

NC BUSINESS LEADER

March 2009

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy March!

You would think this time of year things would begin to warm up and we would find ourselves in the wonderful season of spring, but nature tells us otherwise. To start off this month, most of us were greeted with snow. Yes, it was nice to have a day off from school, but at the same token I know many of us are ready for that lovely spring weather! The months have come and gone so quickly and it is almost that time of year that we all look forward to: competing at the State Leadership Conference! The state officers and the board members are still working extremely hard to make sure this conference will be the best North Carolina has ever seen. I hope everyone has begun

preparing for the competitive events and for their campaigns. SLC will be a lot of fun, but it will also require a lot of hard work, so I hope all of you are ready to "Reach Their Peak" at this conference.

On a personal note, I have really narrowed down my choices for college next year and my decision now lies between Appalachian State University and Rutgers University which is located in New Jersey. I have been accepted into both schools and this weekend I will be traveling to New Jersey for Rutgers' open house. I am very excited and I hope I choose the school that will best benefit me. I hope that all of you other seniors have begun preparing for your future, because high school is over before you know it. Again, I wish all competitors and candidates good luck at

SLC and remember, you can always email me with any questions, comments, or ideas.



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GREETINGS FROM THE PARLIAMENTARIAN

Hello again! It's me, Robert Morris. This past month my school has been involved in the FBLA talent show. Last year, FBLA was allowed to host a talent show at school for the first time in a few years, and it was a big hit. This year we are looking to make it even better. While it is a lot of planning and work, it'll be great. Well, that's about it for me. See you later everyone!



Robert Morris
NC-FBLA Parliamentarian
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GREETINGS FROM THE CENTRAL REGION

Are you ready Central Region?

As we count down the days, the State Leadership Conference is just around the corner. I hope you all are pulling your resources from the internet, other schools, and even fellow members and that you are studying hard. The State Leadership Conference will be held in Raleigh for the first time on April 16-18.

While you are at the State Leadership Conference, you have many opportunities to take tours during your down time. I hope you all take advantage of this historic opportunity.

The officer team is working hard to make your first experience in Raleigh a memorable experience. We have written our farewell speeches, put together our skit, and tested the beds at the hotel. The facility is beautiful and we can't wait to start the competitive events. You all have the opportunity to compete and to advance to the national level which will be held in Anaheim, California. As it gets closer

and closer, I expect great success from the Central Region. You all showed great enthusiasm at Regional Competition, and I can't wait to see what you all will do at states.

Between now and state conference if you need anything, please do not hesitate to send me an email. I check it everyday and would be glad to help with anything you may need. Get ready North Carolina, the Central Region is on its way!



Andi Cochran
NC FBLA
Central Region VP
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GREETINGS FROM THE EASTERN REGION

Eastern Region, we are almost finished with our journey to "Reach Your Peak!" The state officers are very excited to have everyone at the State Leadership Conference for a new and exciting year in Raleigh! As April approaches quickly, you (as members) should be steadily preparing for your competitions, workshops, and voting sessions! The best members are those who are prepared! And always

remember to thank your advisors for all of their hard work in helping you succeed!

If you have any questions about the approaching conference or competitions, please feel free to email me.



James Landen
NC-FBLA
Eastern Region VP
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GREETINGS FROM THE NORTHWEST REGION

Greetings Northwest Region!

I hope that you all have been doing well over the course of this past month. As the State Leadership Conference approaches, I hope that you are all studying for your competitive events, holding fundraisers, and preparing to "Reach Your Peak."

The new and exciting location of the State Leadership Conference this year, Raleigh, will most certainly prove to be a viable asset to everyone as it will provide greater entertainment, more educational opportunities, as well as a more business-like atmosphere.

The State Leadership Conference will be held from April 16th—April 18th, 2009.

During these three exciting days, you will have the opportunity to participate in leadership workshops, competitive events, and a myriad of other excellent opportunities.

Please continue to impact and to aid your local communities through community service projects. Our nationally adopted charitable organization is the *March of Dimes*. More information about this organization may be found on both the national website, www.fbla-pbl.org, and on the state website, www.ncfbla.org.

