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2015-2016 State Executive Council

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Articles & Letters Welcome for Publication

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Empowerment Through the 2016 SLC

Alana Wilson, State President

This year we will continue to embark on FCCLA's leadership journey through one of the most exciting and competitive events of the year: the State Leadership Conference (SLC). This year's conference is sure to be filled with empowerment through speakers, competitions, and workshops. You will have the opportunity to showcase your competitive events and compete with over 600 other Michigan FCCLA members throughout the state!



The State Leadership Conference will be held March 16-18 in Midland. Make sure to mark your calendars and save the dates! SLC is a great way to show off what you love to do; it is a chance to be recognized and honored for all of your hard work throughout the year and to put those skills you have learned in your Family and Consumer Science classes to use. All of the amazing, hard work that you and your chapter have completed can be shared and showcased for everyone to see. For those that are competing in STAR Event Competitions, I encourage you to start as soon as possible and get a head start on those projects. Not only are you being recognized for all that you have accomplished, you have the opportu-

nity to receive a medal after competitions and qualify to move on to the National Leadership Conference, which will be held in San Diego, California this year.

However, SLC isn't all about the medals. At the conference, there will be an amazing banquet, informative, interactive workshops, and an awesome dance afterwards! During your time there, you will compete and interact with students from all over the state of Michigan. You have the chance to meet new people that share the same interests as you. How cool is that? My favorite part is the people I get

to meet, the relationships I form, and how it impacts and inspires me to be a better person. Embrace this opportunity, and don't take for granted what a great experience this conference will be!

This Conference is not something you will soon forget; the memories you make will stay with you forever. I invite you to continue on the journey of the ultimate leadership experience and make the most out of FCCLA. This conference is where I fell in love with FCCLA and was inspired to run for the State Executive Council, and no doubt it will do the same for you if you attend. I hope to see you all there!

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Fall Leadership Conference

Thomas Ankley, Vice President of Membership

The Fall Leadership Conference (FLC) goes down in history as one of the greatest conferences for driven students who crave success. Any student who has a thirst for knowledge in the areas of family, career, and community, would benefit

from this experience. The State Executive Council (SEC) worked tremendously hard to put on an amazing performance for our members. We all enjoy helping students achieve the ultimate leadership experience.

Being one of the youngest members on the SEC was an eye opening experience. There have been many Fall Leadership Conferences, but this year was like none other. We had an impressive showing of delegates from nearly every affiliated chapter from around the state. This prodigious conference even provided an opportunity for the younger members to step up and out as leaders by taking the initiative to participate in this event. We pulled together as a team and performed to the best of our ability.

This Conference is a time to come together as an organization. It is a time to meet new friends and lasting relationships. It was amazing connecting with a friend after not talking with him

since the last conference. It was great being able to meet all of the people that have similar views and who I call my friends. I have had the pleasure of meeting people that I now look forward to seeing at the State Leadership Conference, which increases my anticipation for the event!

Teamwork is necessary in any organization. Teamwork is a bond which promotes strength, unity, reliability and support. When working in a team, you attain communication and problem solving skills. In FCCLA, these skills are important in star events, volunteer work, and in the classroom. In certain situations in life, one must be prepared to divide and conquer within a team. It is important to build these skills to secure a successful future.



On the behalf of the State Executive Council, I would like to thank everyone that made this conference beneficial for all of us. "The Ultimate Leadership Experience" was achieved! Friendships have been made that can last a lifetime, and teamwork will keep this organization thriving. Michigan FCCLA continues to grow, and the future of this organization is glowing bright! We all look forward to seeing all of our present and new members at the FLC next year on November 1, 2016.



FCCLA's Need for Sponsors

Olivia Stempien, First Vice President

FCCLA has a specific need for sponsors to help with multiple initiatives throughout the year. The money that is collected from either businesses or chapter fundraisers will be used to help pay for some of the expenses that are needed during the Fall Leadership Conference and the State Leadership Conference. Michigan FCCLA provides a certain amount of money each year that supports our group with the necessities for the year. If the money does not cover all of what we need, we then seek help from several groups.

