registers for the conference by February 26th. Prepare yourself for an amazing time!



## The Safe and Sound

Audrey Koutney, State President

Each year Michigan FCCLA hosts a Miracle Minute at the State Leadership Conference. For one minute in the opening session of SLC, all the state officers and state officer candidates will go around with buckets collecting money to donate for a cause. This year, we have chosen to donate all Miracle Minute proceeds to The Safe and Sound: Child Advocacy Center, a safe place for children that have been abused. So please add your spare piggy bank change onto your checklist to pack! We're trying to make this year our biggest year yet.



Find us on  
**Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/mifccla](http://www.facebook.com/mifccla)

# 2014 State Leadership Conference

Oh, the  
Places You'll  
Go with  
Michigan FCCLA!



March 26-28, 2014 • Valley Plaza Resort, Midland, MI  
Visit [www.mifccla.org](http://www.mifccla.org) for more information.

# What FCCLA Means to Me

## Lynn Tomlinson

I joined FCCLA in a different way than most of you. My mom started a chapter at my high school four years ago. I was in 7th grade, and because she was having a difficult time getting the required twelve members to start a chapter, she had me join as a junior member. As I grew to enjoy being a member, I encouraged my friend Olivia to join with me the next year. We both medaled high enough at the State Leadership Conference (SLC) to earn our way to the National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Orlando, Florida. I won a gold medal in my STAR event. The following year as a freshman, I continued my membership and recruitment efforts. I earned another gold medal at the SLC and was elected to the Michigan Executive Council for my sophomore year. I also earned a silver at the NLC in Nashville, Tennessee and placed third in the nation for the iRecruit campaign—recruiting the most members as an individual.

When I first joined FCCLA, I wasn't sure if it was something I would have enough time for, because I played a sport every season and between practices, games, tournaments, and keeping up my grades, I hardly had any spare time. But, through the Power of One module "A Better You," I was able to create a plan using the FCCLA planning process to manage my time. I was able to find time through determining where my time was spent, what I wanted to make a priority in my life, and scheduling my time accordingly.

FCCLA has become an important part of my life. I think of our members as an extension of my family. As I continue to be active at the local, state, and national level, I have developed friendships and connections that I hope to continue for a very long time. One of the best parts of being a member of FCCLA is the community service part of it. Learning about the concerns and issues in our school as well as our community through my involvement with FCCLA, has provided me with the opportunity to grow as an individual and develop a better sense of empathy and compassion for those around me in my community. I really believe being an active member of FCCLA has helped prepare me for the multiple roles I have and will have as a family member, wage earner, and community leader!

I would strongly encourage all FCCLA members to make the most of your middle school and high school career by being as active in FCCLA as possible. It is truly one of the most rewarding experiences I have had in school, and one of the best student-led organizations around! Lastly, I want to give a shout out to my adviser, Ms. Lisa Boulding! Thank you for giving so much of your time to help make our chapter such a wonderful experience for all of us. Your passion for FCCLA has been infectious!



## Noah Brooks

I found that this is far from true. When I joined FCCLA in eighth grade, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I figured this was just going to be an organization that I would join and come to every now and then, but it turns out that FCCLA would become my second home. Although sometimes, I think I am with FCCLA more than I am at home.

As I got older, I began to become more and more involved until eventually I learned what I was meant to do: run for a position on the National Executive Council. People would ask me, "Why would you do that?" My response would be, "Because it is what I love, and if I do what I love, I will never work a day in my life," or, "FCCLA means the world to me; it is where my passion lies." Some people would understand, and others would not, but that is exactly what I expected. People who were not in FCCLA sometimes just do not understand how much it means to us as members.

As time went on, I found myself in Nashville, Tennessee, in the process of becoming a national officer. Until this moment in time, I had never met so many people with such a passion for the same organization as I had. I was truly inspired by all of the FCCLA National Officer Candidates. These passionate people made me even more passionate about FCCLA.

When I was asked to write an article about what FCCLA means to me, my first thought was that it was going to be the easiest article I have ever written, but then I realized something, there was not a single word or group of words that I could use to describe what it means to me.

Without FCCLA in my life, I would not be the outgoing person I am today. It has taught me so many skills that I could not have been able to get anywhere else, such as public speaking and organizational skills. It has given me the opportunity to meet amazing people from across the state and country that I will have lasting friendships with. Even though I have spent countless sleepless days and nights with FCCLA, I would not trade it for the world. I hope you can all agree with me when I say, "My experience with FCCLA is truly indescribable."



## Hannah Schultz

FCCLA has been a part of my life for four years now, and it has positively impacted me in countless ways. I have grown in leadership and responsibility, developed time management skills, improved in my self-confidence and public speaking abilities, and made so many new friends. I remember when I joined as a freshman, with no intention of taking on the role of a leadership position and possibly not even competing. Throughout the year, my love for FCCLA grew and grew (similar to the Grinch's heart!). Once I attended my first State Leadership Conference, I knew FCCLA was where I belonged. FCCLA is more than just an organization; it is a family. Although we all may be competing against each other, we all work towards the same goal: to make a difference in our community.

Through my many experiences with FCCLA, including Fall, State, and National Leadership Conferences, as well as my experiences as a State Officer, I have learned so many lessons that I apply to my daily life, and I am certain I will use them in the future. The ability to effectively communicate with others, exhibit professionalism, and utilize creative thinking are actions that withstand time. Also, the friends I have made and the relationships I have created will last longer than just my high school and FCCLA years. Oh, the places I will go with the skills I have learned in FCCLA!

Without FCCLA, I can honestly say I do not know where I would be and what kind of person I would have become. FCCLA has given me the opportunity to be involved in something bigger than just a community service and leadership organization; it has given me the opportunities, skills, and preparation to make a difference in the lives of others, my community, myself and my future. The idea of being so involved in such an amazing organization would have never crossed my mind during my freshman year, but now I could not imagine life any other way. I am so blessed to have been given such amazing opportunities, and I am thankful and honored to be serving on the State Executive Council. There is absolutely no way I could have asked for a better group of leaders to serve with. I am so grateful that I took the leap of faith to get involved in FCCLA, compete in STAR events, attend conferences, and run for State Office. Making the most out of your years in FCCLA is my advice to you; before you know it, it will be over. In the words of Dr. Seuss, "Only you can control your future."

