



# **2023 National Officer Candidate Applications**

National Leadership Conference



## ***2023 National Officer Candidate Application Materials***

*Below are the names of the 24 National Officer Candidates. Click one of their names to go to their application materials*

**Taylor Dixon**

**Luis Maya**

**Melody Stetsko**

**Susanna Gerald**

**Jessica Argueta-Lopez**

**Jocelyn Inderhees**

**Makenzie Kelley**

**Ian Hertenstein**

**Madelyn Heigert**

**Easton Hrabe**

**Elyssa Schatz**

**Jaden Leasure**

**Leonardo Luna-Duran**

**Amanda Chen**

**Emma Varghese**

**Olivia Johnson**

**Violet Lowe**

**Olivia Boeckman**

**Davin Budy**

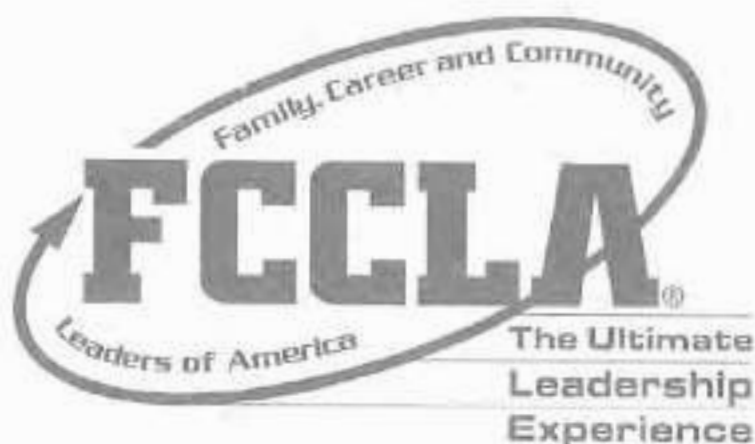
**Peter Smith III**

**Lilly Blume**

**Laney Spencer**

**Madison Nash**

**Estrella Trujillo**



# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Taylor Dixon

**State:** Arkansas



**Region:** Southern





The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Taylor Dixon

**State:** Arkansas



If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the [FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#).

Looking back on the many IncREDible experiences I have had through FCCLA, I remember how happy it made me when I first heard about this impactful organization. My sister introduced me to Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) when she came home after telling our parents that she was determined to do a STAR Event and go to Anaheim, California, to attend the National Leadership Conference. That was when I knew I would wear a red blazer and do IncREDible things in FCCLA when I got into high school.

My love for red began when I was a little girl, listening to Taylor Swift's new album and telling my mom, "I want to be like her! She has my name!" I never knew that Red (Taylor's Version) would become Red (Taylor Dixon's Version) just a few years later.

If elected to the National Executive Council, it would mean using the roadmap that National FCCLA has provided for the following two years, the FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. The four areas of the Strategic Plan are Communications, Growth, Infrastructure, and Programs. As a national officer, I can implement these areas into FCCLA through my efforts in each.

Through contemporary, intentional outreach and branding, FCCLA can use the NEC as a liaison between members and National Staff. As a national officer, I will connect and communicate effectively with members, state and national staff, and stakeholders of FCCLA through attending conferences, networking, advocating for FCS and FCCLA, and using social media to communicate the organization's outreach. Throughout the 2020-2023 school years, I have used social media to network with members and share my FCCLA story. I have advocated for FCS and FCCLA by attending the Career and Technical Student Organization day at the Arkansas State Capitol, having a congressional meeting with U.S. Congressional staffers, and attending four National Conferences, three State Conferences, and ten Regional Conferences.

FCCLA has reached a substantial milestone this year by hitting 230,000+ members. Members are the driving factor in FCCLA. Reaching milestones gives a chance to expand knowledge, involvement, and competition across the membership. During my time in FCCLA, I have completed Go For The Red, participated in FCCLA Week, and recruited members to my chapter through my efforts in growing FCCLA.

As the NEC grows as a team throughout its term, infrastructure improvement will allow all stakeholders to see the strong leadership our organization is led by, which allows for new growth and improvement of processes and systems.

Working on the NEC will give me a chance to have input for one year to help improve the programs and accessibility of FCCLA for members and stakeholders through diversity, consistency, and relevance in the organization. Through social media, I have been able to network with officers and members from across the nation, which has allowed us to share unique and innovative ideas for community service, activities with our chapters, and leadership tips throughout our years within FCCLA.

My IncREDible experiences in FCCLA have allowed me to support the Strategic Plan by becoming the full Red (Taylor Dixon's Version) of myself and helping each member become their version of Red.

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## NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE ESSAY 2

The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Taylor Dixon

**State:** Arkansas



Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

When you think of Family and Consumer Sciences, you may see a sewing room with students making hats, a kitchen with cookies baking in the oven, or an aspiring teacher working on possible lesson plans. I want you to visualize an FCS classroom with an FCCLA Chapter President using the Planning Process to complete their STAR Event, a member working on their Impromptu Speaking Skill Demonstration Event, or an FCCLA advisor helping a State Officer memorize their State Leadership Conference scripts. FCCLA is integrated into FCS courses, allowing students opportunities to strengthen their personal growth and leadership in and out of the classroom.

During the 2020-2021 school year, I enrolled in an FCS class, it was virtual, but that did not stop me from finding my passion within it. Family and Consumer Sciences, along with FCCLA, cultivates the next generation of leaders by instilling real-world skills, advocacy, and service, guiding them for the rest of their lives.

During my FCS class, I learned vital standards such as personal leadership development, how to sew, and food preparation. Every year my FCS teacher Mrs. Bomar does a sewing project we like to call "The Monster Project" where kindergarten students from [REDACTED] Primary and Elementary schools draw a picture of a monster they want to make in real life. FCS students make their monsters come to life during the sewing unit and can bring their kids the monster they made for them at the end. When I returned from being virtual for the second 9 weeks of school, I made three monsters to give to kindergarten students. It was one of the most rewarding experiences in class because my kindergarteners were so excited! They jumped up and down when I gave them their monster and original picture, along with a handwritten note about its construction.

I remember, in particular, doing a STAR Event in 2021 after learning about personal leadership in my community (AR FCS Standards). It was then that I competed in Professional Presentation on Suicide Awareness: You Matter To Me. It was my first real introduction to FCCLA. I fell in love with it right from the beginning.

In my FCS class, I assessed the benefits of active participation in FCCLA (AR FCS Standards). A vital part of active participation, to me, is leadership. I saw this standard and aspired to be in a leadership role within FCCLA. During the 2021-2022 school year, I served as the Arkansas Region II Vice President of Community Service, gaining knowledge on how to be an effective, hard-working, and diligent leader. I took the experiences and skills learned inside Mrs. Bomar's FCS classroom at Vilonia High School and used them throughout my Ultimate Leadership Experience in FCCLA as a chapter, region, and state officer to strengthen the members around me.

I firmly believe in "Taking People With You" on my journey while practicing leadership. I have recently been reading the book "Taking People With You" by David Novak, the Founder, and CEO of David Novak Leadership. He founded Lead2Feed, now the Lead 4Change Student Leadership Program. While reading this book, I have found that the ways I have led have been effective, but the book shows how to take an effective leader and make them improve even more. This book has shown me that while I have been in FCCLA, I have found that everything I have done is related to my FCS course. I learned the vital standards that teach real-world skills and used my leadership to take others alongside me throughout my journey. Each skill I learned in FCS has turned into action within my life, especially during my time in FCCLA.

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**TAYLOR DIXON**  
**ARKANSAS NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE**  
**High School FCCLA**

## EXPERIENCE

### NATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- "Show and Share" Presentation Virtual NLC Platform 2021
- National Leadership Conference attendee 2021, 2022
- STAR Events competitor: Professional Presentation 2021
- National Program Evaluator: Community Service 2023
- Go For The Red Individual completer 2023
- National Fall Conference 2022
- Capitol Leadership 2022
- FCCLA Week 2020-2023
- National Officer Election Voting Delegate 2022

### STATE INVOLVEMENT

- STAR Events volunteer 2022
- STAR Events competitor 2021
- State Leadership Conference 2021, 2022, 2023
- Power of One completion recognition 2023
- State Executive Council (SEC) meetings 2022-2023
- Arkansas National Officer Candidate 2023
- SEC Officer Position Bylaw Proposal, Committee Chair 2022-2023
- How to Run for Office- Breakout Session at AR SLC 2023

### REGIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- STAR Event Participant 2021
- Region II Fall Meeting 2021, 2022
- Leadership Training 2021
- Planning and Election 2020, 2021, 2022
- Region II Planning Meetings 2021, 2022
- Region 6 Planning and Election 2022
- Region 5 Winter Meeting 2022

### CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT

- Community Service National Program: "A Rockin' Community Cleanup" 2023
- Chapter meeting facilitator
- "Kiss A Senior Goodbye" fundraiser 2022, 2023
- Valentines Crush fundraiser 2021, 2022, 2023
- Blood Drive Volunteer/ Donor 2020, 2021 (twice), 2022 (twice), 2023
- FCCLA Membership Madness Drive 2021-2022

### SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

#### Community Service 2020-2023: Total of 82.5 hours

Counting T-shirts for AR SLC at the Arkansas Division of Career and Technical Education(2023), Helping families move(2020-2023), Local church leadership meetings(2020-2023), singing carols at a local nursing home(2021), Soul Food Cafe(2023), Making bears for the state police(2021-2022), Paging for the Arkansas House of Representatives(2023), Arch Ford Cooperative(2023), Arkansas Tornado Relief in Amboy/ Burns Park/ Little Rock(2023), Ceremony Band(2021-2022)

**Community Involvement:** Just Serve [redacted] Parade(2022), Tornado Relief(2023), Paging for the Arkansas House of Representatives(2023), [redacted] Revive photographer(2022-2023), Church Girls Camp Youth Camp Leader(2022), Youth Young Women's President twice, Young Women's first counselor three times, For The Strength of Youth attendee(2022), Youth Conference attendee(2021-2023), Relief Society activity singer(2022-2023), and Vilonia Christmas Parade(2020-2022), [redacted] Parade(2021-2022)

**School Involvement:** Track and Field(2020-2021), Marching/Symphonic Band member(2020-2022), FBLA member(2022-2023), Blood Drive donor(2020-2023), School Board meeting attendee(2021-2023), and Yearbook Staff Member(2021-2023)

Upcoming Senior, Class of 2024  
3rd Year Comprehensive Member

## FCS EDUCATION

### FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Year Taken: 9th Grade  
2020-2021  
1 Credit

## CERTIFICATIONS

EVERFI Financial Literacy  
WISE Financial Literacy  
Microsoft Office Specialist

- Power Point
- Excel
- Word
- Word Expert

## OFFICES HELD

#### State Office

2022-2023 State Association Vice  
President of Community Service (One term limit)

#### Regional Office

2021-2022 Region II Vice President of  
Community Service

#### High School Chapter Office

2020-2021 Vice President of Membership  
2021-2022 Vice President of Community  
Service  
2022-2023 Chapter President

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO FCS EDUCATION

- Congressional meeting with staffer Dylan Frost | Legislative Director for Representative French Hill and James Hodges II | Legislative Aide & Correspondent at U.S. House of Representatives at Capitol Leadership 2022
- Advocated for FCS and FCCLA during CTSD day at the Arkansas State Capitol 2023
- Advocated for FCS and FCCLA with AR Representative Cameron Cooper 2023
- Invited to speak at the Arch Ford Ed. Service Co-op stakeholders meeting 2023
- Spoken at 3 school board meetings
- Presented at high school course fair twice
- High School open house booth twice
- FCS awareness presentations 2021

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- Service Masters Cleaning: Housekeeper 2023-Present
- Taylor Dixon Photography: Head Photographer 2022-Present

Arkansas FCCLA  
3 Capitol Mall  
Luther Hardin Building, Suite 505  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201



April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

It is a privilege to write a letter of recommendation for Taylor Dixon, a Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) member and student at [REDACTED] as a national officer candidate for the 2023-2024 school year. I have gotten to know Taylor through this last year as a member of the State Executive Council. She has been involved in FCCLA at the local, regional, state, and national level. In her local community, Taylor works on a variety of community service projects, eager to help her community in any way she can. She has proved that she can balance her school, home life, social life, and FCCLA organizational responsibilities with precision.

Taylor has served the past year as the Arkansas State Vice President of Community Service during the 2022-2023 school year. During her term as an Arkansas State Officer, she has learned how to set and prioritize goals, work as a team player, make decisions, and assume and fulfill responsibilities. Taylor has also identified areas of need within Arkansas FCCLA, developed a proposal for change, presented the proposal at the State Executive Council (SEC) meeting, and then served as the committee chair when this change was referred to a committee. As committee chair, Taylor was responsible for scheduling meetings, creating agendas, leading the conversation, and will be reporting the findings to the SEC upon the next meeting. While accomplishing all of these, Taylor was able to maintain composure, professionalism, and grace.

Throughout her involvement in FCCLA, Taylor has also participated in STAR Events, attended State Leadership Meetings, National Leadership Conferences, Capitol Leadership, and National Fall Conferences. These opportunities have helped Taylor grow and develop into an outstanding leader. Her involvement in meetings, projects, and activities at the local, region, state, and national levels has allowed Taylor to strengthen her leadership skills and make a difference in the lives of people in her community, region, and state.

It is my honor to recommend Taylor Dixon as a National Officer Candidate from Arkansas. You will find Taylor to have a radiant, motivational, and energizing persona when interacting with the organization. She goes above and beyond to connect and encourage everyone she meets.

Sincerely,

*Bethany Leonard* 4-19-23  
Bethany Leonard

Arkansas FCCLA State Advisers  
Family and Consumer Sciences, Program Advisor  
[Bethany.leonard@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:Bethany.leonard@ade.arkansas.gov)

**EDIE  
BOMAR**

April 27, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Taylor Dixon, FCCLA National Officer Candidate from Arkansas. Taylor has been an active member of [REDACTED] FCCLA for three years. She has participated in multitude of activities at the local, region, state and national levels. Taylor has also served as an officer at the local, region and state level. She has been the backbone to Vilonia FCCLA for three years. She is wonderful at recruiting and encouraging others in and outside of FCCLA.

Taylor has a heart for helping others through community service. She is an active member of her community and has volunteered many hours to help others.

I know that Taylor has the skills and ability to successfully fulfil the duties as a National Officer for FCCLA. I highly recommend her for this position as a National Officer Candidate from the great state of Arkansas.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Edie Bomar, FCCLA Adviser



# High School

Ronnie Simmons, Principal

Hannah Sullivan, Asst. Principal

Scott Willhite, Asst. Principal

1164 Main Street

AR 72173

Phone: (501) 796-2111

www. org

April 21, 2023

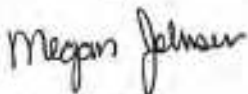
To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Taylor Dixon as a candidate for FCCLA National Office. Taylor is an excellent student and is highly involved in organizations here at High School. As Taylor's classroom teacher, I have been impressed with her work ethic and academic performance. She is always proactive in getting her assignments before she misses school for FCCLA activities and is wonderful at getting everything turned in when she returns. Through her Business courses, Taylor has certified in EVERFI Financial Literacy, Wise Financial Literacy, and Microsoft Word, Word Expert, PowerPoint and Excel. Taylor has a GPA of 3.9 and is enrolled in Advanced Placement and Accelerated courses.

