

Dear Pennsylvania FBLA,

Welcome back to another exciting year of FBLA! I hope everyone had a well-deserved summer vacation from school, and I hope we are all ready to “Elevate Our Future” together this year.

As always, Pennsylvania FBLA demonstrated extreme success at the annual National Leadership Conference, held this summer in gorgeous Anaheim, CA. Bringing over 600 of Pennsylvania’s best and brightest, we celebrated leaving our “Legacy of Leadership”. We took the Pacific Coast Highway to Laguna Beach, explored the magic of Disneyland, and even attended a Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim baseball game! This NLC truly portrayed the benefits of hard work.

As a state, we placed third nationally in overall winners, having \_\_ place top ten and \_\_ winners. We were also the largest chapter in the Eastern Region. Lastly, Treasurer Adam Sands was elected our next ERVP! Congratulations to all once again, as we are Pennsylvania Proud!

In kicking off the new year, let us “Elevate Our Future” by becoming the best future business leaders we can possibly be. Select fitting competitive events, recruit new members, run for an officer position, and volunteer within your local community. FBLA is a large organization of almost 250,000 members, and we wish to see you stand out among the many.

Your state officer team has been hard at work the past couple of months, as we are proud to announce our state project: the Alzheimer’s Association! The Alzheimer’s Association is dedicated to eliminating this disease through research, providing and enhancing care and support for all affected, and reducing the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Because 5.4 million American are inflicted with Alzheimer’s, our goal is to raise \$54,000 for this great cause. Please visit [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) for more information about community service opportunities!

We have a chock-full schedule for all to participate in this year. Join us for our SLW in Kalahari, a beautiful resort in the Poconos that boasts the largest indoor waterpark in the country! It has some pretty great workshops for you to learn from, as well. Along with the NFLCs, RLWs, and RLCs, we are confident all will be prepared for the final showdown in Hershey this April.

To conclude, we hope the 76<sup>th</sup> year of FBLA will bring newfound joy and experience to you all. Seniors, make sure to go all out and end on a high note; underclassmen, let us see what you are made of and rise to the occasion. As former Brazilian soccer star Pele once said, “Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.” Let us work hard together this year, PA FBLA, to “Elevate Our Future”!

Sincerely,

Shane Fagan

Pennsylvania FBLA President