

Preparing to Lead

News from Kentucky's Career and Technical Education Student Organizations
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OFFICERS OF Kentucky's CTSOs, joined by their advisers and state education officials, witness Gov. Ernie Fletcher sign a proclamation declaring February Career and Technical and Entrepreneurship Education Month in Kentucky.

Governor Proclaims February Career, Technical, Entrepreneurship Education Month in Kentucky

Each February, in cooperation with the national Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE), Kentucky celebrates Career and Technical Education Month. In 2007, the event was expanded to include Entrepreneurship Education. According to the proclamation wording, "Career and Technical Education provides Kentuckians with education and training opportunities to support the Commonwealth with a versatile, well-educated, and technically trained workforce."

Through a network of 55 Area Technology Centers, Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in 176 local school districts, and Kentucky Community and Technical College System courses, more than 200,000 Kentucky middle school, high school, and college students participate in CTE programs. The focus of CTE Month is Student Organization Leadership Day, which was held in Frankfort on Tuesday, Feb. 13.

More than 800 CTSO members registered for the one-day, civic and leadership program organized by the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE). A two-hour program featured speeches by Sen. Vernie McGaha and Rep. Derrick Graham. Afterward, students had the opportunity to visit legislators and tour the State Capitol. Resolutions passed in both houses of the Kentucky General Assembly honored CTSOs and CTE programs.

Kentucky CTSO Officers Win National Offices

Two Kentucky CTSO members were elected to national organization offices.

LUCY ZHANG, DuPont Manual High School, Louisville, was elected FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) Southern Region Vice President. The high school senior is president of her local chapter and serves as Kentucky State Vice President. She received the only scholarship to the University of Pennsyl-

vania Jerome Fisher Management and Technology Summer Institute.

COTY BACK, currently a junior at Western Kentucky University from Menifee County High School, was elected National FFA Eastern Region Vice President. The Frenchburg native will travel more than 100,000 miles fulfilling his responsibilities providing student leadership training.

Kentucky CTSOs Prepare Members for Careers, College

Career and Technical Student organizations (CTSOs) provide leadership opportunities for students in various Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and are an integral part of the curriculum as authorized by federal and state legislation. Students develop career and personal skills through their involvement in activities that challenge them to become problem solvers, public servants, lifelong learners, mentors, competitors, and leaders. Each state CTSO develops a challenging annual program of work. Students are provided opportunities to participate in regional, state, and national leadership conferences.

Kentucky's CTSOs are:

- **DECA**, an association of marketing students
- **FBLA**, Future Business Leaders of America and its postsecondary counterpart, Phi Beta Lambda
- **FCCLA**, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America
- **FFA**, an association of agriculture students
- **HOSA**, Health Occupations Students of America
- **SkillsUSA**, an association of trade and industrial education students
- **TSA**, Technology Students Association

CTSOs and CTSO activities promote professional leadership skills to prepare students for careers and postsecondary educational success. CTSO community service projects provide opportunities for students to support their local community and participate in state and national projects. Each CTSO sponsors state and national conferences where students may compete to earn awards, scholarships, and recognition. Kentucky CTSO members frequently are winners at national competitions.

'CTSOs are part of the curriculum as authorized by legislation'

Today an Education — Tomorrow a Career

DECA Supports Marketing Careers

Kentucky DECA is an association of high school students enrolled in courses leading to the development of careers in marketing, management, and entrepreneurship. A part of Kentucky's high schools since 1946, students enroll in courses such as marketing, advertising, salesmanship, entrepreneurship, economics, management, and other related business courses. DECA members develop leadership skills through community service projects and civic activities as well as showcasing their occupational knowledge through the DECA competitive events program.

Each year, members participate in five regional conferences throughout Kentucky with the winners advancing to the annual State Career Development Conference in Louisville. Members successful at these levels advance to the International Career Development Conference, which will be held this year in Orlando, Fla. This conference will bring together about 15,000 students from throughout the United States, plus Canada, Mexico, Germany, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

The competitive program includes individual performance events, chapter events, and team events. The areas evaluated include marketing management, hotel and lodging, automotive services, accounting applications, restaurant, and food service management, retail merchandising, sports marketing, e-commerce, financial analysis, buying and merchandising, business law and ethics, travel and tourism, community service projects, public relations, advertising campaign, entrepreneurship, and franchising.