Taylor is a determined young woman who has set high goals for herself and works very hard to achieve those goals. When asked to do something, she is always eager to do her best. Taylor has an incredible attitude and is well liked by those around her. She has had to be in contact with other students, teachers, administrators, and community members through working in various organizations. As her FBLA and Yearbook adviser, I have the opportunity to work closely with Taylor and am impressed by her organization and planning skills. Taylor has done a great job representing Vilonia High School at District, State, and National FCCLA and FBLA conferences. During her high school career, Taylor has held the offices of Arkansas FCCLA State Vice President of Community Service, Region II FCCLA Vice President of Community Service, Local FCCLA Vice President of Membership, Local FCCLA Vice President of Community Service, and Local FCCLA Chapter President. Taylor enjoys volunteering for service organizations and works hard to help those around her. This year, Taylor hosted a community service project called "A Rockin' Community Cleanup." She got our CTSOs involved in our community and the project was a great success. She has also helped at multiple FCCLA Blood and membership drives.

Taylor is responsible, honest, respectful, polite, enthusiastic, and performs tasks with the utmost efficiency and ability. She meets any challenge with great pride and accomplishment. It is my pleasure to support her in running for FCCLA National Office. Feel free to contact me at [megan.johnson@viloniaschools.org](mailto:megan.johnson@viloniaschools.org).

Sincerely,



Megan Johnson  
Business Teacher/FBLA Adviser/Yearbook Adviser  
High School



# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Luis Maya

**State:** Arkansas



**Region:** Southern





The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate: Luis Maya**

**State: Arkansas**



If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the [FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#).

Franklin Delano Roosevelt once said, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." FCCLA does exactly that--build our youth for the future. Since the 8th grade, I have taken advantage of every opportunity, experience, and interaction presented to me, and it has all supported my development both as an individual and as a visionary leader. I believe these integral components can directly connect and exceed the FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

The first part of the strategic goals is communication. Like me, the majority of teens are heavily connected to technology. FCCLA needs to take advantage of this and increase its presence to increase participation and engagement among members. We can ensure FCCLA's brand is relevant by engaging society through mass messaging texts, expanding on Pinterest, Twitter, and Youtube, and then developing an interactive FCCLA app! Then, we need to make it an initiative for members nationwide to reach out to local media to spread the mission of FCCLA! I have been showcased on my local radio and featured in newspapers numerous times!

The second part of the strategic goals is growth. Rural strategies are key to growth because of the strong rural membership in FCCLA. The "Bring a Buddy" strategy, for example, needs to be strongly implemented. It doubled my chapter, and I think it can substantially increase our membership. To add new markets and diversity to our membership, we need to reach out to students who are not native English speakers and involve students who are enrolled in charter, private, home, and virtual schools. We also have to address the many schools and states that are closing their FCS programs. We have to ensure that society sees the real-life skills instilled and the lifelong value of FCS and FCCLA. When FCS programs open up, chapters affiliate, and membership increases for both advisers and members.

The third part of the strategic goals is infrastructure. To advance our infrastructure, a few ideas come to mind from my experiences. First, we must make an effort to bring back national regional cluster meetings and Teen Times. They were fundamental to my development as a new member. In addition, a podcast educating new members and advisers would improve the process for first-year members to get involved, gain experience, and become knowledgeable. To improve the student leadership process, we must create a stronger connection and trickle down the defined leadership positions from the national to local officers through more cooperative activity and recognition throughout the year. Finally, we also need to use the expertise of A&A members and business and industry partners more effectively.

The fourth part of the strategic goals is programs. Since 1945, FCCLA has made #incREDible efforts to improve the quality of life for FCCLA members and advisers, but there is still progress to be made. To remain relevant, aligned, accessible, and consistent with all FCS teachers and students, we need to update, bring back, and add to the national programs like Leadership Service in Action; review, refine, and build partnerships like Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and Heifer International to bring awareness and support for FCCLA's mission and programs; and consider raising the national affiliation dues by \$1 to have the fiscal resources for continued expansion and development.

In brief, the 2023-2024 National Executive Council, in so many ways, will be a time of destiny for our organization, and I believe that perhaps more than at any time in our 78-year history of FCCLA, the future is in the hands of student leaders. However, this can only be accomplished if we give our best and expect the results we work for.

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## NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE ESSAY 2

The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Luis Maya

**State:** Arkansas



Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

Since the day I set foot into my first FCS class in junior high, I knew my life was going to change. On that day, my understanding of how fundamental and necessary the integration of FCCLA into the FCS curriculum was established, and I recognized how this integration creates a better quality of life for students, their families, careers, and communities created and cultivated.

My first day of FCSI would start with a bang, as I was introduced to FCCLA and the Planning Process. Learning how to set goals and make decisions made me realize that although one person can make a difference, our collective successes are more #incREDible! After being introduced to and encouraged to participate in several FCCLA national programs, I applied the lessons learned to all different aspects of my life, chapter, and community! Career Connection taught me how to put myself on the path to success. I developed real-world and leadership skills and put them to play by speaking to my local rotary club, local school board, and state legislators at Capitol Hill and during Capitol Leadership as an FCCLA officer who has served on the state, regional, and local levels. Also, I have been able to apply, get accepted, and will participate in AR Boy's State and AR Governor's School!

The next national program I was introduced to was Community Service! Through Community Service, my chapter, my family, and I have donated, volunteered, and participated in many non-profit organizations, all with the purpose of helping address social issues. Many donated items and time would go to Operation Christmas Child, an international non-profit that provides school supplies, hygiene products, and toys to underprivileged children globally; the battered women's shelter, which provides products for domestic abuse victims; the AR Children's Hospital Festival of Stars toy drive; and the local nursing home, which we visited as a chapter. We also helped address hunger issues by holding a canned food drive, serving meals at a local pantry called the Bread of Life, volunteering at the Arkansas Food Bank, working in the Scraper Pantry, which is an in-school backpack program that provides food for K-12 students, and raising money to benefit Heifer International, a charity that helps impoverished families become self-sufficient through the gift of livestock. Through these events, we created friendships and became stronger members of society!

In addition to personal and community improvement, my chapter and I also worked to address students and how they can improve their quality of life! We incorporated Student Body by encouraging students to use FCCLA@theTable, teaching simple, healthy recipes from Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters, and using the free ebook A-Z Fun book of Fruits and Veggies from the American Obesity Foundation to encourage students to try new fruits and vegetables. These experiences would lead me to not only study and pass my Arkansas ServSafe Food Handler's certification but to continue to take advantage of the opportunities presented by FCCLA's integration into the FCS coursework by taking Exploring Personal Finance and Financial Literacy classes. I participated in the Real Deal, budgeting, and making wise financial choices like opening my first bank account and completing my MoneySKILL's certification. Accordingly, I will be applying these lessons for the Financial Fitness award.

As I reflect on the successful, positive changes that resulted from taking my first FCS class, I can't overlook the #incREDible role FCCLA has played in my FCS education. From gaining leadership and life skills to building lifelong friendships, some of the most invaluable components of my FCS journey were built by experiences I had through FCCLA. The integration of FCCLA into the FCS curriculum plays an evidently vital role in raising the quality of life for students, their families, careers, and communities.

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## **LUIS MAYA | ARKANSAS NATIONAL FCCLA OFFICER CANDIDATE**

**██████████ High School | ██████████ High School FCCLA Chapter**  
**Arkansas | Rising Senior, Class of 2024 | 4 Year FCCLA Member | 3 Years FCS Education**

### **FCS Courses**

(8th Grade):	Family and Consumer Sciences Investigation, (0.5 Credit)	Exploring Personal Finance, (0.5 Credit) and Career Development (1.0 Credit)	██████████ Junior High School	2019-2020
(10th Grade):	Financial Literacy/Economics (1.0 Credit)		██████████ High School	2021-2022
(11th Grade):	Family and Consumer Sciences (1.0 Credit)		██████████ High School	2022-2023

### **FCCLA Offices Held:**

2019-2020	██████████ Junior High School	Chapter President
2020-2021	Arkansas State Association	AR Region V First Vice President
2021-2022	██████████ High School	Chapter President & State Officer Candidate
2022-2023	Arkansas State Association	State First Vice President
2022-2023	Arkansas State Association	Arkansas FCCLA National Officer Candidate

### **Contributions to FCS Education**

2020-2022	Advocated for FCS Education & FCCLA on Capitol Hill through Capital Leadership
2022-2023	Advocated for FCCLA & CTE Funding at Arkansas Capitol
2022-2023	Taught FCCLA Unit to Middle & High School Family and Consumer Sciences classes in Southwest Arkansas
2022-2023	Advocated for FCCLA & FCS Education to Nashville School District School Board Members

### **Local, Regional, State, and National FCCLA Participation:**

#### **Local:**

Participated in Chapter Meetings 2019-2023  
Volunteer at local Bread of Life Food Pantry 2019-2023  
FCCLA Week Participant 2019-2023  
Go For The Red Gold Chapter 2019  
Volunteer for Operation Christmas Child 2019-2023  
Everfi Financial Literacy Certification 2022-2023

#### **Regional:**

Region V STAR Events Evaluator 2019-2023  
Region V Planning & Election, Fall, and Leadership Meetings 2019-2023  
Region V Community Service Projects Participation 2019-2023  
Region V Executive Council Meetings 2020-2023  
Region V JED Foundation Volunteer 2021-2023

### **Community Involvement:**

#### **School:**

National Honor Society Member  
Future Business Leaders of America Member  
Student Council Class Representative & Vice President  
██████████ High School Band Member  
██████████ High School Band Drum Major  
██████████ Spanish Club Member and School Translator

#### **State:**

AR State STAR Events Evaluator 2019-2020  
AR Leadership Conference 2019-2023  
AR Power of One Recognition 2021-2023  
AR State Executive Council Meetings 2022-2023  
AR Gold Star Chapter Recognition 2019-2020, 2021-2022  
AR Leadership Training 2022-2023

#### **National:**

National Nominating Committee Member 2022-2023  
National Leadership Conference 2021-2023  
National Fall Conference 2019-2023  
National Capital Leadership 2021-2022 & 2022-2023  
Franklin Covey Leadership Academy Scholar 2022-2023  
National Go For The Red Individual Award 2019-2020 & 2021-2023  
National Power of One Completer Recipient 2021-2023

#### **Community:**

Arkansas Governor's School  
Arkansas Boy's State  
Bill Clinton Presidential Leadership Series Scholar  
St. Martin's Sunday School Teacher  
St. Martin's Youth Group Member  
Employed at 10-Minut Lube Oil Change Shop



██████████ High School  
1301 Mount Pleasant Drive  
Nashville, AR 71852

Apr 24, 2023

Re: Luis Maya

To whom it may concern:

It has been my privilege to teach Luis Maya in my 10th-grade and 11th-grade Honors English classes at ██████████ High School. I am most familiar with him in an academic setting as well as in an informal social environment. Luis is a natural leader in the classroom and is highly respected by both his peers and faculty. His performance in reading, writing, and literacy skills has been impeccable thus far, as he readily participated in classroom discussions and activities, consistently displaying a true passion for academic learning.

Luis exhibits a dynamic confidence that encourages an ability to share his learning and insights but also displays an understanding of others' thinking and opinions. His academic habits and performances are exemplary, and his work is thoughtful and conscientious. He exudes a curiosity for learning and growing intellectually as he sets academic and interest-based goals and strives to achieve the highest degrees of accomplishment. Likewise, he sets the standard for his peers across academic and extracurricular settings. Thus far, his academic merit has brought him membership into the National Honor Society for four years. Additionally, he was recently selected as the ██████████ Drum Major for the 3rd consecutive year. He has also served in numerous leadership positions in the FCCLA organization at the local and state level. Most recently, Luis has earned recognition by being selected to attend Arkansas Boy's State and the Arkansas Governor's School this summer. As aforementioned, his academic habits and leadership performances are exemplary, and his service to his community is immeasurable.

As an English teacher, one of my favorite things about Luis is his unequivocal desire to see his community and the world reach their true potential. Throughout my 20 years in public education, I have encountered few students with such hope for a brighter future. His encouragement and vision are contagious and inspiring, and I strongly believe election to FCCLA's National Executive Council will allow Luis to propel his academic and leadership ambitions forward. In closing, I have no reservations that Luis Maya will be an asset to any group, task, program, or endeavor with which he associates. His passion for learning and desire to succeed will well serve him as well as others. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Walker  
Honors English Teacher, ██████████ High School  
Email: [jennifer.walker@nashvillesd.com](mailto:jennifer.walker@nashvillesd.com)  
Phone: 903.278.4044



# HIGH SCHOOL

Ashley Riggs, Principal  
Adam Matthews, Assistant Principal  
Beverly Tedford, Counselor

Administrative Offices  
1301 Mt. Pleasant Drive  
[REDACTED] AR 71852  
Phone: 870-845-3261  
Fax: 870-845-7345

[REDACTED] High School  
1301 Mount Pleasant Drive  
[REDACTED] Arkansas 71852

April 23, 2023

To: National FCCLA Nominating Committee

My name is Ashley Elmore, and I have had the pleasure of serving as Luis' FCCLA advisor and teacher for two years. It is my honor to formally recommend Luis for a National FCCLA office.

Throughout the course of the past two years, I have accompanied Luis to local, regional, state, and national FCCLA conferences and events. I have personally observed the many hours Luis has spent encouraging others to join FCCLA, to become active members, and to work on FCCLA projects. Whether he is addressing a community group or an individual he meets by chance, Luis actively demonstrates and treats everyone with exactly the same impeccable courtesy and respect.

His dynamic and energetic personality makes Luis a very personable, outgoing, friendly and enthusiastic young man. He has shown an unwavering commitment to serve his peers, community, region, state, nation and is making a positive difference in the world. I am inspired daily by Luis' incredible dedication and commitment to FCCLA. He is amazing at listening to others, valuing everyone's opinions, encouraging others, inspiring others to lead, learn, and serve, and is a true team player.

Luis defines what it means to be an exemplary FCCLA member, leader and officer. He truly exemplifies the values of empathy, sympathy, humility, and hardwork. He has the natural ability to lead and his dedication to excellence is unmatched. I have seen first-hand the impact Luis has made on the [REDACTED] Junior High and [REDACTED] High School FCCLA chapters and on the region and state levels. I know that Luis will bring that same level of passion, dedication, and love of FCCLA to the national level.

Luis maintains a 4.0 G.P.A., has a high attendance rate, and is in the top of his class. Luis is very friendly, very personable, talented and hardworking, and I have no doubt that he would make an outstanding member of the National Executive Council. I am confident that Luis will be an impressive leader on the National Executive Council, and I wholeheartedly endorse Luis' candidacy. In my opinion, you would be hard pressed to find a more qualified national officer.

Warmly,

Ashley Elmore  
ashley.elmore@nashvillesd.com  
870-845-3261

Arkansas FCCLA  
3 Capitol Mall  
Luther Hardin Building, Suite 505  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201



**ARKANSAS**  
STATE ASSOCIATION

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

It is a privilege to write a letter of recommendation for Luis Maya, a Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) member and student at [REDACTED] High School, as a national officer candidate for the 2023-2024 school year. I have gotten to know Luis through this last year as a member of the State Executive Council. He has been involved in FCCLA at the local, regional, state, and national level. Luis has proved that he can balance his school, home life, social life, and FCCLA organizational responsibilities with precision.