If you have any questions, or if I may be of any assistance to you or your local chapter, please feel free to contact me.



Nicklaus Ashburn
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GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTHEAST REGION

Greetings Southeast Region!

Well my how time has been flying by over the last few weeks. We are now just six weeks away from the State Leadership Conference. I hope that everyone in the Southeast Region who will be in attendance is ready to "Reach Your Peak" while at the conference.

I would like to again congratulate all of the FBLA members who came to the Southeast Regional Competitive Events and won in their competitions, and I look forward to seeing their names called to the stage at SLC. I would like to thank all of the advisors and members who served on the Southeast Regional Council over the past year for their service to the Southeast Region.

I would like to thank the Southeast Region for putting their trust in me by allowing me to serve as their

Regional Vice President over the past year. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the e-mail address below.



Brandon K. Hudson
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Southeast Region VP
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The North Carolina FBLA State Leadership Conference!

April 16-18, 2009 at the Downtown Raleigh Convention Center.

Get The Edge!

ARE YOU READY!

Reach Your Peak!

GREETINGS FROM THE TRIANGLE-EAST REGION

Greetings from the Triangle East Region,

I write to you all with an earnest anticipation of our State Leadership Conference that is quickly approaching next month. I hope that you all are as excited as I am about the conference. Whether you may be competing, attending the dynamic workshops, campaigning, or are a chapter advisor, you will surely find something extraordinary while attending the NC-FBLA State Leadership Conference. In relation to the conference there are several items I would like to remind you of.

If you are competing, please be sure to review the comments and scores that you received from your Regional Competitive Events. Be sure to evaluate your performance in your competitive event and be sure to improve and strengthen any weak points or struggles that you may have had during your competition. Also, practice makes perfect. If you have an interview event, be sure and practice an interview with a teacher or a business professional. If you have a public speaking event, be sure and practice in front of your class and teachers to become more comfortable with your speech. If you have a written competition, be sure to take practice tests to strengthen your business knowledge and to give you ample

practice before April. However, I know that you all will do very well in your event because you all are indeed the best and the brightest.

On another hand, as we approach the end of the school year for some members or approach the middle of the year for other schools, be sure to stay involved with your local FBLA chapter. If you have not already done so, be sure to plan some March of Dimes activities this month and in April as well. Also, if you are on a regular school calendar, notice that summer vacation is approaching in a few months. You might want to consider getting a part time job or internship in a business related field or in a field of your choice. Summer internships are a great way to not only earn extra money during the summer, but to also explore your carrier options. Many employers would love to see an FBLA member apply for his/her available jobs. For the daring and innovative members, you might want to design a business plan to create your own small business or non-profit organization. Many middle and high school students have spent their summers and extra time developing a small business or an organization to help their community. Please be sure to explore these options with your business teachers, your FBLA advisor, or your Career

Development Coordinator. And please remember that I am available if you have any questions or ideas.

Please do not forget to check out our Regional website at www.trieast.biz.ly for news around the Triangle East Region and please check out the state website at www.ncfbla.org. Lastly, remember that I am available if you have any questions or comments about anything. Please feel free to send me an e-mail.



Jonathan Bridges
NC FBLA
Triangle East Region VP
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GREETINGS FROM THE WESTERN REGION

Greetings from the Western Region! Spring is almost here!

Although there has not been any significant news from the Western Region this month, Regional winners should be continuing to prepare for the state competition coming up in April. I hope that everyone has gotten their registration completed, we want to see a great turn out this year. Don't miss out on the opportunities that the State Leadership Conference has to offer such as workshops, speakers, tours and of course competition. This year's State Competition will be a one-of-a-kind opportunity because it will be the first year for the new location in Raleigh. State Competition will be held April 16-18 at the new Raleigh Convention Center. Winners, also keep in mind the opportunity you will receive if you continue on through state placing for Nationals. You and others will represent North Carolina in Anaheim. Getting the chance to travel to places outside of your home state is another excellent benefit that FBLA offers to participants and Nationals is an unforgettable experience.

