

Twenty-nine FCCLA members claim gold at State Leadership Conference

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

- Twenty-nine out of 32 Holyoke High School students brought home gold medals from the FCCLA State Leadership Conference held April 2-4 at the Denver Marriott Tech Center.
- “Heroes Happen Here” was the theme of the conference, and FCCLA members competed in a variety of STAR events. Long hours of practice and preparation certainly paid off for the HHS chapter as 13 out of 15 teams earned gold medals.
- Chapter advisor Susan Ortner noted the Holyoke teams performed very well and worked hard to perfect presentations during practice time on Thursday.



- “We had some very high quality projects this year, and I am very proud to be associated with such a fine group,” said Ortner. “Having 29 of 32 members earn gold medals is quite an accomplishment!”
- This state conference was the first year for a new format for judging criteria with scoring rubrics utilized in each event. Ortner noted fewer gold medals were given across each event than in previous years, and once again the competition was stiff.
- Twenty students in seven events won first place gold medals and qualified to compete at the national meeting in Nashville, Tenn. in July.
- In addition, Holyoke FCCLA had four teams take second place gold medal honors. Two other teams also earned gold medals and placed in the top four.
- First place national qualifier teams follow:
 - Mallory Bennett, Ella Stewart and Marci Vasa, Applied Technology, “Stem Cell Research;” Jordan Zeiler, Career Investigation, “Physicians Assistant;” Duncan Brandt, Nicole Brandt and Geoffrey Mattson, Chapter Service Project Display, “Hometown Heroes.”
 - Kyle Carper and Megan Colglazier, Chapter Showcase Manual, “Heroes Happen Here;” Jeremy Loutensock, Illustrated Talk, “Blood Drive.”
 - Emily Bradley, Amy Krogmeier, Erin Lebsack and Whitney Redman, Junior Parliamentary Procedure.
 - Phawn Carper, Tessa Dizmang, LeAnne McWilliams, Samantha Redfern, Krista Schafer and Austin Tharp, Senior Parliamentary Procedure.
- Also earning gold medals and taking second place at the state conference were Nora Roth, Focus on Children, “Together Time Tubs;” Janna Smith, Job Interview, “Bank Teller;” Brian DeBoer and Cody Fricke, Life Event Planning, “Canadian Trip;” and Briar Bergner, Recycle and Redesign, “Children’s Toys.”
- Placing in the top four and earning gold medals were Becca Brandt and Kaylee Groshans, Illustrated Talk, “Eating Disorders;” and Heather Duester and Kimberly Peña, National Programs in Action, “Student Body.”
- Taylor Haidle earned a silver medal in Entrepreneurship, “Home Renovation,” and Brooke Parker claimed bronze in Interpersonal Communications, “Family Communication.”
- Chapter advisor Susan Ortner was in charge of running the Parliamentary Procedure STAR event.
- Others from Holyoke who served as event evaluators were Dave Colver and Steven Ortner, National Programs in Action; and Gloria Bergner, Chapter Service Project.
- Rebecca Helm, Gloria Bergner, Harvey and Nancy Colglazier, Dave and Adria Colver and Dan Ortner also served as sponsors at the state conference.

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- Approximately 1,000 delegates representing 68 chapters attended the conference this year. STAR Event participation was high, and event run-offs were required in senior division events including Chapter Service Project Display, Focus on Children, Illustrated Talk, Life Event Planning, National Programs in Action and Recycle and Redesign.
- Many Holyoke members were recognized for completing FCCLA National Programs at the Opening Session on Thursday evening. Those awards will be announced at the Holyoke Chapter Member Recognition program May 7.