Luis has served as the First Vice President during the 2022-2023 school year and was key in filtering ideas of others while completing the many tasks that require innovation and creativity. During his term as a Arkansas State Officer, Luis has learned how to set and prioritize goals, become a better decision maker, work as a team leader, advocate on behalf of others, and assume and fulfill his responsibilities. During his years of involvement with the organization, Luis has competed in STAR Events, attended state meetings, as well as the National Leadership Conference and National Fall Conferences. These opportunities have allowed Luis to grow and develop into the leader he is now.

His involvement in various meetings, projects, and activities at the local, regional, state, and national level has allowed him to strengthen his leadership skills and reach and encourage people in his community, region, and state. Luis' influence in FCCLA does not stop at his community. During his term, he was able to meet with various state and national legislators, guest speak on radio stations, and serve during legislative session at our State Capitol. When meeting with constituents, he advocated for FCCLA, and Career and Technical Education. He has spoken with the Secretary of Education, Director of Career and Technical Education, as well as various state legislators. On a national level, Luis has been able to spend time with the staff of his representatives during Capitol Leadership. Luis was able to engage and express the importance and impact that FCS courses, FCCLA, and family has on individuals to his representatives in a concise and informative manner.

It is my honor to recommend Luis Maya, as a National Officer Candidate from Arkansas. You will find that Luis possesses dedication and passion for FCCLA, while being able to maintain a view of the big picture of our organization. Luis has a skill for strategic thinking, problem solving, and communicating with an audience. Luis has a gift of being able to guide and lead with passion, confidence, and in a positive and encouraging manner that is critical for a National Officer.

Sincerely,

*Bethany Leonard* 4.19.23  
Bethany Leonard

Arkansas FCCLA State Advisers

Family and Consumer Sciences, Program Advisor

[Bethany.leonard@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:Bethany.leonard@ade.arkansas.gov)



# **2023 National Officer Candidate**

## **Application Packet**

**NOC Name: Melody Stetsko**

**State: California**

**Region: Pacific**



## NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE ESSAY 1

The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate Melody Stetsko**

**State: California**

If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

Throughout my time in FCCLA, I have gained skills and experiences that will not only allow me to thrive and succeed as an FCCLA National Officer but also in my future career! By running all of the California FCCLA social media platforms like Instagram and TikTok, I have learned how to stay professional, as well as come up with fresh, unique, and creative ideas to advocate for FCCLA and FCS Education, as well as offer our members opportunities to have new experiences and be recognized for their outstanding work through FCCLA. I have learned what appeals to online audiences, and strategies to improve engagement. When creating promotional posts for California FCCLA, I was able to watch as our outreach and engagement efforts grew tremendously. I was even able to help California FCCLA gain hundreds of new followers across various social media platforms! Through FCCLA I have gained a strong passion for advocacy; as a State Officer, I was able to advocate for FCCLA at the Career Tech Expo, Migrant Leadership Conference, Educating for Careers Conference, ABC30 Action News, and much more. These Experiences not only grew my knowledge about the organization but also improved my public speaking, communication, and professionalism skills. I have grown up on stage. From the age of 5, I was heavily involved in all things theater, choir, and dance, and I am still active in each of those activities. Those activities allowed me to gain a bright and bubbly Stage presence, as well as a lively and energetic personality which has helped members feel comfortable and excited when conquering something new through FCCLA. As an FCCLA National Officer, I would strive to help members across the nation experience the incredible opportunities that I have been able to accomplish. I aspire to build strong engagement with members through social media, as well as build outreach between State Associations giving them an outlet to connect and share ideas with each other to overall build FCCLA as a whole. My main goal as a National Officer is to provide members with a safe space to be themselves, and to help them grow as members, students, and humans.

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## NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE ESSAY 2

The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Melody Stetsko

**State:** California

Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

Family Consumer Science Education is the Foundation of FCCLA. Without FCS Education students would be unable to learn skills that prepare them for their future careers and lives. FCS Education has inspired and encouraged young minds, like myself, to believe in themselves, and to accomplish all that they set their minds to. Four years ago I began my FCCLA journey, scared, insecure, and unaware of who I would become, and all that I would be able to accomplish. It wasn't until I enrolled in my first Family Consumer Science class in the 8th grade, that I discovered that my favorite childhood activity of Redecorating Barbie Dream houses, was able to become my future reality. Throughout 4 consecutive years of Family Consumer Science classes and 4 years of being an affiliate member of FCCLA, I have built a new-found confidence in myself, and have gained the skills and experiences that I need to thrive and flourish in my future career as an Interior Designer. Through FCS classes I can understand and implement vision boards, color wheels, floor plans, elevations, balance, unity, rhythm, emphasis, contrast, and size and proportion.

Through competing in STAR Event competitions such as Room Design and Repurpose and Redesign, as well as utilizing the National program Career Connections, I have been able to learn aspects related to the interior design field that I will hold for a lifetime. Not only have FCS classes helped prepare me for my future, but they have also done so for millions of students. One of the many ways that my FCS Educator integrates FCCLA into my FCS courses is by having lesson plans based on STAR Events, which also encourages our students to want to compete. These kinds of lesson plans are what first introduced me to Interior Design. By integrating STAR Event Materials into our classes, it allowed me to gain an interest in STAR Event Competitions, and ultimately started my FCCLA journey!

If I had not enrolled in a Family and Consumer Science Class, I would not have learned vital skills that would prepare me for real-world situations. I would not have learned how to cook, sew, pay bills, or write a check. I would not have learned information about myself and the world around me, such as the development of a child, examples of good and bad relationships, and the many decisions that come with being an adult. I am grateful for the skills and experiences that FCS Education has allowed me to gain. I thank Family and Consumer Science Education for preparing and educating me for my Future; not only in the workforce but overall as a human.

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# Melody Stetsko

## 2023-2024 National Officer Candidate

### Candidate info

Name: Melody Stetsko

State: California

School: [REDACTED] High School

Current year in school: Junior

Years in FCCLA: 4

years in FCS courses: 4

### Family Consumer Science Courses

- Home Economics (8th Grade) (10 credits earned)
- Family Career and Life (9th Grade) (10 credits earned)
- Intro to Design (10th Grade) (10 credits earned)
- Social Living (11th Grade) (10 credits earned)

### FCCLA Leadership Positions

- Chapter President (2019 -2020)
- Chapter Historian (2020-2021)
- Region 8 Treasurer (2020-2021)
- Chapter President (2021-2022)
- Region 8 President (2021-2022)
- Chapter Reporter (2022-2023)
- California FCCLA State Vice President (2022-2023)
- California FCCLA State Reporter (2022-2023)
- California FCCLA Acting State President (Mar-Apr, 2023)

### Contributions to School

- Tennis Club President (2022-2023)
- Varsity High School Tennis Team (2021-2023)
- California Scholarship Federation member (CSF)
- Dance Club (2020-2022)
- SPRSI member (organization for Portuguese women)
- Principal Honors Award recipient (3 years in a row)
- Student of the Month recipient (2 years in a row)
- Family Consumer Science Department Student of the Year recipient (2021-2022)
- Grizzly Fair presenter (2 years in a row)
- Special Olympics volunteer (2 years in a row)
- 4.0 student all throughout High School

### Contributions to Family & Consumer Science Education

- Promoted FCCLA and FCS education at the 2022 Career Tech Expo
- Promoted FCCLA and FCS education at the Migrant Leadership Conference
- Spoke to Middle and High School students about the Opportunities that FCCLA and FCS Education offer its members
- Attended the Education for Careers Conference to promote FCCLA and FCS Education to over 3,000 educators across California.
- Attended the California Capitol Leadership Experience to speak with the governor and legislators about the importance of FCS Education

### Contributions to FCCLA

- Attended the 2021 Hybrid National Leadership Conference
- Attended the 2022 National Leadership Conference
- Attended the 2022 National Fall Conference
- Attended the 2023 California Capitol Leadership Experience
- Grew engagement and membership by managing all of the California FCCLA Social Media platforms
- Presented a workshop (How to Advocate for FCCLA) at National Fall Conference in Columbus, Ohio
- Prepared an FCCLA informational booth for the 2022 Big Fresno Fair Student Exhibits
- Received my Power of One National Program Award,
- Received the Chapter, Region, and State degree for California FCCLA
- 3-time STAR event competitor
- Fall Skills competition at the National level
- Created the 2023 California FCCLA State Scrapbook
- Created the 2022-2023 California FCCLA State Newsletters
- Spring Semester Franklin Covey Leadership Academy Student
- 2023 "Go for the RED" award applicant

### Community Service Participation

- Yearly Salvation Army Bell ringer
- Wrote letters to first responders during peaks of Covid-19
- Made care packages to local women's shelters
- Made and sold pink ribbons, 100% of the proceeds went to Susan G Komen Cancer Research
- Helped organize 2 blood drives at school.
- Donated over 150 used toys to the Ronald McDonald House at Valley Children's Hospital
- Wrote encouragement letters through *Girls Love Mail*, to send to women who just recently discovered they have cancer





**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION**

**TONY THURMOND**  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

1430 N STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5901 • 916-319-0800 • [WWW.CDE.CA.GOV](http://WWW.CDE.CA.GOV)

April 4, 2023

To Whom this May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I provide this letter of recommendation on behalf of Melody Stetsko. I serve as the Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Education Programs Consultant and FCCLA State Advisor at the California Department of Education. I started working directly with Melody when she was elected as the State Vice President/Reporter at the 2022 FCCLA State Leadership Conference. Since then, I have been completely impressed with her leadership, organization, and cooperation with her fellow FCCLA State Officer team.

Melody has taken FCS courses and been an active FCCLA member since 8<sup>th</sup> grade. She is very conscientious in performing all her FCCLA State Officer duties diligently. In addition, she has worked extra hard this year to promote California FCCLA on all social media platforms. Furthermore, she has earned both her FCCLA Chapter Region degrees and is completing her State Degree this year. She has participated in the National FCCLA Power of One program, Go for the Red Membership Campaign, and served on both the National Competitive Events and Connections Networks.

Not only is Melody a remarkable FCCLA State Officer, but she also balances these duties, along with her other extracurricular activities, while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. She is also actively involved in the [REDACTED] High School FCCLA Chapter and promotes FCCLA at the region, state, and national level. In the future, Melody plans to pursue her education at the California State University, Sacramento and complete a double major in Interior and Architectural Design and minor in Business.

-I can confidently state that Melody Stetsko will be an exceptional FCCLA National Officer Candidate. If you have any questions regarding this letter of recommendation, please contact me, by phone at 916-319-0773 or by e-mail at [mwebb@cde.ca.gov](mailto:mwebb@cde.ca.gov).

Respectfully submitted,

*Melissa Webb*

Melissa Webb, Education Programs Consultant/FCCLA State Advisor  
Career and College Transition Division  
Agriculture Education and Family and Consumer Sciences Office



██████████ SCHOOL DISTRICT  
██████████ High School  
3535 N. Cornelia  
██████████, CA 93722  
Phone: (559) 276-0280  
Fax: (559) 276-5653

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To Whom It May Concern:

It's my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Melody Stetsko for this position. I have known Melody for 2 years as her College & Career Advisor and in that time I have known her to be an exceptional young woman. She is ambitious and driven and I know that she will do great things in the future.

As a student at ██████████ Melody has excelled in the classroom, maintaining a GPA of ██████ while taking a full load of classes. Outside of the classroom, Melody has outstanding leadership skills and is an active and respected member of our student body. Melody is a dedicated leader for FCCLA both on our campus and at the California state level. She has held multiple leadership positions and has worked incredibly hard to grow club membership here on our campus and run a program that provides valuable information and experiences for our students.

In addition to her strong academics, Melody is driven and has clear goals for her future. Even as a freshman, Melody had a clear plan for her future as an architectural designer and business owner. The experience she is gaining through FCCLA and the devotion she has shown to being an excellent student are evidence that she has the motivation and ability to succeed on a high level in whatever she chooses to do. Any awards or scholarships she receives would be earned and well deserved.

Melody comes with my highest recommendation for this position. She has been a wonderful student throughout her time at CEHS and I know she will continue to work hard and take advantage of her opportunities in college and beyond. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Jill Brooks  
College & Career Advisor  
██████████ High School  
[jbrooks@██████████.org](mailto:jbrooks@██████████.org)  
559-260-3192

*District Administration*  
*Kelli Davis, Superintendent*  
*Jack Kefjorn, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Steve McClun, Assistant Superintendent, Chief Business Officer*  
██████████ ██████████ California 93722



**SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**  
3535 N. Cornelia Ave • CA 93722  
Phone: (559) 276-0280 • Fax: (559) 276-5653

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To whom it may concern,

April 20, 2023

It is my great pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Melody Stetsko, an FCCLA National Officer Candidate and a very deserving student who excels in every capacity. I first met Melody when she was the chapter president of the FCCLA chapter from the middle school that feeds to my high school site. From the beginning I realized Melody was extremely talented and bright. I specifically noticed she was a brilliant leader in FCCLA. Since that time four years ago, I have watched her grow immensely in her capabilities as a student, leader, and community member.

From my experience in teaching her, I have come to see that Melody is a high achieving student who gives 100% in all she does. In her written work, she is thoughtful and thorough. She thinks critically about information she reads/hears, and interprets that information in a positive and meaningful manner. Academically, she maintains an A average and is enrolled in many advanced classes. In all of her classes she is mindful of deadlines, and works hard to complete her work in all subjects.

Despite her busy schedule, Melody is involved in the community. She plans and participates in all of our chapter service projects (breast cancer awareness campaigns, campus clean up, blood drives, etc.) as well volunteering on her own time (like ringing bells for Salvation Army). She also is an active member of the Tennis team at our school. Melody also spent many hours as a dedicated member of FCCLA for the last four years, helping the school's chapter to fundraise, participate in National Programs, apply for membership awards, and compete in STAR Events both regionally and at state. She has served as Chapter Historian and Chapter President, preparing agendas, running meetings, and managing the social media page.

Melody also served faithfully in her duties as a Region officer. She prepared thoughtfully for her meetings and followed up on her commitments. She has become an eloquent speaker, and knows how to make her presentations to the members personal and engaging. She is friendly and helps others to feel comfortable. She supports her fellow region officers on the team and encourages them to be the best version of themselves.

Most impressively, Melody has been a phenomenal State officer. She leads the State Officer team with grace and professionalism. Every assignment she has been given has been completed with the utmost detail and attention. She has prepared workshops, trained countless officers, and driven much attention to the state social media pages. Every person who meets Melody is impressed with her work.

I am sure you will receive many letters filled with accolades for the other candidates, and many students will be deserving of it as well. But Melody is one student who will stand above the crowd because of her dedication, skills, talents, and giving heart. She is an extremely talented individual that will touch many lives if given the opportunity. It is my sincere hope that you will consider her for a national officer position. This girl is going places.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at [afite@centralusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:afite@centralusd.k12.ca.us). Sincerely,

Ms. Alissa Fite  
Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher  
FCCLA Advisor  
High School



# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Susanna Gerald

**State:** Connecticut

**Region:** Select One



The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**Connecticut**

**National Officer Candidate:** Susanna Gerald

**State:** Connecticut

If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your InCREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

Walt Disney once said, "If you can dream it, you can do it." FCCLA is an organization that can help both students and educators achieve their dreams and goals with their hard work. The goals from the 2022-2025 FCCLA Strategic Plan not only help with the personal growth of the members but also with the development of the organization as a whole.

