

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc. (FCCLA) is a nonprofit national career and technical student organization for young men and women in family and consumer sciences education in public and private schools through grade 12. FCCLA is the ultimate leadership experience.

## Building Skills for Life

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America is a dynamic and effective national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work and societal issues through family and consumer sciences education. Chapter projects focus on a variety of youth concerns, including teen pregnancy, parenting, family relationships, substance abuse, peer pressure, environment, nutrition and fitness, teen violence and career exploration. Involvement in FCCLA offers members the opportunity to expand their leadership potential and develop skills for life—planning, goal setting, problem solving, decision making and interpersonal communication—necessary in the home and workplace.

## Mission

To promote personal growth and leadership development through Family and Consumer Sciences education. Focusing 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
- Career preparation.

## Purposes

1. To provide opportunities for personal development and preparation for adult life.
2. To strengthen the function of the family as a basic unit of society.
3. To encourage democracy through cooperative action in the home and community.
4. To encourage individual and group involvement in helping achieve global cooperation and harmony.
5. To promote greater understanding between youth and adults.
6. To provide opportunities for making decisions and for assuming responsibilities.
7. To prepare for the multiple roles of men and women in today's society.
8. To promote Family and Consumer Sciences and related occupations.

## Program Emphasis

FCCLA —

- Is the only in-school student organization with the family as its central focus
- Is a Career and Technical Student Organization that functions as an integral part of the family and consumer sciences education curriculum and operates within the school system
- Provides opportunities for active student participation at local, state, and national levels

## Membership

FCCLA has a national membership of approximately 200,000 young men and women in 6,500 local chapters. There are 50 state associations including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Since its founding in 1945, FCCLA has involved more than ten million youth. Former members are eligible to participate through Alumni & Associates.

## Governance

Ten national officers (students) are elected by the voting delegates at the annual National Leadership Conference and together make up the National Executive Council.

The National Board of Directors is composed of adult representatives from education and business, and four youth representatives.

State associations and local chapters elect their own youth officers. State programs come under the direction of family and consumer sciences education staff. Chapter advisers are family and consumer sciences teachers.

## Financial and Cooperative Support

FCCLA is supported primarily by student membership dues. Additional funds are raised from individuals, corporations and foundations. FCCLA is endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education (Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education) and the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS).

## National Staff

An executive director leads the organization and heads a national staff that gives direction to and carries out programs, communications, membership services and financial management.