In 2006-2007, Kentucky DECA membership is more than 2,500 students.



FBLA Members Prepare for Business Careers

Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL) is a nonprofit educational association of students preparing for careers in business and business-related fields. More than 240,000 active members participate in more than 13,000 chartered chapters in 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, U.S. Territories, Canada, and Department of Defense Dependent Schools worldwide.

Kentucky FBLA membership in 2006-2007 is more than 9,000. Membership has increased from last year.

Throughout its history, Kentucky FBLA has been known for its excellence and student leadership. This year, Kentucky boasts a national FBLA officer, Lucy Zhang, a senior at DuPont Manual High School, Louisville.

Lucy was elected national FBLA Southern Region Vice President.

During this year, Kentucky FBLA has been "Creating Stars" while attending two national leadership conferences in Nashville and Milwaukee. More than 200 members, advisers, and guests attended each conference. Kentucky FBLA officers taught an icebreaker workshop in Milwaukee with more than 100 members and advisers participating. State officers have met throughout the year to guide and support local chapters in meeting state and national goals.

Following six regional leadership conferences in March, the State Leadership Conference will be held May 8-10. The National Leadership Conference will be held in Chicago June 28-July 1. Kentucky FBLA is having a successful year while "Creating Stars!"

FCCLA: The Ultimate Leadership Experience

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a dynamic and effective national student organization helping young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through family and consumer sciences education. Kentucky received the organization's first charter in 1945.

Kentucky FCCLA has 181 chapters and 9,904 members who work on such community issues as bullying and violence and participate in a national peer education program STOP the Violence, a financial literacy pilot project FCCLA Saves, and the American Cancer Society community service project Relay for Life. Members also participate in student competition STAR events, students taking action for recognition.

FCCLA is the only organization

focusing on family, with a national program Families First. An individual goal-setting program, Power of One, helps strengthen families in today's society.

The mission of the organization is to promote personal growth and leadership development through family and consumer sciences education. Programs focus on the multiple roles of family member, wage earner and community leader. Members develop skills for life through:

- Character development,
- Creative and critical thinking,
- Interpersonal communication,
- Practical knowledge, and
- Vocational preparation.

FCCLA's eight purposes are:

1. Provide opportunities for personal development and preparation for adult life.
2. Strengthen the function of the family as a unit of society.
3. Encourage democracy through cooperative action in the home and community.
4. Encourage individual and group involvement in helping achieve global cooperation and harmony.
5. Promote greater understanding between youth and adults.
6. Provide opportunities for making decisions and for assuming responsibility.
7. Prepare for the multiple roles of men and women in today's society.
8. Promote family and consumer sciences and related occupations.

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FFA Seeks to Make Positive Difference in Lives

The Kentucky Association FFA is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of young people by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. The organization's motto is *Learning to Do; Doing to Learn; Earning to Live; Living to Serve*.

FFA is a national youth organization of almost 500,000 student members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business, and technology of agriculture. Kentucky FFA's membership is approximately 15,000 students. There are 145 local chapters representing 114 of the state's 120 counties. FFA is a diverse organization operating in rural, urban, and suburban

schools. Students in grades 7-12 who are participating in agricultural education programs are eligible to join.

FFA members can participate in a variety of competitive Career Development events, ranging from traditional events such as livestock judging and public speaking to new events such as job interview and agriculture marketing.

In 2007, Kentucky FFA is proud Coty Back was elected National FFA Eastern Region Vice President. Currently a junior at Western Kentucky University, Coty is from Frenchburg and graduated from Menifee County High School. He is the 10th national FFA officer from Kentucky.

SkillsUSA Helps Create World-Class Workers

SkillsUSA is a national, nonprofit student organization serving students enrolled in career and technical education training programs at area technology centers, high schools, community and technical colleges, and career and technical centers across the United States. SkillsUSA's mission is to help its members become world-class workers and responsible American citizens.