Among the different strategies that are a part of the FCCLA Strategic Plan, one specific strategic goal that I feel personally connected to is growth. Growth is an amazing aspect of being a part of a community, but it can also be a struggle. Personally, being from a smaller state in the North Atlantic Region has provided some difficulties throughout my 3 years in FCCLA. But something that I have been able to learn from these situations is to have the ability to adapt to changing circumstances. Learning from these experiences has given me the ability to be flexible in my approach to problem-solving.

As a result of my connection to this specific goal, if I were to be elected to the National Executive Council, I feel as though I will have the ability to help with the growth of the presence of FCCLA, specifically in the North Atlantic region. As a part of the National Executive Council, taking initiative and being proactive is essential to make a positive impact on the community.

Positively impacting a community is a complex task that requires the strategic goal of communication. Intentional outreach and effective communication are essential for not only the growth of FCCLA but also for the engagement of membership. Actively engaging with members and listening to their concerns can involve reaching out to individuals and establishing open lines of communication through various channels such as social media and surveys. If elected to the National Executive Council, I would actively seek out feedback and engage in respectful communication with our members through the FCCLA community. Through intentional outreach and effective communication, FCCLA can build stronger relationships that can lead to meaningful and lasting improvements.





The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**Connecticut**

**National Officer Candidate:** Susanna Gerald

**State:** Connecticut

Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

The integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Science education is essential for improving the well-being of individuals and families. FCS can benefit people by providing them with the knowledge and skills they need to live healthy, fulfilling lives and contribute to their communities. FCCLA helps raise awareness about the importance of FCS education. Through many advocacy efforts, FCCLA members can help ensure that FCS programs receive the resources and support they need to thrive through the organization.

One important part of FCCLA is the competition. The variety of competitions and recognition programs allow students to showcase their skills and knowledge in areas such as culinary arts, fashion design, public speaking, and professionalism. Each competition has its criteria and ideal skillset that members can learn and use. For example, in the past, I competed in Public Policy Advocate Star Event. Completing this competition was incredible for me as a student to learn and practice my professionalism and public speaking.

Another incredible recognition program in FCCLA is the National Programs. FCCLA National Programs are educational programs that help students develop real-world skills through the lessons and topics. One example of a National program that is greatly beneficial is Financial literacy. Through the National Program and FCS education, members learn about budgeting, investing, and managing their money effectively, which can help them achieve financial stability and security. Integrating the National Programs into FCS education provides motivation and engagement for members to build their confidence and self-esteem.

The integration of FCCLA also provides the strengthening of interpersonal skills. FCS education as a whole can teach individuals how to communicate effectively, resolve conflicts, and build strong relationships with other people. FCCLA encourages students to take on leadership roles and develop important skills such as public speaking, team building, and event planning. These experiences can help students become effective advocates for FCS education in their schools and communities. FCCLA also provides opportunities for FCS educators to network and access professional development resources. This can help educators stay up-to-date with the latest research and teaching strategies and improve the quality of FCS education.

Overall, FCCLA plays an important role in supporting and promoting FCS education and helping students develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their personal and professional lives. FCCLA provides resources and opportunities for career-readiness in the many career pathways of FCS.

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## Susanna Gerald

Connecticut

Susannasg.76@gmail.com

FCCLA

Grade 11

3 years in FCCLA

2 years of FCS coursework

### Family and Consumer Sciences Education/Coursework

- 8th grade - FCS (general FCS course) (1 credit)
- 11th grade - Child Development (.5 credit)
  - Partnered with a local preschool program for one-on-one engagements as a teacher's assistant
- 11th grade: Intro to Fashion Design and Illustration (.5 credit)

### FCCLA and FCS Involvement/Contributions

#### Chapter Involvement

- Public Relations Officer (20-21)
- Secretary (21-22)
- Vice President (22-23)
- Coordinated Cards for Nursing Homes during the Global Pandemic (20)
- Partnered with Rec Department to Design Halloween Event for Elementary Children (21, 22)
- Community Presentation of FCCLA at Open House to Guardians (22)
- Managed and Publicized Fundraisers for my Chapter (21-23)
- Goodie Bags for Teachers (FCCLA week) (21,22)

#### State Involvement

- Head of Public Relations (21-22)
- State President (22-24)
- Connecticut STAR Event Participant:
  - Public Policy Advocate: 1st/Gold (21)
  - Professional Presentation - 1st/Gold (22)
  - Early Childhood Education - 1st/Gold (23)
- Panelist/Presenter at AAFCF Spring Conference(22, 23)
- Northeast Networks Student Alumni Panelist (22)
- Workshop Presenter
  - Leadership Workshop Facilitator (Fall 21)
  - Power of One National Program Workshop Presentation (Fall 22)
  - Collaborative Advocacy:101 Workshop Presentation (Spring 23)
  - Chapter Growth Workshop Presentation (Spring 23)
- Presentation of FCCLA to ARC teachers (22, 23)
- Fall & Spring State Conference Attendee (21-23)

#### National Involvement

- Capitol Leadership Attendee - Advocated for FCCLA and FCS to CT Legislatures (22)
- Attended many State Officer National Network Zoom Calls (21-23)
- Franklin Covey Leader In Me Course (22)
- National STAR Event Qualifier (21-23)
- Connecticut National Officer Candidate (23)

### School/Community Involvement

- Interact Club Member (20-22)
- Interact Club Board Member and Liaison (22-23)
- Rho Kappa Social Studies Honors Society (22-23)
- Spanish Honors Society (22-23)
- 20+ Hours for Saint Francis Hospital Central Sterile Supply Volunteer (22-23)
- EARL Book Club leader for 3rd & 4th graders (20-23)
- STEM-E Volunteer Coordinator (22)
- Journey Found Gala Committee Head (23)
- Honor Roll (20-23)
- June Student of the Month (21)
- Distinguished Service Award for 25+ service hours (21,22)
- Learning my mother tongue as a student at Barathi Tamil School (12-23)
- CT Tamil Sangam Teen Volunteer (17-20)
- Helper at Priya's Home Childcare (16-21)
- Set up Indigenous Artifacts at Wood Memorial Library (21-22)



**High School**  
*Home of the Bobcats*

*Principal*  
Frank Rizzuto  
*Associate Principals*  
Elizabeth Devaney  
Tera Harlow  
Timothy Zeuschner  
*Director of Athletics*  
David Sytulek

April 24, 2023

Re: Recommendation for Susanna Gerald - FCCLA National Officer

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Susanna Gerald who would be an **exceptional** national officer for FCCLA.

Susanna Gerald is a genuine, mature, and extremely poised young woman who has essentially been grooming herself for a national leadership position for years. She has attained high honors each year in high school while being involved in chapter, state and national FCCLA activities. As a student in my American Sign Language I and II classes her freshman and sophomore years, she rose above her peers in skill, quickly recognizing new ASL signs, in leadership, interpreting for other students, and in service, cheerfully working with other students who were struggling. She was inducted into both our Social Studies and Spanish Honor Societies and has received numerous school awards as Student of the Month and for Distinguished Service.

Susanna has shown enduring commitment to our community by participating in Interact Club, a service club in our school, volunteering at Saint Francis Hospital, leading elementary students in a book club several years, and helping at a neighborhood childcare and library. She has spent over ten years learning her mother tongue to embrace her own culture. She consistently took on leadership roles whether as a Volunteer Coordinator for STEM-E interviewing and coordinating new volunteers, a Board Member and Liaison for Interact Club, or a Committee Head coordinating a gala for Journey Found.

All of the above is in addition to the incredible opportunities she has had in chapter, state, and national FCCLA leadership positions and activities. She continued to increase her leadership skills by rising both in the school's chapter and state positions and has held the position of FCCLA State President for two years. She has advocated for FCCLA at our school Open House and to CT State Legislators. Without the support of school and state mentors, she never would have been able to do all this. Her parents deserve the most credit for enabling and encouraging Susanna to be community minded, for supporting her in school, state and national FCCLA activities **and** for raising an exceptional daughter.

It is a pleasure to witness Susanna, who is optimistic, well-spoken, and enthusiastic, blossom into a natural leader.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Eddy  
World Language Teacher [redacted] High School  
beddy@swindsor.k12.ct.us



[redacted] CT [redacted]  
Phone: 860-648-5000 • Fax: 860-648-5013  
[www.southwindsorschools.org](http://www.southwindsorschools.org)

**Dream. Achieve. Inspire.**





April 24, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to recommend Susanna Gerald for the position of National Officer for FCCLA. As Susanna's adviser for FCCLA at South Windsor High School, I have had the privilege of working with her for the past 8 months. During this time, Susanna has demonstrated an exceptional level of dedication and passion for FCCLA.

Susanna has been a member of FCCLA for 3 years and has completed 2 years of FCS coursework. She has taken a general FCS course in 8th grade and has completed Child Development and Fashion Design and Illustration courses in 11th grade. Susanna's dedication to FCCLA and FCS education is also evident in her involvement and contributions.

In terms of her involvement in FCCLA, Susanna has held various leadership roles such as Public Relations Officer, Secretary, Vice President and President of our local chapter. Susanna has also recently been re-elected as State President for FCCLA Connecticut. She has organized fundraisers, made cards for nursing homes, decorated doors for Halloween, and put together goodie bags for teachers during FCCLA week. Susanna has also participated in various state and national level STAR events, winning 1st and Gold at the state level for Public Policy Advocate, Professional Presentation, and Early Childhood Education. She has also qualified for the National STAR event for three consecutive years.

In addition to her involvement in FCCLA, Susanna has been an active member of her school and community. She has been a member of Interact Club for 2 years and served as a board member and liaison for one year. She has also been a member of Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. Susanna has volunteered at Saint Francis Hospital Central Steril Supply, led a FARI book club for 3rd and 4th graders, and served as a CT Tamil Sangam Teen Volunteer.

Susanna is a well-rounded individual who demonstrates leadership, dedication, and a commitment to service. She has excelled academically and has received recognition for her service, earning the Distinguished Service Award and being named June Student of the Month. Her passion for leadership and advocacy is demonstrated through her involvement in FCCLA, where she has presented at various workshops and conferences, including the State Fall and Spring Conferences, the AAFCS Spring Conference, and the Northeast Networks Student & Alumni Panel. She has also attended Capitol Leadership, advocating for FCCLA to CT Legislatures.

Susanna's dedication, passion, and leadership skills make her an excellent candidate for the position of National Officer for FCCLA. I highly recommend her without reservation.

Sincerely,



Alyssa K. Sullivan

FCCLA Adviser

South Windsor High School

April 27, 2023

Dear FCCLA National Leadership Committee:

It is without reservation that I highly recommend Susanna Gerald as a National Officer Candidate. Susanna is one of the most professional students I have ever encountered in my career. Working with Susanna is inspirational, motivating and such a pleasure. I am always impressed with her strong initiative to achieve goals, making amazing efforts to support her community while also taking advantage of impressive leadership opportunities.

I have truly enjoyed working with Susanna the past two years through CT FCCLA. I first saw her success as a competitor in our Public Policy state event and have since seen her flourish as a state officer for our organization. Not only does she complete each task with passion, she creates extensive systems to support others and does all of this with a sense of grace and delight. Susanna does a remarkable job representing the state at the national level. She participated in advocacy initiatives through the Capitol Leadership conference, speaking with representatives and networking with student leaders throughout the country. Susanna has also represented our association in several live and virtual panels. She demonstrates confidence and professionalism which always sends positive remarks my way. She has collaborated with teachers and students from New Jersey and beyond, inspired future educators through our state's ARC program and was the youngest representative sharing the benefits of FCCLA with Family and Consumer Science teachers throughout the state at last year's AAFCS conference.

Susanna Gerald is an extremely hard working individual who would make an incredible difference in our country as a state officer. Furthermore, Susanna also represents her own culture, community and family in such an impressive way for someone so young. She dedicates herself to learning her mother tongue and continues essential traditions. This can be hard for many adults to navigate in our current society along with intense responsibilities, however Susanna does this with ease, ensuring she uses her time wisely in an efficient manner. In this way, I believe she would add a very unique quality to the national council. She is incredibly mature, extremely passionate about her future and a kind-hearted supportive peer. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further discussion.

Sincerely,

*Jennifer Nario Taliercio*

Jennifer Nario Taliercio

**Family and Consumer Sciences  
& FCCLA State Adviser**

Valley Regional High School

256 Kelsey Hill Road

Deep River, CT 06417

jtaliercio@reg4.k12.ct.us

860.526.5328



# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Jessica Argueta-Lopez

**State:** Delaware



**Region:** North Atlantic





The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Jessica Argueta-Lopez

**State:** Delaware



If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the [FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#).

To be elected to the National Executive Council would be an honor of the greatest grandeur. Respectively, I have a multitude of hopes and ambitions for our organization, so that it might grow and prosper; reaching youths all over our nation. In fact, I have already begun my endeavor; moving one stone at a time- beginning with promoting growth within my very own home state, Delaware. The Delaware Department of Education and I have been working closely to create a culturally competent workforce among the upcoming generation of students through the use of our CTSOs; developing the plans and foundations necessary to ensure employability within our state for the near future. We have done so by realigning our program so that middle school FCCLA promotes high school readiness and career exploration. Of course, that goes without mentioning that we also intend on reaching out to diversify the organization, starting with our very own leaders. I, myself, am a first-generation Salvadoran American; daughter to two immigrant parents. I am no stranger to the hardships that minorities must face, and thus I know the gravity and importance that those demographics, that those people, are represented. Furthermore, that leads us to the infrastructure and communication of our organization; two of the most essential attributes that ensure the functionality of FCCLA. Given how important said attributes are, I created resources for all the chapters on a state-wide basis, an array of videos that went through the rubrics of our competitive events, meant to improve and facilitate the incREDible experiences of trainees, new advisors, and even students alike. I hope to create processes to onboard advisors, amplifying communication among them; we have already begun to see growth as a result of these efforts, and are very excited to welcome our new advisors next year. I also propose that we create a new competition, one that tasks the individuals with creating the most relevant social media campaign; for we have 225,000 members and roughly only 7% of those members follow the National FCCLA instagram account. There must be a more efficient way to increase our media presence and to encourage people to support us; what better way than to find it through the use of our very own members? And last of all, I hope to empower students; the future lies within their hands- and it is up to us to prepare them for what they will face. It can be done, it must be done, and it could even be achieved through increasing the rigor and industry standards ensuring that competitions remain competitive and innovative among the student body. FCCLA members should be ambitious, progressive, and eager to discover what the world has to offer for them--if willing enough to fight for it.