Recapping from the Regional Competition, our winners were recognized in the local newspaper with a well written write up on the event. Another note for regional news, my fellow state officers and I have recently been requested to call ten schools in our region that

have had a decreased membership or in-active status this year. Our conversation with the schools was intended to gain information on why there was a decrease in members or no chapter at all. I would like to let the Western Region know that participation was up for the most part from schools that activated this year, but our concern lies in the rising number of in-active chapters. After speaking to several schools, we do have a promising outlook for next year with many of them planning to re-activate. Chapters please promote new membership and also encourage schools nearby that may not have an FBLA to build one. This will not only make your club grow, it will also create new opportunity with the added participation such as fundraisers, charity, and stronger competition. I am proud of our Region for the new schools we have welcomed and the success of both the Fall Leadership

Conference and Regional Competitive Events, but there is always room to grow. I hope that every chapter is participating in some sort of extracurricular activity such as charity, fundraising, or just some fun event held by the local chapter. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help your school improve its FBLA. I am available by email or even in person.

My duty is to fulfill my position of Vice President and I want to see the Western Region continue in the right direction after I am gone, so I am here for any support needed.



Patrick O'Rourke
NC-FBLA
Western Region VP
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Before departing, if any school is interested in starting or reactivating an FBLA chapter, please feel free to contact me. Also, questions are always welcome, so never hesitate to ask one. I look forward to seeing everyone at the State Leadership Conference!

GREETINGS FROM THE TRIAD REGION

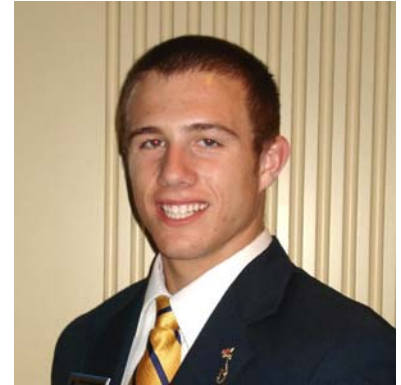
Greeting from the Triad Region! I am your Triad Region Vice President, Joshua Mason.

Terrific Triad Region! Our Regional events are now well past and I trust that you all are studying hard for the State Leadership Conference to be held in Raleigh. The State Officer Team and I are eager to see all of your smiling faces as we move to our new, exciting location this year. I would also like to remind you that, as this is a new location, we should present our best image—the true image of tomorrow's business leader.

Still do not forget in the coming months that FBLA has a partnership with the March of Dimes. I encourage the entire state to hold fundraisers or support the March of Dimes in any

way you can. Do not feel as if you are limited to just working for the March of Dimes though. I trust that you all are striving to make the biggest difference in your communities as you can. Keep fighting and we will make FBLA the most recognizable student organization in North Carolina through the change we create.

If there is anything you need or anyway I can be of service of you feel free to contact me at triadvp_fbla@yahoo.com. I am extremely excited about this year and cannot wait to meet you all. Have a good year and remember to keep involved!



Joshua Mason
NC-FBLA
Triad Region VP
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GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTHWEST REGION

I hope you all are doing well as this school year and this year of FBLA draw to a close. It seems like only yesterday I met you all at State Leadership Conference and here we are with one month until our next SLC. I don't know about you all, but is truly a bittersweet feeling.

I hope you all are studying hard in order to place at the conference. Time flies quickly so if you haven't started, make sure you have all your materials in order to do well. Being that we are in a brand new location, I hope you all are anticipating the move as much as I am. It is a wonderful facility and I believe you all will be impressed by what is in store for you.

Also, if you haven't started a fundraiser for the

March of Dimes, this would be the perfect time to come up with a new idea for ways to give back. My local chapter is starting to work on our "Cutest Teacher as a Baby" contest which has been very successful for us in the past. I will be sure to let you guys know how it turns out this year!

Remember if your local chapter is doing anything exciting and you would like to be recognized for it, please let me know by sending me an email so the Southwest Region can see what you have been up to! I hope you all continue to enjoy your school year and don't forget: **one** month until SLC!!!



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