SkillsUSA complements technical skills training with instruction in the employability skills that make a well-rounded worker and citizen. 2006-2007 Kentucky SkillsUSA highlights include:

- More than 5,500 members statewide.
- Conducting 100 leadership and skill events at the state level.
- In 2006, Kentucky members totaled 44 top 10 winners at the national competition.
- In 2006, 12 Kentucky members won medals at the national competition.
- The annual Kentucky Leadership Training Institute (KLTI) is held each fall.

SkillsUSA benefits students by:

- Teaching teamwork and leadership,
- Reinforcing employability skills,
- Offering a regional, state, and national contest program,
- Providing ways to serve the local community,
- Offering \$1 million in scholarships annually on the state and national levels combined, and
- Helping students meet potential employers.

SkillsUSA activities are learning experiences because they're directed by the students. The SkillsUSA program of work, both state and national, includes:

- Professional development,
- Community service,
- Employment,
- SkillsUSA championships and KLTI,
- Public relations,
- Social activities, and
- Ways and means.

HOSA Builds Healthcare Professionals

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) is a national career and technical education student-led organization operating in secondary and postsecondary institutions. During HOSA's 30-year history, it is building a pipeline of future healthcare professionals. HOSA promotes opportunities in health care to schools and communities. HOSA is co-curricular, which means it is an integral part of Kentucky's health sciences programs.

HOSA provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation, and recognition exclusively for secondary and postsecondary students enrolled in health sciences programs. HOSA is 100 percent health care! HOSA membership is approximately 3,000 students.

HOSA is supported by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Association of Secondary School Principals as well as by numerous business partners. Kentucky HOSA held its leadership conference in Louisville in March. Its state community service project is the Ronald McDonald House. HOSA's national service project is Autism Speaks.

TSA Leads to Technologically Educated Society

Technology Students Association (TSA) is a national organization for middle and high school students with a strong interest in technology. Through its program of technology-related activities and competitive events, it seeks to inspire its student members to prepare for careers and life in a technology-driven economy and culture. Members are supported by teachers, parents, and business leaders who promote a technologically educated society. TSA serves more than 150,000 students in 48 states.

In Kentucky, TSA membership is 2,500 among 70 active chapters. At the TSA State Conference in March, members competed in more than 70 different competitive events to test their knowledge of technology, design tech-

niques, business skills, and engineering. In June, TSA members from across the country will compete at the National TSA Conference. Kentucky places students in all competitive areas annually at this conference.

Students who participate in TSA programs seek careers in engineering, computer graphics and design, web design, technology education, and other areas. TSA also promotes leadership skills by providing opportunities through competitive events and by encouraging students to annually run for state office.

TSA students are taking the lead in moving the next generation into the ever-changing world of technology.

Total Membership in Kentucky's Career and Technical Education Student Organizations is more than 45,000

Today an Education — Tomorrow a Career

UNITE TO READ

is a statewide project designed by Kentucky's Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) — DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FEA, FFA, HOSA, SkillsUSA, STLP, and TSA — to promote literacy and lifelong learning. In 2004, state advisors from each student organization created the project as a joint partnership with Kentucky Educational Television (KET). Additional professional partners have joined the efforts, such as the Kentucky Council on Economic Education and the Kentucky Jumpstart Coalition.

During the 2006-2007 school year, 177 middle and high schools partnered with elementary schools in promoting the love of reading. The program provided approximately 45,000 career and technical education students an opportunity to mentor to younger students.



Kentucky CTE Leading the Global Economy

The mission of Career and Technical Education (CTE) is to assist schools in providing students with skills necessary for a successful transition to postsecondary education or work and a desire for lifelong learning in a global society.

CTE is an essential component of the high school curriculum and represents as much as a third of a student's high school experience. It is a critical component in meeting the needs of preparation, leadership development, and successful transition to postsecondary education, work, or the military.

Since 2000, students classified as CTE concentrators (those taking three or more classes in one program area) in high schools have increased their achievement on Kentucky's academic index by 10.7 percent, compared to 8.5 percent for all other high school students. The percent of students taking and passing Kentucky's Occupational Skill Standards has increased from 14 percent in 2000 to 45 percent in 2006.

CTSOs are a valuable contributor to student success in higher achievement scores.



**P.O. Box 4583
Frankfort, KY 40604-4583**