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The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Jessica Argueta-Lopez

**State:** Delaware



Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

FCCLA is an organization that goes by the acronym representing the following: Family Career Community Leaders of America. However, as one affiliates oneself with the program- it becomes so much more than just a name. FCCLA is a field of opportunity; a place in which the leaders of our community and those who reside within it come together and form something truly incredible. It provides guidance, experience, and resources for the upcoming youth; giving them the skills needed to forge and explore their place within this world. FCCLA helps individuals learn essential life skills, such as how to socialize and connect with others, how to network, and how to give back to their communities. Not to mention how inclusive this organization is, with equitable access through work-based learning systems and competitive events. Additionally, FCCLA is a program without financial constraints, giving students an equal opportunity whilst ensuring to incorporate a level oriented system- classing the students in groups that match their skill level. And as a result, this prompts them to grow and strive for higher achievements as they gain knowledge and experience. Ultimately, FCCLA becomes a family for those who partake in it, one that is supportive regardless of race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. It is a world in which the colors are simply red and white; passionate, hopeful, and awe-inspiring. In a way FCCLA, is a muse or even a token of inspiration. When I found that my state was teetering on the edge of losing FCCLA forever, I had to do something. I could not sit back and watch the program fall. I fought tooth and nail to keep our organization afloat, I advocated on behalf of the youth, on the behalf of all the passionate advisors behind me, and on behalf of myself to our state board. All my effort, dedication, and passion did not go unnoticed; and I can proudly say that I have permanently ensured FCCLA's survival within the middle schools on a state-wide spectrum. Even to this day, the fight continues; and I hope that FCCLA may keep its place within the high schools of Delaware.

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## **Jessica Argueta-Lopez**



Delaware

Mid/North Atlantic region

### **FCCLA Involvement**

#### **Offices Held**

- [REDACTED] High School Chapter President
- Delaware State Officer VP of Membership
- Delaware State Officer President
- Delaware State Student Director

### **FCCLA Events & Projects**

- Food Innovations gold medalist state level
- Food Innovations silver medalist national level
- Fall Leadership conference
- Spring Leadership Conference (x2)

### **School Involvement**

- Currently in 11th grade
- 2 years affiliated with FCCLA
- 3 years FCS - Exp. Family & Consumer Sci. II (grade 8-passed), Food Prep & Production I (grade 10, 1 credit), Food Prep & Production II (grade 11, ongoing)

### **Community Involvement**

- National Honors Society
- Gingerbread houses with children
- Mental Health Advocacy - I Don't Mind
- Rock your Socks
- Employee of Burger King
- Attended mental health advocacy conference and training, invited by congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester



April 21, 2023

Dear National Office Selection Committee:

It is my pleasure to recommend to you, Ms. Jessica Argueta-Lopez for the FCCLA national officer position. In the field of education, it is hard to find a student that has the talent, leadership, and passion of this high school student. She has been an outstanding asset to the FCCLA program, to which I advise. Due to Jessica's willingness to lead, as well as her dedication to her studies and activities at [REDACTED] I have no doubt that she represents all the qualities of the applicant that you are seeking for our National Officer Candidate.

Jessica has participated in Delaware's Hospitality and Tourism coursework and has served on our Delaware Executive Council as the State President and State Student Director. By the close of her junior year, she will have led the way to save FCCLA programs in Delaware. Prior to my joining the Department of Education, leadership had discussed dissolving the FCCLA chapter. As I began to discuss with the officer team, Jessica sprang into action. She conducted research on the industry standards, sustainability of the program, and student voice within the CTSO. She presented this information to leadership and continued to advocate for the program until the state reversed their decision to completely dissolve Delaware FCCLA. When the state was also seeking additional supports for students in high needs areas, Jessica was the one student who was quick to assist our administrative and teaching teams. An example of her supports includes the creation of educational competition videos for new advisors and students. She also helped the Delaware Department of Education to redesign the middle school exploratory model to create equitable access to programs for students.

During her tenure on the state executive council, Jessica provided services for over 20 school districts and charter schools in the state of Delaware. Jessica developed and implemented professional development, leadership training, and promotional materials for various events and programs. During her years in FCCLA, Jessica received high honors at the state level for high school students in multiple competitions such as Food Innovations. Jessica has also assisted in the development of multiple statewide leadership programs in collaboration with Department of Education and the Secretary of Education.

Whenever I need a student to lead a program, I often turn to Jessica. She is also eager and ready to serve, often going above and beyond the standard required. After being selected as the newest Education Associate for Delaware Department of Education, a fellow associated commented that she didn't know how I was able to do so much. I replied that I have an amazing group of students that I get to impact each day, and a few who assist me in all that I do. Jessica's leadership and assistance is one of the reasons it has been made possible for me to be the leader I have been recognized to be in the Delaware and at the national level. If anyone every were to want to examine Jessica's impact on our nation's future of workforce and her ability to be an effective teacher, one could watch her in action at the many events in which she is engaging with students, teachers, parents, institutes of higher education, and community partners.

As a former national officer for Educators Rising (FEA), I see the same traits in Jessica. With Delaware FCCLA going through transitions, the organization required a student leadership team who is dedicated to the mission, vision, and purpose of the FCCLA program. Jessica not only possesses the skills, knowledge, drive, and personality to take our organization into the future, she has the passion for FCCLA that is equal to my 28 years of love and dedication to CTSO programs. Jessica is a hard worker, innovative leader, outstanding officer, and mentor that FCCLA will need as we move forward. Schools across the state regularly request the support and guidance of Jessica in order to help grow their programs. National FCCLA will benefit from the leadership, innovation, and diversity that Jessica brings to the table.

Jessica Argueta-Lopez is well liked and respected by both the faculty and her peers throughout the state of Delaware. I would like to say I look forward to the day she is inspiring the future; however, she already exhibiting this in all she does. Thank you for your consideration of Jessica for your program and helping her change the world one student at a time. Please contact me if you have any questions, Michael.hill-shaner@doe.k12.de.us or 302-270-1201.

Sincerely,

  
Michael C. Hill-Shaner  
Delaware FCCLA  
State Executive Associate

April 28, 2023

To whom it may concern,

It is with great pleasure to provide a letter of recommendation for Jessica Argueta-Lopez in support of her candidacy as a National FCCLA officer. Jessica is currently a second-year student in my Advanced Food Preparation class; in my 14-years as a teacher, I have never taught a more motivated, self-directed, and conscientious student.

Jessica is an attentive individual who actively participates during class discussions and in the culinary lab. She is always on time and prepared, and has a strong desire to learn; scoring among the highest on tests and assignments- earning her a cumulative GPA of a [REDACTED]. Her accomplishments outside of the classroom are equally impressive. She is currently involved in many extracurricular activities including the National Honors Society, 3-year varsity player on the soccer team, and a BPA nationalist in 2018 & 2019. Jessica has volunteered her time repainting community properties in Newark, trash cleanup for the City of [REDACTED] BVSPCA Pet Smart setup, and holiday caroling at a hospital for the chronically ill. Jessica is an active member of FCCLA and has received a gold award in states and a silver award at Nationals. In addition to participating in competitive events, Jessica participates in FCCLA community service opportunities including the annual gingerbread house event at the local public library and preparing food for the Food Expo.

Jessica is truly passionate about FCCLA and her commitment to the organization along with the success of her fellow teammates. Upon learning that the Delaware Chapter of FCCLA at the high school level was in jeopardy, Jessica teamed up with the state advisor and representatives to lead work efforts to ensure the chapter's future. Through persistence and dedication, Jessica has been instrumental in organizing promotions for FCCLA and facilitating events. She has created resource videos to highlight the competitive events, coordinated the middle school spring conference and high school state conference, and helped run the high school state conference. Jessica has also represented Delaware in FCCLA's Pathways Conference and engages in advocacy work to uphold FCCLA in schools.

It is indisputable that Jessica is highly motivated and hardworking, however she has many other outstanding qualities. She is honest, friendly, and her enthusiasm is infectious. I have first handedly witnessed her ability to inspire and motivate others. In preparation of competitions, Jessica invites her classmates to practice their speeches and she will encourage and cheer them on. She reviews their transcripts and written documents offering her thoughts and suggestions on ways to improve. She cares so much about the students in the group, and is always checking in to make sure everyone is alright. She values being supportive and giving her time; helping others comes naturally to her.

In conclusion, Jessica's personality and performance overall makes her an exceptional candidate. She would be a tremendous asset to FCCLA serving as a national officer. If Jessica is awarded the position, it would be an honor to help support her on this journey. I will be available to meet with her regularly for guidance as well as attend meetings, conferences or other events to assist her. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,  
Glenn Feeny

Glenn R Feeny  
Culinary Instructor  
FCCLA Advisor

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] DE [REDACTED]



April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

To whom it may concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Jessica Argueta-Lopez as a FCCLA national officer. I've coached Jessica in women's soccer for the past three years at [REDACTED] and also had her as a student in my class at [REDACTED].

As a player, Jessica was named most improved last season and has started every game at the varsity level since sophomore year. She is always willing to help and takes charge at team practices and games. She has also modeled the traits of responsibility, hard work, and dedication for the younger players and it reflects her success in the classroom. It is clear that Jessica has a drive for perfection and I believe her positive attitude and pleasant demeanor will take her very far. If Jessica were elected as an officer she would be offered my full support and guidance given that I see her daily and we are in constant communication.

As a student athlete, Jessica carries a [REDACTED] GPA. Jessica does an outstanding job of juggling a challenging school work load and volunteering countless hours to our school and sports teams throughout the year. Academically, as a junior she takes a variety of honors and AP classes including U.S. Government, Pre-Calculus and English and ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in her class. I am confident that Jessica will carry her success from high school to college and I highly recommend her for FCCLA national officer.

Sincerely

Michael James

Teacher at [REDACTED] DE

Head Women's Soccer Coach [REDACTED]

Driver Education Teacher

(302)3837954



# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Jocelyn Inderhees

**State:** Indiana



**Region:** Central





The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Jocelyn Inderhees

**State:** Indiana



If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the [FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#).

The 2022-2025 FCCLA strategic plan has four key components: communications, growth, infrastructure and programs. I will utilize the strategic plan in the upcoming year to help FCCLA as an organization to thrive. Even if not elected into the National Executive Council I will do my best to put these plans into action.

I thoroughly believe that social media is a big component of both communication and growth. A way to implement this would be creating a TikTok account. Most teenagers are on TikTok and it is a great way to show FCCLA to others and recruit new members due to the videos made going onto others For You Pages. It would be a great way to showcase all the different parts off FCCLA. Indiana State Executive Council has a TikTok we post on to update members about events and also have fun bonding experiences as a team. Instagram is also a great way to communicate to members. While there is a very active Instagram page it could be more interactive. Allow members to ask questions about FCCLA. Showcasing the different programs is a great way to encourage others to partake in them and inspire great ideas in others. Both the Indiana FCCLA and East Central FCCLA Instagram pages are kept up to date on upcoming events to keep members and parents in the loop.

Allowing members to give input in options for future National events. Asking members what session, events, and activities they would like at National Fall Conference and National Leadership Conference would give the National Council insight on what participants are interested in. Getting member and advisor suggestions for future National event locations could bring forth new location ideas that otherwise wouldn't have been thought of. Member and advisor input across the organization will help the infrastructure within FCCLA. After State Conference in Indiana a survey was sent out to the members who participated to get their input on how the conference went. We use this the following years to make improvements for the best experience possible.

Highlight incREDible members, chapters, and advisors is a great way to show appreciation for them. Showcasing the different events, projects, and service that is within FCCLA is a great way to encourage growth and communicate new ideas that can be done. Seeing what others have done can inspire someone else to try a similar task. At both my Chapter and State we highlight achievements, events, and projects completed by members, advisors, and chapters. These highlights are done in newsletters, emails, stage recognition, and social media. This shows them that we care and also gives them the recognition they deserve.

Due to judges for STAR events being volunteers it is hard to know if everyone will be judged fairly. A solution I propose to try and solve this problem is a Zoom call before Nationals. Ask the volunteers to get on a Zoom call before Nationals if possible and breakdown how to fairly judge the STAR event participants. Break it into breakout rooms if possible and go over their assigned event that they will be judging. This ensures fair judging across the board. This will help your programs to prosper and help strengthen the infrastructure.

The FCCLA strategic plan will help the organization to prosper. As a possible future member of the National Executive Council that is what we strive towards. FCCLA is an incREDible organization that with the above suggestions can just get stronger.



The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Jocelyn Inderhees

**State:** Indiana



Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

Integrating FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education (FCS) is very important for both programs. Family and Consumer Sciences education teaches students many important life skills for their future. Some of these skills include: how to cook, sew, care for young children, knife skills, kitchen safety, how to communicate and provide care to others, and so much more. FCCLA allows students to put these learned skills into action and prepare students for their future. Students put these skills into action through competitive events at all levels; District/ Regional, State, and even National. This allows students to be introduced to new ideas utilizing these skills.

Personally, I have taken full advantage of the FCS courses taught within my school district. Some of the courses I have taken are Child Development, Fashion, and Human Services. All of these courses allow me to learn new skills and apply them with FCCLA. Child Development taught me how to properly care for a child and keep them engaged and excited while FCCLA allows my chapter and I to hold various events that keep the younger participants engaged throughout the night. Fashion taught me how to enhance my sewing skills and FCCLA gives others and I numerous opportunities to use these skills. From completing STAR events in the fashion category to making many different things to sell in order to raise money for the chapter and trips. In my chapter we have made blankets to donate to animal shelters and to the homeless. In the Human Services course it has given me the ability to work and communicate with others at a better level than before. I use these skills within FCCLA almost everyday. Reaching out to partner with local businesses, bringing in guest speakers to talk at both the chapter and state level, and leading sessions to both large and small groups. Without these FCS courses and FCCLA a lot of these experiences would have never happened.

In my FCS courses, FCCLA has been used in the classroom numerous times. In Child Development a babysitting event was held at school with Rock Solid Families where they held a meeting about parenting. This took place once a week for four weeks. This allowed the parents to attend the meeting without worrying about childcare for their children. In Fashion Ugly Quilts were made to donate to the elderly. Headbands and pillow cases were also made to sell at the FCCLA craft show. In Human Services we plan and prepare for our upcoming events held within FCCLA. We have written letters to veterans, teachers, and the elderly in all the courses. Time is also set aside to work on FCCLA STAR events each year.

Due to FCCLA being integrated into Family and Consumer Sciences education is how FCCLA continues to grow as an organization. I personally joined FCCLA in the sixth grade due to taking Family and Consumer Sciences. When I first walked into the room there was information about FCCLA. This sparked my interest along with many others. The teacher would talk about FCCLA and convince me to join. Integrating FCCLA into FCS allows both programs to thrive. FCS courses that utilize FCCLA in the curriculum allows students to see what FCCLA is and inspires them to be an active part of the organization. In turn FCCLA events allow members to compete in many different areas, members then will want to enhance these skills further by taking a FCS course in the desired subject.