When donations are made, there is a different ranking recognition given to the business or chapter who donated. The awards are platinum, gold, silver, and bronze. For a corporate level, platinum is awarded when \$2,000 have been donated, gold is for \$1,000, silver is for \$500, and bronze is for \$250. For an individual or chapter, platinum is for \$250, gold is for \$100, silver is for \$75, and bronze is for \$50. All of this information can be found in the Online Handbook at www.mifccla.org.

When asking businesses or running a fundraiser, be sure to mention that the money donated will make a difference to our entire state membership. Without sponsorships, we face increased financial challenges. Michigan FCCLA truly appreciates all of the donations. I personally challenge each and every chapter at a minimum to become a bronze level sponsor. Just think of the final power our organization would gain.

If your chapter is unable to secure a local business donation, try fundraising! Fundraising can be simple and really fun for your chapter members to work toward a goal and strengthen relationships in the process. Your chapter could host a car wash or a bake sale. Fundraising doesn't have to be a stressful time for everyone. Fundraising can be an enjoyable and rewarding experience and will help our organization in the process. Embrace your inner hero by approaching businesses for sponsorships or hosting a chapter fundraiser and invest in the future of Michigan FCCLA.



Becoming a Super Hero

Kourtney Newton, Vice President of Public Relations

Becoming a Michigan FCCLA state officer is an honor. It is a very fun and exciting opportunity, but it is also a big responsibility. Being a state officer takes hard work, dedication, and commitment.

Before deciding on whether or not to become an officer, you should first talk to your parents, your adviser, and your principal. Although becoming a state officer entails a lot of work, it is always a good time!

The qualifications to becoming a state officer include, being an active member in your chapter (you have to complete at least one module in Power of One), have a minimum grade point average of 2.7 (on a 4.0 scale), and a recommendation by your chapter. Also, you have to have taken at least one semester in a Family & Consumer Sciences, Teacher Cadet, Early Childhood, Fashion Design, or Interior Design class. The final requirement is to be in 9th, 10th, or 11th grade when you run for a state office. If you are chosen to become a state officer, you will receive a lot of training to help you get ready to be a successful officer. This training includes attending meetings and rehearsals at the 2016 State Leadership Conference. Then, in May 2016 you will join your fellow state officers at a three day training camp. Other meetings will be held throughout your term of office, and you will receive training at all of these.

The application is fairly long, but really easy to fill out. The 2016-2017 State Officer Application can be found on the Michigan FCCLA website. The deadline for this application is February 1st, 2016. Also, you will need to create a campaign flyer and email it to the Michigan FCCLA office before February 1st, 2016 as well. The flyer must be 8.5 inches by 11 inches,



and will be copied in black and white. This will be put into the voting delegates' information packet at the State Leadership Conference. It must include your name, school, grade, and why you want to be a Michigan FCCLA State Officer.

At the State Conference, the candidates will be provided with a space on the table in the Great Hall, and you can create a display board about you for all the students to see when they arrive. You will be required to attend a candidate meeting and rehearsal at the State Leadership Conference, and you will have to give a speech during the opening session. The voting takes place at the conference and the new officer team will be sworn-in on stage during the Awards session on Friday.

Becoming a state officer helps you develop life-long leadership skills and personal growth. I am very happy that I took the chance to run for an office and that I am now the Vice President of Public Relations. This opportunity has given me the chance to travel to new places and meet many new people that I hope to stay close with after my time in FCCLA. Being a state officer helps bring recognition to your chapter and community. If you want to build your leadership skills, meet new people, and have a wonderful time, then you should fill out the application and complete the flyer by February 1st, 2016!





