HHS junior Elise Nelson and local FBLA adviser Kristie Ham recently conducted a workshop for advisers and students at the Future Business Leaders of America national fall leadership conference in Phoenix, Ariz.

Thursday, Nov. 20, Nelson and Ham traveled to Phoenix. While there, they also had an opportunity to participate in the exciting and inspirational conference. The national theme, which enveloped the conference, was “Get the Edge.”

Ham represented the FBLA National Awards Program Committee, and Nelson represented the conference as the Mountain Plains Region Secretary.

Everything You Want to Know about Competitive Events was the title of the workshop presented by the Holyokites.

As Nelson did a hands-on activity with advisers, they were able to apply the concepts of communication, leadership and commitment to their local and state chapters.

Ham focused on teaching about competitive events, resource materials and the ins and outs of preparing students for success. Ham said, “FBLA is our opportunity to enhance skills that we teach in the classroom, like integrity, leadership and commitment.”

Ham and Nelson wrapped up the presentation by answering questions and meeting individually with interested advisers. The audience walked away knowing that accomplishment begins with cutting edge skills, and FBLA is where you “Get the Edge.”

Later in the day, Ham spoke at the Board of Directors/National Awards Program Committee Forum. Here, she highlighted changes and modifications to FBLA and PBL events and answered questions. Nelson took minutes for the meeting, which she later typed and sent to FBLA CEO Jean Buckley and Director of Education, Barbara Small.

In addition to the workshop and forum, Ham and Nelson attended other motivational speakers’ presentations. Highlighting the conference was keynote speaker Justin Boudreau. His humorous and energetic message was about his mission of empowering students to be their best.

Other speakers at the conference included, Ham and Nelson’s favorite, Val Baldwin, who had an enlightening training that taught students to recognize and understand differences in each other, which leads to less conflict and helps create stronger bonds.

The closing keynote speaker was Beth Terry, who focused on the job market and expressed the importance of skills learned by FBLA members. Rounding out the wide variety of workshops was a Blue Jeans for Babies Social Event benefitting the March of Dimes.

Ham and Nelson felt refreshed and empowered after their weekend of intense training and look forward to using their skills at the upcoming State and National Leadership Conferences.