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## Jocelyn Inderhees

State: Indiana

School: [REDACTED]

Chapter: [REDACTED]

FCCLA

Grade: Junior-11th

Years in FCCLA: 6

Years in FCS Instruction: 5

### FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE COURSES TAKEN

6th: Family & Consumer Sciences Class (2 credits) 7th: Family & Consumer Sciences Class (2 credits)  
9th: Human Services I (1 credit) 10th: Human Services I & Intro to Fashion & Textiles I (2 credits)  
11th: Human Services II & Advanced Child Development I & II (4 credits)

### OFFICES HELD

2018-2019 SD Middle School VP of Community Service 2019-2020 SD Middle School President  
2020-2021 EC High School Freshman Representative 2021-2022 EC High School Treasurer  
2021-2022 District VP of Competitive Events 2022-2023 Indiana State VP of Community Service  
2023-2024 Indiana State VP of National Programs \*Only hold 1 position; unless District & Chapter

### PARTICIPATION

**Chapter-** Plan and attend Annual Ice cream social, FCCLA/ FFA Hayride and Tailgate, FCCLA Bingo & Raffle, Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, Alumni Dinner, Spring Baraar, Snowflake Dance; dance for our special needs community, Eat Dinner with your Family Night, FCCLA Week, RUSH Week - Member Recruitment, Honor Chapter Book, Coffee Social, [REDACTED] Open House, FCCLA Banquet, FFA Banquet, Homecoming Parade, North Dearborn Village; holiday activities with the residents, Ronald McDonald Party & pop tab collection, Dinner at High Hopes Cafe, Superintendents' Dinner, Food Pantry, NDES Trick-or-Treat, register babies for Baby Contest, Drowsy Driving, Dog Treats, Walking Club, Free Cookie Friday, Skyline & Chipotle night, SDMS Officer Training and Open House. Girls Night- mentoring night for middle school girls, Boys Night- night to promote FCCLA to middle school boys. 812 Interview (news), Car Wash/ Bake Sale and Lasagna Sale. Officer Positions.

**State-** attended 5 State Leadership Conferences, 2 Summer Leadership Academies, 6 Fall Leadership Rallies, led over 5,900 state members, conducted 3 state-wide events; State Leadership Conference, Fall Leadership Rally, and Middle School Fall Leadership Rally. In person and virtual state officer meetings. CTSO State Officer Training, Indiana State Legislator Day, AAFCS Conference, work Dairy Bar at Indiana State Fair, No Kid Hungry. Participated in 5 STAR events qualifying for Nationals each year, 4 gold and 1 silver medal. Completed 4 State Projects; 3 gold and 1 silver. Completed Power of One and Step One. Officer Positions.

**National-** attended 2 National Fall Conferences, 1 in-person and 1 virtual National Leadership Conference. Competed in 2 STAR events- 2020 & 2022: 2020- Promote and Publicize FCCLA!; gold medal, 4th in Nation, 2022- Chapter Service Project Portfolio; gold medal, 3rd in Nation. Competed in 1 Skill Demonstration Event: 2021- Speak Out for FCCLA; silver medal, 4th in Nation. Competed in 1 Knowledge Test: 2022- Consumer Math Challenge; bronze medal, 7th in Nation, 2022 National Fall Conference Diversity session. NPSCTE- Senate Building; advocate for teachers and FCCLA to U.S. Government and CTE Directors.

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO FCS EDUCATION

- Advise FCS students and FCCLA officers and members within my school, district, and state.
- Advocate for FCS and CTSO funding to state legislators.
- Advocate for FCS classes and FCCLA to Administration and School Board in my School District.
- Advocate for FCCLA and teachers (FCS) at NPSCTE at the Senate Building in Washington, D.C.

### SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- **School-** National Honor Society, Student Ambassador, Book Club, Cross Country/ 5k races, For The Kid's Night, Prom Committee, Men's Soccer Team (help out).
- **Community-** Young Life/ Campaigners, Babysit, work with local businesses (organizations and clubs), community service (outside FCCLA), donate blood, community fairs/ events.
- **Jobs-** Red Barn (Dog Kennel)- work with coworkers, pet owners, and dogs to give the best care, give medicine, feed/ water, exercise, clean up after, & train new employees. Perfect North Slopes (Ski Resort)- train new employees, file paperwork, work register, & customer service.





4-28-23

Dear Nominating Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Jocelyn Inderhees as a National Officer Candidate. It has been my pleasure to work with Jocelyn as an FCCLA member and state officer. Jocelyn is a candidate that exhibits the qualities to make her an outstanding officer.

Jocelyn has served the 2022-2023 year as the Indiana FCCLA State Vice-President of Community Service and was recently elected for the second year as a state officer. Jocelyn has been a true servant leader. Jocelyn works diligently to make sure every meeting and event is ready to go and be a success. Jocelyn leads by example and is great at collaborating with others. She works hard to make Indiana FCCLA the best it can be and works to help motivate others around her.

Jocelyn's leadership on the state level is just one example of her outstanding attributes. Jocelyn's work centers around helping others and her community. The years, hours, and dedication she has given to FCCLA is nothing short of amazing. Jocelyn has been a member of FCCLA since the sixth grade. Through her chapter, she has worked countless hours of service to make a positive impact on her community. Jocelyn has truly lived the mission and purposes of FCCLA through her chapter, district, and state experiences. A few examples include her work with community service projects. She played an important role in our YSA grant for the year and helped to plan state-wide community service projects and events. She also helped to publicize those events and engage students to participate in the project. Jocelyn has provided presentations to help other schools learn how to engage with student leaders and develop projects that increase outreach to students. One of Jocelyn's projects is that she helps run and maintain her school's food pantry and take-home bags for students in need. This is just one example of the type of work Jocelyn does. Jocelyn's community service has included working with the local assisted living community to hold special events and holiday activities, snowflake dance for special needs individuals, Girl's Night, and Eat Dinner with Your Family Night to give a few examples. If there is a need, Jocelyn is there to help.

Jocelyn does all of her FCCLA service while maintaining a strong GPA, being active in other school organizations and working in related industries. Jocelyn is an contributing member of her school's cross country team and is good at balancing her responsibilities with FCCLA, school activities, and work. Jocelyn works for Perfect North Slopes giving her insight into the hospitality industry and helping her connect with members in that pathway. Jocelyn is an officer you can trust to follow directions and manage her responsibilities.

Jocelyn is a great candidate because her skills are built from hard work and her positive attitude is perfect for team success. These reasons are why I recommend Jocelyn Inderhees as a National Officer Candidate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alyson L. McIntyre-Reiger".

Alyson L. McIntyre-Reiger  
Indiana FCCLA State Adviser  
[amcintyrrereiger@gmail.com](mailto:amcintyrrereiger@gmail.com)  
812.243.3539



• phone: [REDACTED] • fax: [REDACTED]

**Principal Tom Black • Assistant Principals Jamie Rosfeld, Chad Swinney**  
**Athletic Director Don Stonefield • Counselors Rhonda Murdock, Lisa Tupper, Brad Wynn**

April 27, 2023

Dear Nominating Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Jocelyn Inderhees for an National FCCLA Officer position. She is an outstanding young lady that I have had the opportunity to work with the past 5 years.

Jocelyn has excellent leadership skills and is extremely creative. She has demonstrated these qualities by serving as a chapter officer for two years and this past year as the Indiana FCCLA Vice President of Community Service and currently she is serving as the Indiana Vice President of National Programs for the 2023-24 school year. In her role as the Vice President of Community Service, Jocelyn organized a statewide community service initiative at the [REDACTED] FCCLA Fall Leadership Rally. At this workshop, Jocelyn led members to write letters to the flood victims in Eastern Kentucky and encouraged members to purchase We Help Too socks. At the Middle School FCCLA Fall Leadership Rally, Jocelyn led members in painting pumpkins to give to someone special in their life or to an elderly member. Jocelyn collaborates well with others and is an outstanding team member.

This year during her Spring Break, Jocelyn and another FCCLA State Officer had the opportunity to present at the National ACTE Policy Seminar in Washington DC about the Indiana FCCLA Be A Teacher Day, where students are inspired to pursue a degree in Education. At the Policy Seminar, Jocelyn and her partner were able to share the value of this unique program with the attendees with the hope that this type of program could be replicated throughout the country.

Ever since I met Jocelyn in middle school, she has been extremely passionate about FCCLA. Jocelyn has participated in numerous community service projects helping both people in our community and around the state. She has assisted at the local retirement home called the North Dearborn Village, where we have carved pumpkins and decorated cookies with the residents. Jocelyn has worked hard the past two years implementing our Middle School Girls' Night Program where high school girls mentor middle school girls through fun crafts and activities while learning about issues including self-esteem, self-confidence, self-motivation, positivity, leadership, building strong relationships, communication, social media presence, and transitioning to high school. She involves several outside human services agencies to help implement these activities and impresses upon the middle school girls the benefits of being part of FCCLA. This successful event has over 100 girls participating. This event makes a huge impact on everyone involved.

I strongly recommend for a National FCCLA Officer Position; I feel she will be an excellent member of the team and is in touch with the members of FCCLA.

Sincerely,

Brenda Osman  
Family and Consumer Science Teacher  
FCCLA Adviser



*Forming the saints God is calling us to be by providing faithful teaching, authentic worship, and compassionate service. Our faith and actions nourish engaged Catholics, inspire unengaged Catholics, and invite all to Christ's Church.*



April 17, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been a priest for almost 20 years and during that time I have served as the Archdiocesan Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry and as a pastor at several parishes. I also have been coaching Cross Country and Track for over twelve years. I mentioned the above to point out that I work with and meet thousands of young people on a regular basis. Every now and then you met a person who you cannot forget. Jocelyn Inderhees is one of those people.

Jocelyn is a fine young woman with many gifts that have been given to her by God. Not only is she brilliant in her school work, maintaining a great grade point average in an academically challenging school, she is also well balanced socially and developmentally. This is a true gift. Her intellectual gifts are used and lived out through her actions. This is obvious through her extracurricular activities, volunteer experiences and involvement in our local community.

I spent just about every afternoon with Jocelyn as her Cross-Country Coach. I get to witness daily her leadership, confidence, charity, and her genuine concern for others. Her work ethic and positive attitude could not be matched by her peers.

One of the great memories of have of Jocelyn is her hard work and dedication on the Cross County Team. This past yer they qualified for the IHSAA State meet for the first time in school history. Her hard work and determination paid off. She is a fighter. She is a hard worker who can lead and inspire others.

It is an honor for me to recommend Jocelyn. If you are looking for a young woman who deserves your attention look no further. She is a well deserving candidate.

In His Priesthood,

  
Rev. Jonathan P. Meyer



# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Makenzie Kelley

**State:** Indiana



**Region:** Central





The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Makenzie Kelley

**State:** Indiana

If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

When reading this prompt, one of my favorite quotes by Helen Keller immediately came to mind. It reads, "Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood". I believe this quote (while applicable to all facets of life), is especially true when it comes to being a National Officer. In order to serve as a leader, it is critical to use the knowledge gained from the past to cultivate a better future. If elected to the National Executive Council, I will utilize my incREDible FCCLA experiences to provide support to newcomers, increase communication amongst members, and effectively improve the infrastructure of our organization.

One of my most formative experiences within FCCLA was becoming a member during the Covid-19 pandemic. As we are all acutely aware, the pandemic forced FCCLA to adapt in unforeseen ways, and my chapter was no different. Because of the amount of problems being tackled on a daily basis, matters like introducing new members were not thoroughly addressed. While I completely understood the situation, I can still vividly recall feeling overwhelmed or intimidated, and wishing for more resources aimed at new members. When I became a state officer, we were exiting the Covid-19 era, and things were finally beginning to return to normal. However, I knew there would still be new members who, like me, felt lost when it came to FCCLA. So, I created the New Member Guide, a BLANK page resource published electronically on the Indiana FCCLA Website. The guide contains concise information on competitive events, dress code, conferences, and more, and is easily accessible to any member interested in using it. This experience has instilled in me the desire to implement similar resources on a national level, including a reformatted New Member Guide and opportunities for new members to be connected with a volunteer student mentor online. These ideas tie into the Strategic Plan's Communications and Growth areas; For Communication, it reaches an underrepresented audience and can open the door for increased communication between old and new members. For Growth, making information/assistance accessible for newcomers aids in member retention and increased member activity. In simpler terms, students who feel supported are more likely to take an active approach to FCCLA.

Another experience that has drastically impacted me within FCCLA occurred at this year's State Leadership Conference; while participating in the Round Robin (as part of re-running for State Office), I had the chance to speak directly with members from across the state. One idea I brought up was met with unanimously enthusiastic support: increasing member representation. Having participated in FCCLA as both a member and a State Officer, I firmly believe that increasing member input is imperative to the success of our organization - after all, how can we improve things for our members if we don't KNOW what needs to be improved? As officers, it is our duty to act as representatives of the broader whole - to do this, I'd strive to promote interactive social media initiatives, increase voting opportunities for members, and conduct polling to better understand what needs to be improved. These ideas support the Strategic Plan's Communication, Growth, and Infrastructure areas; For Communication, there is increased transfer of information between members and National Officers. For Growth, increased social media initiatives draws in new members and helps increase National Officer visibility. For Infrastructure, polls/voting help us effectively improve processes/systems, and can possibly even pertain to Programs (if members feel they need altered).





The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Makenzie Kelley

**State:** Indiana

Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

Whenever I am approached by a teacher interested in starting an FCCLA chapter, one of the first things I highlight is how beautifully FCCLA can be integrated into a classroom setting. It is undeniably true that Family and Consumer Sciences is an underrepresented field, and that FCS educators often lack the resources and support necessary to make a meaningful impact in the lives of their students. FCCLA does an incredible job of addressing the issue by providing resources, experiences, and opportunities that reinforce FCS in a more tangible way. The integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences is imperative to helping educators take their lessons from classroom concepts to real-world skills.

While attending the Indiana Family and Consumer Sciences Conference just a week ago, I had the pleasure of speaking with a myriad of FCS educators from across the state of Indiana. While conversing with these amazing individuals, many had questions regarding FCCLA. They inquired, "What are the benefits of having a chapter?", "How can it help our kids grow as FCS students?", and "How would FCCLA work to support us as teachers?" I was delighted to receive their questions, and even more delighted to explain just how significant of a difference FCCLA can make for students when integrated into FCS education.

I began by explaining FCCLA's role as a co-curricular (rather than an extra-curricular) organization, and our unique position in supporting both students and teachers in FCS. FCCLA provides educational resources; a network of teachers and students who work to guide and encourage one another; and countless opportunities for students to implement FCS skills and knowledge through community service projects, competitive events, running for an elected position, and attending conferences. I additionally emphasized the FCCLA Career Pathways, and how essential they are to helping students find careers in FCS that support their passions.

To further enforce the importance of integrating FCCLA into FCS, I shared just how transformative an experience FCCLA has been for me and countless others as FCS students. As a new student my freshman year, I felt a severe lack of direction; I did not know what classes to take, what career to pursue, or who I really wanted to be. It wasn't until being introduced to Family and Consumer Sciences and becoming a member of FCCLA that I at last found the sense of purpose I had been searching for. It was through participating in my STAR event (advocating and educating on the child abuse crisis), being exposed to career speakers and sessions at State and National Conferences, and learning more about the multitudinous opportunities within FCS that I realized I wanted a career in human services. Because of FCCLA, I knew that I was called to advocate for others, and have since been interested in pursuing psychology after graduation.

The best part is, my story is by no means unique. As a chapter and state officer, I have had the privilege of witnessing countless other students transform from timid, lost individuals to confident, purposeful members of an organization dedicated to supporting them in their pursuit of a career within FCS. In conclusion, FCCLA is an invaluable tool for educators to take the lessons being taught in the Family and Consumer Sciences classroom and apply them to real-world opportunities.