Transforming into a Hero with FCCLA

Ashley Smith, Vice President of Community Service

I joined FCCLA (Family Career Community Leaders of America) last year as a freshman. I have always had a passion to help others, and when I heard about the student led organization that helped young men and women become leaders and address important family, career, and community needs, I knew it was the organization for me. After attending my first chapter meeting, I was eager to start getting involved in my community and to go to my first fall and state leadership conferences. Going to the fall leadership conference for the first time made me nervous; I kept thinking about whether I would fit in or not. When we arrived at the fall leadership conference and the session began, I could tell how much fun the State Officers were having. I began to think whether I wanted to become a state officer later in my high school career. My favorite part of the fall leadership conference had to be when we went to different workshops and I learned about what it meant to be a state officer and the different roles they play in Michigan FCCLA.

Not long after the Fall Leadership Conference, my adviser asked me if I was interested in becoming a State Officer. I really enjoyed being an FCCLA member, therefore I knew the next step would be to become a State Officer. I made it through the application process and completed my Star Event project. Before I knew it, the time to stand up in front of everyone and campaign for my position had quickly approached. As I looked out at all my peers I was so nervous; I could feel the butterflies fluttering around in my stomach. As I stood there frozen, I was

not sure if I was going to be able to speak... I started to hear other members from the audience cheering me on and telling me I could do this. Everyone was so supportive that they gave me the strength to make it through the campaign process, and I was excited to hear my name called as one of the new state officers for the upcoming year.

During the training we received over the past year, I have grown so much. The strength that FCCLA has given me is so strong, that I do not know where I would be today if I decided not to run as a State Officer. I could never have imagined how much it was going to mean to me to become a bigger part of FCCLA and the positive changes I was going to see in myself.

To answer the question, "What does FCCLA mean to me?" FCCLA means so many different things to me... It means growing along with others by becoming a family that pulls together through our community and working to become great leaders. Family: helping me gain new skills, friendships and knowing that I was invited into a new family known as FCCLA. Career: FCCLA has helped me develop new skills and qualities that I can use in my future career. Community: being involved with such a great organization allowed me to help out my community and develop social skills. Leaders: FCCLA has helped me develop a leadership position and feel comfortable to speak out and lead others to follow in my footsteps. As this FCCLA year comes to an end, I want to encourage our fellow members to step up, stand out, and get involved in the Ultimate Leadership Experience.



"Gimme Five" Membership Awards

Jessica Helfrich, Vice President of Competitive Events

Michigan FCCLA is encouraging each chapter to increase their membership by at least five members to receive the "Gimme Five!" Membership Award. Each chapter that increases their membership by a minimum of five members by February 1st will receive a plaque at the State Leadership Conference, as well as recognition on the Michigan FCCLA website. There are no forms to fill out and no questions to answer, just simply recruit five new members for your FCCLA chapter. If your school is a new chapter, just recruit five more than the minimum – that's just 17 members! It really is that simple. Remember, each chapter that increases membership will receive one point for each percentage increased for The Chapter Challenge.

There are many different ways to increase membership for your chapter. My chapter wanted to focus on recruiting freshman this year. When the 9th graders were called down to the auditorium

for a meeting, we passed out mints that said, "You Were Mint to Join FCCLA." Though it might have been a little cheesy, the entire freshman student body now knows of FCCLA and some have decided to become members. Shortly after the meeting, we walked around the hallway giving the rest of the mints to other students with the hope of new members to join.

Another simple way to recruit members is to invite friends to meetings. By directly inviting someone to a meeting, they are more likely to come. Inviting friends to events to show them what they can do with the organization can spark their interest in joining. Having food such as cookies, trail mix, and candy at meetings also increases attendance since everyone loves snacks!

There are multiple ideas to spread the word about FCCLA and increase membership in your school. With your participation, we can make Michigan FCCLA stronger than ever. "Empower Your Inner Hero" today and get recruiting before February 1st!