## MAKENZIE KELLEY

State: Indiana

School: [REDACTED]

Chapter: [REDACTED]

Grade: Junior -11th

Years in FCCLA: 3

Years in FCS Instruction: 2

### FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES COURSE TAKEN

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10th: Preparation for College and Careers (1 credit)

11th: Human Services (2 credits)

### OFFICES HELD

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- 2021-2022 [REDACTED] VP of Development
- 2022-2023 Indiana First Vice President
- 2023-2024 Indiana State President

### PARTICIPATION

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**CHAPTER** - Plan meetings, chair events, and participate in the following activities: Annual Ice Cream Social, [REDACTED] Open House, FCCLA/FFA Hayride, FCCLA Bingo, Eat Dinner with Your Family Night, Car Wash/Bake Sale Fundraiser, Lasagna Fundraiser, RUSH Week, FCCLA Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, Snowflake Dance for community members with special needs, North Dearborn Village pumpkin carving and Christmas cookie decorating with the elderly, FCCLA Week, First Annual Iced Coffee Social, Girls' Night presenter (2022-2023), tied blankets for EMS, made dog treats for PAWS, assisted in running chapter's social media, Power of One

**DISTRICT** - Attended all district meetings and participated in student sessions on STAR events, fundraising opportunities, and more. Received the 2021 Outstanding Member Award.

**STATE** - Attended 3 State Leadership Conferences, lead ( ) members, conducted 3 statewide events: Fall Leadership Rally, Middle School Fall Leadership Rally, and State Leadership Conference. Participated in and recorded minutes for state meetings. Participated in the STAR Event Professional Presentation, winning gold each year and qualifying as a National Alternate and National Qualifier. Completed the following State Projects: 2022 FCCLA in Action - Silver, 2023 FCCLA in Action - Gold. Presenter at the 2022 ACTE Conference. Advocated for FCS and FCCLA at the 2023 CTSO Legislative Day with state legislators. Recipient of the Ultimate Leader Award.

**NATIONAL** - Attended 2022 National Fall Conference. Assisted in NFC Diversity Session. Participated in the 2021 Skill Demonstration Event: Speak Out for FCCLA - 2nd in nation, and 2022 Online Challenge Test: Science in FCS - 3rd in nation. Represented FCCLA at the 2023 ACTE National Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C.

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO FCS EDUCATION

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- Advocate for FCS education and FCCLA to members of the US Senate, Board of Education, and more.
- Advocate for state funding of CTE and FCS education to Indiana state legislators.
- Advocate for FCS education and FCCLA to the East Central School Board.

### SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

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- National Honor Society, Student Council Class Officer, Prom Committee Officer, Student Ambassador, CTE Ambassador, School Improvement Committee Student Representative, ECO Club (Recycling), Book Club, Actor with the Sunset Players Performing Arts.
- First Honors, Merit Honors, 4.0+ GPA Award, and Health Award Recipient.
- Hidden Valley Lake Pool and Perfect North Slopes - Cashier, customer service, food production.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] • phone: [REDACTED] • fax: [REDACTED]

**Principal** Tom Black • **Assistant Principals** Jamie Rosfeld, Chad Swinney  
**Athletic Director** Don Stonefield • **Counselors** Rhonda Murdock, Lisa Tupper, Brad Wynn

January 29, 2023

Dear Nominating Committee,

I would like to take this opportunity to recommend Makenzie Kelley for a position on the Indiana FCCLA Officer Team. She has been a member of FCCLA since the 9th Grade. She has participated in several chapter service projects the past three years. Her favorite project involves mentoring middle school students, especially during our Girls' Night event.

Makenzie is an outstanding leader. She has been a state officer this year and is currently serving as the First Vice President. Mak takes on responsibility readily and is very much a team player. When Mak sees a job that was not completed, she immediately takes action and figures out a solution. She does not worry about who's job it was. Also, she has outstanding ideas and is very passionate about promoting FCCLA. She is a compassionate young lady and very well spoken. She has done an excellent job with all of her duties both in the chapter and in the state.

For her STAR Event, Makenzie and her partner Kate have built an excellent Professional Presentation over Child Abuse. They have completed very thorough research and are presenting to their peers on this difficult topic. Through her chapter and state activities, I have been able to observe her outstanding organization skills and her desire to continue to build her leadership, team building and public speaking skills. The past two years, Makenzie has participated in FCCLA competitions during both Fall National Conference and State Leadership Conference and has placed in all competitions.

Makenzie is an outstanding student and juggles that with a part-time job, other organizations and FCCLA. She works well with her peers and advisors. She definitely makes FCCLA a priority in her life. I feel Makenzie has the skills and abilities to continue to be an exceptional state officer and I highly recommend her for a state officer position.

Sincerely,

Brenda Osman

[REDACTED] FCCLA Adviser



@ [REDACTED]

*Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow*  
"WE are EC"

Website • [REDACTED]



4-28-23

Dear Nominating Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Mak Kelley as a National Officer Candidate. It has been my pleasure to work with Mak as an FCCLA member and state officer. Mak is a candidate that exhibits all the qualities that contribute to a strong national officer.

Mak has served the 2022-2023 year as the Indiana FCCLA State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President. As 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Mak oversaw all communication with the officer team and was a true asset to making the group run efficiently and successfully. Mak was recently elected the Indiana FCCLA State President. In this role, Mak has quickly taken on responsibility for planning and leading the team of officers. Mak has been a true servant leader. Mak works diligently to make sure every meeting is planned, organized, and successful. Mak leads by example and exhibits strong leadership qualities that help teams collaborate and focus on shared vision. She works hard to make Indiana FCCLA the best it can be her work contributes positively to the organization.

Mak's leadership on the state level is just one example of her outstanding attributes. Mak's work centers around helping others and her community. The years, hours, and dedication she has given to FCCLA is nothing short of astonishing. Through her chapter, she has worked countless hours of service to make a positive impact on her community. Mak has truly lived the mission and purposes of FCCLA through her chapter, district, and state experiences. A few examples include her work advocating for Family and Consumer Sciences and CTE. Mak played an important role in our promotion of the field of FCS and FCCLA as an organization. Mak recently represented FCCLA during the public policy seminar. She shared remarks for the organization and is outstanding at representing the values and skills learned through FCCLA. Mak prepared a display and information about Indiana FCCLA's role in the education pathway. Mak shared this at the ACTE National Policy Seminar and at an FCS teacher professional development event. She is a great communicator with students and adults which makes her vital as a member of an FCCLA officer team. Mak has also worked with many partners of Indiana FCCLA. Mak participates in No Kid Hungry projects and initiatives to promote the partnership with Indiana FCCLA. Her work at the local and community level shines a light on her true values. Mak works to help lead community service events for her chapter and work with local partners. This is just one example of the type of work Mak does. Mak's community service has included working with the local assisted living community to hold special events and holiday activities, snowflake dance for special needs individuals, Food Pantry, and Eat Dinner with Your Family Night to give a few examples.

Mak does all her FCCLA service while maintaining an outstanding GPA, being active in other school organizations and working. Mak is a member of her school's national honor society, student council, participates in performing arts, and is a student ambassador for CTE. She excels at balancing her responsibilities with FCCLA, school activities, and work. Mak is a true leader who can guide a team.

Mak is a great candidate because her ability, skills, and experience provide her the strengths to lead. These reasons are why I recommend Mak Kelley as a National Officer Candidate.

Sincerely,

Alyson L. McIntyre-Reiger  
Indiana FCCLA State Adviser  
[amcintyrereiger@gmail.com](mailto:amcintyrereiger@gmail.com)  
812.243.3539





[Redacted]



[Redacted] • phone: [Redacted] • fax: [Redacted]  
Principal Tom Black • Assistant Principals Jamie Rosfeld, Chad Swinney  
Athletic Director Don Stonefield • Counselors Rhonda Murdock, Lisa Tupper, Brad Wynn

April 25, 2023

RE: Makenzie Kelley

To all interested parties,

Makenzie Kelley has asked me to provide a letter of recommendation in regards to her academic aptitude, leadership qualities, and accomplishments, and I am happy to do so. I have known Makenzie for a little less than one year. She is a student in my Dual Credit American History course.

A quick examination of Makenzie's academic record indicates the obvious; she is an outstanding student. However, the test scores and G.P.A. do not tell the entire story. While high-achieving students are not particularly rare, Makenzie's achievements seem to be the by-product of a genuine interest in learning and the life of the mind, rather than some spurious obsession with grades or empty accolades. She writes particularly well, and appears to possess the relatively rare quality of being able to analyze disparate concepts and events in such a way to allow for genuine and personal understanding.

In terms of personal qualities, Makenzie is the type of student that every teacher likes to see in class. Diligent and serious, but without being grade-obsessive, she can be counted on to submit her best work every time. Often I have noticed that, upon being given a particularly challenging assignment, rather than complaining or expressing frustration, Makenzie simply gets right to work. In this way, she inspires the other students and demonstrates the type of quiet leadership-by-example that is not only beneficial to the teacher, but to the other students as well.

In summary, I would suggest that Makenzie is richly deserving of any opportunities or assistance your office might provide, and would put them to the very best use. She is certain to continue her current academic excellence onto the next level, and will ultimately be the sort of person that benefits - in a significant way - whatever community is fortunate enough to count her as a member. I offer my strongest possible recommendation, without reservation.

Sincerely,

William Owen  
Department of History and Social Sciences

*Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow*  
"WE ARE EC"

Ve [Redacted]

[Redacted]

U [Redacted]





5-1-23

Dear Nominating Committee,

Indiana FCCLA, as a state association, is willing to accept the financial responsibility to accommodate an adviser/travel companion for Mak Kelley if she is elected as a National Officer. Indiana FCCLA will cover the costs of the adviser and will not hold National FCCLA financial responsible. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alyson L. McIntyre-Reiger". The script is cursive and fluid.

Alyson L. McIntyre-Reiger  
Indiana FCCLA State Adviser  
812.243.3539  
amcintyrereiger@gmail.com



# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Ian Hertenstein

**State:** Iowa



**Region:** Central





The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Ian Hertenstein

**State:** Iowa



If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the [FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#).

If elected to the National Executive Council I will utilize my incREDible experiences to expand all aspects of FCCLA's strategic plan for 2022-2025. The four aspects of this plan are as follows, communication, growth, infrastructure, and programs.

One of the most important aspects of this plan, in my opinion, is refining and improving communication. Communication is incredibly important to everyone and in many cases, it decides the organization's fate in this tech-driven society. Communication is extremely important in today's society but with this importance comes the challenge of making it a priority and in many ways a success. I would make this a priority by drawing on my experience of being a local president, district president, and state president, where communication with the members was very important to the success of the organization. With that, I would make sure that communication is a top priority in every situation. I would make sure that it is such a priority that saying that you did not know can not be an excuse. The best way to achieve this is to maximize communication through multiple messages and reminders and the use of multiple different forms of communication. Ways to achieve good communication include but are not limited to email, text, call, zoom, GroupMe, and Snapchat. But even if you have great communication you need people and members to communicate with.

This is where growth is extremely important. My experience in growing Iowa FCCLA will be useful, I helped Iowa FCCLA achieve this by increasing our membership and expanding Iowa Peer Education, our Iowa events, and test-driving a new venue for the Iowa FCCLA SLC. In Iowa's Peer Education, I helped refine and connect each Peer Education Program to the National Programs. This encouraged more chapters than previous years to apply for National Program awards. As for Iowa Events, I helped with creating ideas for each of the new projects to help increase participation in competitive events in Iowa. This year we had over 90% of our state leadership conference attendees competing in either a STAR event or an Iowa event. With more members being involved there is recognition to the individual and to the chapter which in turn will motivate more students to want to attend and compete in events in future years, which will help increase growth in membership.

With growth, FCCLA has to make sure that as an organization it is ready to move forward. This is why the strategic plan is so important and a part of that will help us move forward is the National programs. The importance of these National Programs is unique, they allow FCCLA, to be what FCCLA is. It defines FCCLA's goals, and with that, it defines who FCCLA will be in the future. Refinement and changes to these programs for the betterment of this organization are extremely important. Refining the programs will help better define what the main parts of FCCLA are, and it will help focus the views of the students and it will allow more students to be involved in different ways. The continued refinement of these programs will help with communication and the overall meaning of FCCLA, it will also help with keeping FCCLA relevant in this ever-changing world. It is so important to change for the future, and FCCLA refining and tweaking the national programs, commits FCCLA to its own future, that it decides.

I hope that with all my experience inside and outside of FCCLA, if elected to the NEC I will be able to make this organization better for the future. We can help communicate, and help make sure that FCCLA has a defined future for today and tomorrow.

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The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Ian Hertenstein

**State:** Iowa



Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

What do cakes, fajitas, and cookies all have in common? To the normal person they are all just food, but to me there is a deeper meaning to these foods. These foods are all things that two of my fellow chapter members and I made for FCCLA's Food Innovation STAR project.

FCCLA being integrated into the Family and Consumer Science curriculum gives students opportunities to make themselves incREDible people in their state, community, and school. Through these opportunities and experiences, they will be able to create a better foundation for a successful future. This foundation is created by real-world skills such as accountability, initiation, leadership, and responsibility. Compared to the regular classroom, the FCS classroom offers opportunities that are unlike none other. With the integration of an FCCLA chapter students have opportunities to learn and prepare themselves for their future careers. Through FCCLA students have a door opened to compete and test their knowledge and skills, converse with others, and travel all across the country. Yet many Family and Consumer Sciences classrooms do not integrate their FCCLA chapters into their curriculum. Integrating a chapter creates opportunities for the students, the schools, the communities, and the businesses. One of the biggest advantages of having an integrated chapter into an FCS classroom is the work-based learning experience through skills learned in competitive events and National Programs. FCCLA creates experiences for students that will help them prepare for their future. These experiences in the classroom can also better connect the businesses and the schools and in turn, can create a pipeline of workers straight into the industry, and into today's world where CTE jobs are in shortage. This pipeline is a necessity that makes FCCLA vital for the future of today's world. The skills and knowledge for these jobs are all learned through this work-based learning experience. These skills are not just the hands-on skills but they are also the skills for life. FCS creates so many career pathways for all, and with FCCLA students can experience what it is like to be in a specific career area.

I know as a high school student it is really hard to pick what you want to do for the rest of your life, but exposure to different career pathways can help students get a better view into what it would be like to do certain jobs. Work-based learning is not all that FCCLA offers for students, they can gain real-life skills through other opportunities as well. One of the big ones is STAR projects. STAR projects give students skills that will help them become ready for the world of work. From my experience, one of the best skills I learned was time management. It seems like such a simple concept, but learning how to manage your time will help you in everything you do in life. In my case with my friends, we had to manage our time between school work, work, sports, and our FCCLA project, so there were times when it was very hard to find time to work together. These STAR projects can easily be integrated into the FCS classroom and have their specific benefits, such as with Food Innovations, students learn about food science, marketing, and nutrition, all concepts that are taught in a foods FCS class, and helping students learn concepts used in food product development and culinary.

Overall FCCLA being integrated into the classroom helps the students, the school, and the businesses all involved. Integration of FCCLA is key to helping students to become incREDible and learn skills that will help them now and in the future.