Empower the Opportunity to Go Far

Erasmo Sanchez, Vice President of Programs

Join us, your Michigan State Executive Council, to be empowered by the Ultimate Leadership Experience at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference this year, July 3-7, in San Diego, California! The National meeting provides great oppor-

ties for you to compete in STAR Events, grow your leadership skills, and network with thousands of other FCCLA members around the country. The theme for this year's conference is "Empower" and speaks to making right choices in your life, and making a positive impact within your family, school, and community.

During NLC, you can participate in Leadership Academy. These dynamic and informative workshops will give you the opportunity to grow as a leader all while having fun under the California sun and making new friends. The FCCLA Leadership Academy develops leadership, employability, and 21st Century skills and gives you the opportunity to be recognized for your personal growth efforts. Leadership Academy is developed by FCCLA staff and alumni and is geared towards both FCCLA chapter members and officers. Completing a Leadership Academy track at NLC will earn you prestigious recognition.



You are sure to have a blast at the National Leadership Conference. You will leave empowered to do so much more with your chapter and will continue to grow in FCCLA. Visit the FCCLA national website (www.fcclainc.org) in January to find all the information you need to begin planning your trip to the 2016 National Leadership Conference in San Diego. See you there!

recognition at their regional awards ceremonies at the end of the conference.



Michigan FCCLA STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

March 16-18, 2016
Valley Plaza Resort
Midland, Michigan



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We are excited to announce that FCCLA will be transitioning to have all youth attendees wear the official red blazer at the National Leadership Conference starting with the 2018 National Leadership Conference that will be held in Atlanta, GA.

Why Unite in Red?

The red blazer is FCCLA's most recognizable signature clothing piece and defines the organization's youth leadership brand. There is pride in wearing the official blazer. Unite in Red will help FCCLA continue to build on our visual identity and make the power of FCCLA red more well known.

Since all of the youth attendees will be "rockin' the red" in blazers, we have negotiated a significantly reduced cost for the blazers. Blazers will now cost \$60 including the FCCLA logo patch. If you would like the supplier to sew the patch on, the cost per blazer is \$65. This is a great price reduction that will assist chapters in preparation for this transition.

The Red Blazer Brand:

The signature FCCLA red blazer provides members...

- A consistent appearance, symbolizing the empowerment of a united FCCLA and demonstrating leadership in our schools, families, and communities
- A reminder of our identity as an organization, with red being a symbol for courage and strength
- A symbol of success, as all FCCLA members deserve the opportunity to wear a red blazer and feel a sense of belonging in our amazing organization
- A sense of pride and purpose, reminding all members of their accomplishments and all that they've learned and gained through FCCLA

The Legacy of the Red Blazer:

The FCCLA leadership memories that members make in their red blazer will last a lifetime! There are many ways to work with your chapter and other chapters to implement Unite in Red by 2018.

- Create a "swap shop" where you partner with another chapter to swap blazers for any size you need.
- Purchase a few jackets each year so you can build up a chapter closet of red blazers.
- Ask local businesses to donate money toward providing red blazers for chapter members.
- Host a "blazer raiser", a fundraiser where you raise money for the red by going all red, such as selling red roses, selling cans of red sports drink with an encouraging note attached, selling Valentines that can be delivered to students, selling red candy, and more.
- Check into Perkins funding opportunities available through your state adviser.
- Host a "Rockin' the Red" dance where everyone comes to the dance dressed in red.
- Consider purchasing red blazers from graduating members.
- Have your members submit a video that explains why they're proud to wear the FCCLA blazer. Make sure to tag it with #UinRed!
- Create a giving campaign for chapter alumni and others to contribute in order to give blazers to deserving members.
- Host a "See Yourself in Red" night where you feature a bigger than life redjacket cut-out that members can stand behind and have their picture taken.

Help Create the Move to Red:

We value your input and want to know if you have other ideas for how to make the transition to wearing blazers as smooth as possible. Share your ideas with us! Email communications@fclclainc.org to share or post your ideas tagging it #UinRED