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**FCCLA and Family and Consumer Science Course Information- 3 year Member**

Food and Nutrition I and II, Hospitality and Tourism- 9th grade, 1 total credit earned (.5 credit each)

**FCCLA Involvement****Local Involvement**

- Officer Positions
  - Chapter VP, 2020-2021
  - Chapter President, 2022-present
- Step One Recipient, 2020
- STAR Event Chapter Mentor, 2022, 2023
- Attend local chapter meetings, 2020-present
- Membership Recruitment Chair, 2021, 2022
- Public Relations Campaign Chair, 2021, 2022
- Local Heroes service project, 2022

**District Involvement**

- District Meeting Attendee, 2020, 2021, 2022
- District STAR Attendee, 2021, 2022, 2023
- Ronald McDonald service project, 2020
- Food Innovation STAR Event Gold Award, 2021, 2022, 2023
- District Officer Candidate, 2021
- District President, 2021-2022

**State Involvement**

- Attended FLR, 2020, 2021, 2022
- Attended State Leadership Conference, 2021, 2022, 2023
- Public Relations Peer Ed Team, 2020, 2021
- Food Innovation STAR Gold Award, 2021, 2022, 2023
- State Officer Candidate, 2022
- Iowa State President, 2022-2023
- Iowa FCCLA Board of Directors member, 2022-present
- Lead breakout session for FLR, 2022
- Lead round table sessions for State Conference, 2022

**National Participation**

- Attended National Fall Conference, 2021, 2022
- Attended Capitol Leadership, 2021
- Attended National Leadership Conference, 2021, 2022

- National Voting Delegate for Iowa, 2021, 2022
- Knowledge Bowl and Team Captain, 2021
- Franklin Covey Leadership Academy, 2022
- Food Innovation STAR Competitor, 2020, 2021, 2022
- First Place National Food Innovation STAR Event Award Winner, 2022

**Community Involvement****Family and Consumer Contributions**

- Presentation to 8th grade about FCCLA and FCS courses, 2020, 2021, 2022
- Talking with community members and school board members in order to advocate for FCS, 2020, 2021, 2022
- Advocate to state legislators and senators FCS education at CTE Day at the Capital, 2023
- Student Representative on School/CTE Advisory Committee, 2022-present
- ACTE National Policy Seminar, advocated to U.S. Senators and Representatives for CTE and CTSOs, 2023

**School Activities**

- Show Choir, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023-present
- Jazz Band, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023-present
- Golf Team, 2021, 2022, 2023-present
- Cross Country Manager 2022-present
- National Honor Society, 2022-present
- All-State Honor Choir, 2022

**Community Involvement**

- Hungerford 4-H member, 2015-present
  - Vice President, 2020-2022
  - President, 2022-present
- American Legion Boys State Delegate, 2023
- Western Iowa Synod Assembly Delegate, 2023
- Holy Family Food Pantry, 2021-present

**Job Experience**

- Kitchen Asst., Junkyard, Hinton, 2021-present



April 25, 2023

To: National FCCLA

From: Sherry Vogel, Interim Iowa Executive Director



Dear Committee,

I am pleased to write this recommendation for Ian Hertenstein, candidate for national FCCLA officer. I have known Ian in many capacities during his years as an FCCLA member. Ian has been a chapter, district, and state officer, a family member, and young adult who serves his community. Ian will make a fantastic national officer. He has FCCLA in his blood and will strive to make our organization stronger.

Ian has been a member of his chapter for three years. He has devoted his time and energy into making his chapter, district, and state, stronger entities. Ian is active on the local level, participating in activities such as meetings and community service projects. Ian has served as a district officer, helping his district increase in membership by inviting new chapters to join and providing help to new chapters. I have been witness to the extraordinary leadership that Ian has on the state level. When being elected as a state officer, and having a small team of four others to work with, the burden of doing many things didn't daunt him. The entire team worked extremely hard during their term and provided programming for the state that was outstanding. From selecting a current theme of mental health awareness to providing two state events of Fall Rally and State Leadership Conference, Ian lead the way in creating fantastic programs. Ian is also currently serving on the Iowa FCCLA Board of Directors, providing member input to our state leadership.

I am very proud of the work that Ian has accomplished all while doing his own leadership development of participating in STAR events, particularly Food Innovations, and earning top honors both at state and national. Ian has shown many times what it takes to be a leader on the state level. He has been instrumental helping to plan our annual Day at the Capitol, involving senators and representatives, and explaining to them the importance of CTE and CTSO's in Iowa. Ian took that same initiative to the national level by attending the National Policy Seminar in Washington, DC, this past March, taking FCCLA's story to our nation's leaders.

Ian has also been an active leader in his community by doing various service projects to benefit those in need. Ian is very active in his church, helping out on a continuous basis with their food pantry. Ian has also been instrumental in helping with the Ronald McDonald Houses in Iowa by raising funds doing a bake sale and donating items in need to the house. He has also done a card writing service project and Ian was a huge part of the mental health awareness campaign that involved the entire state of Iowa. He was on the state officer team that initiated the project by promoting the need in communities and schools to bring mental health issues to light. Ian organized different projects that our district chapters could do, talked with a state-wide mental health (NAMI - National Association of Mental Illness) counselor to understand and develop programs and also conducted breakout sessions on mental illness at the fall rally and state leadership conference.

I highly recommend Ian Hertenstein for a position on the National Executive Council. He will strive to make our organization strong and vital. He has shown the capability on the local and state level and I believe that you will continue that on the national level.

Sincerely,

Sherry Vogel, Interim Iowa Executive Director

April 24, 2023

Dear FCCLA National Officer Nominating Committee,

It is a great privilege to write this letter of recommendation for Ian Hertenstein. I am writing this letter from a unique perspective, Ian is not only my student but also my own child. As an adviser, my philosophy with my own children was never to force them to be involved with FCCLA but only support and encourage them if they chose to be involved. I am very excited that Ian has chosen to be very actively involved and has created a deep passion for FCCLA. With his passion, he wants to continue his involvement and use his leadership skills to serve the organization as a national officer.

Ian has been very involved in FCCLA at the local, district, state and even national level. He has been involved in a variety of different ways, from attending meetings on all levels, competing in competitive events, serving in leadership roles and now running for a national office. Ian is an exceptional leader, student and FCCLA member and always represents the organization with the highest level of integrity.

Over the past 3 years, Ian's leadership abilities have grown and strengthened. Just as his leadership skills have evolved and grown, his passion for FCCLA has grown. Ian has become a humble, honest, trustworthy, logical, and driven leader. As I worked with the state officer team this year, I was able to observe his leadership style while he worked closely with the other officers in planning meetings, preparing and delivering workshops and connecting with other members. His leadership style is one that considers others but motivates others for change.

This past year as State President, he worked very hard to increase the number of members and increase awareness for FCCLA across Iowa. Ian has not only been active in promoting FCCLA and CTE on the state level, but also the national level. He has attended Capitol Leadership and attended the ACTE National Policy Seminar as a student representative. In both experiences he was able to advocate for FCCLA and Family and Consumer Sciences on Capitol Hill visiting with Iowa Senators and Representatives.

Not only is Ian involved in FCCLA, but he is highly involved in his community and can see the importance of giving back. He plays an active role in his community by helping with various events, including the Santa Pancake Supper, participating in his 4-H clubs annual food drive and helping stock shelves and prepare bags for his church's food pantry. Ian is highly involved with his church community with serving as assisting minister and communion minister.

Ian is a driven young man who puts forth exceptional effort in all that he does, including FCCLA, school activities, community involvement and in his academics. With his passion for FCCLA, his various FCCLA experiences and with his leadership abilities, I feel Ian would make an excellent National Officer. I believe he would make a great impact in serving this organization and strive to make it the best it can be. I highly recommend Ian Hertenstein as a national officer and he has my full support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Hertenstein". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Alison" and last name "Hertenstein" clearly legible.

Alison Hertenstein  
FCCLA Adviser

April 27, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter on behalf of Ian Hertenstein who is running for FCCLA national officer. Ian has been a student in my homeroom and high school English classes since his freshman year, and I have always been impressed with his dedication to his academic, extracurricular, and personal endeavors.

Ian's academic focus stands out for several reasons, but it is his attention to detail and desire to achieve that makes him successful. I have always appreciated Ian's willingness to come in for extra help and to ask questions about content. He is not satisfied with mediocrity and understands that extra effort is needed to achieve great things. I can recall many times where Ian has come in before or after school to work on papers, speeches, and projects because he wanted to not only do well academically, but he also wanted to truly understand the material being taught. It wasn't just about a grade, but also about acquisition of knowledge. Ian pushes himself with his highschool coursework and chooses to enroll in classes that are challenging and demanding. These traits have led Ian to much success in the classroom, and his state test scores, GPA, class rank, and honors and awards all speak that drive to succeed.

Because Ian is involved in band, jazz band, choir, show choir, and FCCLA, he has the opportunity to build relationships with many groups of people in and outside of our school district. Student involvement illustrates leadership and a desire to be involved in something greater than ourselves, and Ian's level of participation demonstrates exactly that. Peers know that they can count on him for anything from homework help to being a voice in the classroom as he is always willing to lend a hand to those in need. I have always appreciated Ian's help in homeroom activities, and it is a great feeling to know that there are students like Ian who understand the importance of giving back whenever possible.

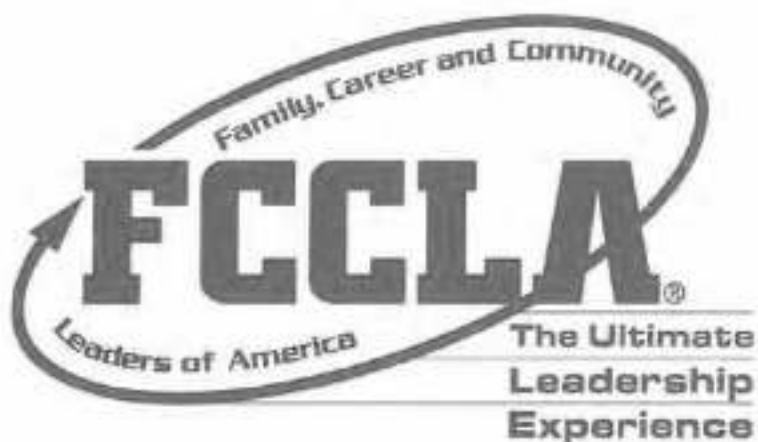
Finally, Ian's genial demeanor and positive outlook on life always brightens the room. He is a young man who knows the value of hard work, manners, and kindness. I can always count on Ian to enter the room with a smile and a greeting for everyone he encounters. Ian's mature outlook also allows him to see value and purpose in many tasks and challenges that other students might deem silly or unimportant. I have truly enjoyed watching Ian succeed over the last few years, and I am excited for the opportunities that await for such an intelligent, respectful, and driven young man. I have no doubt that the qualities and skills I have personally witnessed on a daily basis will seamlessly transfer into a leadership role as a national officer for FCCLA where Ian can continue to shine and make a difference through this opportunity.

Kind regards,



Holli Brown

High School English Teacher



# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Madelyn Heigert

**State:** Kansas



**Region:** Central





The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Madelyn Heigert

**State:** Kansas



If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the [FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#).

If I am elected to the National Executive Council, I will utilize my incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the strategic plan by networking and communicating, reaching out to recruit new members, helping to improve our processes and systems, and refining our resources and programs to make sure that they are consistent for educators and students. My main focus will be to support the goal of communications and growth. The first goal in the strategic plan is communications. As a member of the NEC, I will work hard to make sure FCCLA's mission and purpose is clearly communicated to all other organizations, stakeholders, and government officials. It is nothing new that many Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) are losing the support of many entities. Government officials want to place more support on core curriculums and physical activities such as sports. Although important, these curriculums fail to teach career-connected skills that are essential for a student's success after high school. Through my experience in FCCLA, I have been able to attain many career-connected skills as well as create friendships and connections that will last a lifetime. I want to be able to communicate to entities outside of FCCLA to show how important FCCLA and Family and Consumer Sciences education is. The FACS curriculum simply doesn't get the credit that it deserves. I would not be able to be where I am today without FCCLA and FACS education. Without this organization, I would not know the first step in being able to advocate for anything. FCCLA has helped me attain the incREDible skills of public speaking, communication, and professionalism through competitive events, conferences, and national programs. I believe the best way to communicate our organization's morals and purpose is to encourage students and educators at every level to speak out for FCCLA. I believe the NEC should work to recognize members who are doing their best to advocate for our organization, invite outside entities to take part in the ultimate leadership experience, and partner with other CTSOs. All CTSOs are highly important, and by partnering with each other we can help our organizations to continue thriving.

The second goal in the strategic plan is growth. A huge part of being a member of the NEC is to help recruit members in order to grow our organization. By following the three r's or recruitment (Recruit, Retain, Recognize) we can help to increase our numbers. Due to the recent Covid pandemic, membership in many organizations has dwindled, making it more important than ever to gain new members. Our organization's competitive events, National Programs, and Leadership experiences set us apart. The name Family Career and Community Leaders of America, shows that we are a well rounded organization with excellent morals and ideas. By showing students that our organization provides opportunities for growth through new and exciting ways, I believe that we can gain many more members. In order to Recruit new members, the NEC should recruit current state, district, and even chapter officers to share information to their schools about the amazing opportunities in FCCLA as well as how much fun our organization can be. The NEC should make a presentation that can be easily transferred to others. In order to retain members, our organization should continue to recognize the worth of our members as well as give them multiple opportunities for involvement. And finally, in order to recognize our members, the NEC should continue to use recognition awards as well as encourage state, district, and local levels to do the same!





The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Madelyn Heigert

**State:** Kansas



Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

It is not uncommon to hear many students and parents talk about how school teaches none of the career ready skills that are essential to a successful future after high school. Many believe that career-based learning should be integrated into the classroom, yet they do not know how. FCCLA and FACS education is doing just that! The integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education (FACS) is a fundamental part of a career connected education. According to the National FCCLA website, "FCCLA is integrated into Family and Consumer Sciences Education exposing students to work-based learning as well as business and industry experiences. FCCLA integration helps students to attain life skills that will help them throughout their entire lives. Enrolling in my school's Career Connections class has helped me to attain many career ready skills such as public speaking, communication, and professionalism as well as perseverance, dedication, and hard work. These skills are very important for all aspects of life. Public speaking is important because having the ability to speak in front of others, prepared or unprepared, is a great way to better communicate as well as gain respect. FCCLA has shown me that I can better advocate for global cooperation and harmony, by having the ability to speak publicly. Communication is perhaps one of the most important skills attained through FCCLA. Net-working and building relationships as a high school student will turn into making connections with others as a college student or in a future career. Communication is key in almost all environments, including school, the workplace, home, and community. FACS classes and FCCLA have helped to teach me key skills and strategies on how to be a good communicator. Things like active listening and showing empathy are all highly important skills that a student should have by the time they graduate high school. Another highly important career ready skill is professionalism. Professionalism includes appropriate dress, ability to speak respectfully, and acting with kindness and respect at all times when in a professional setting. This skill is always good to practice. FCCLA requires professionalism at all conferences and events within the dress code and code of conduct. Many FACS courses include mature subjects such as Human Growth and Development and Introduction to Human Services. Through these classes, I learned how to be mature and professional.

The integration of FCCLA into FACS classes helps to teach students how to be professional at school and in the future. FCCLA integration allows for many soft skills to be integrated into FACS classes as well. Perseverance, dedication, and hard work can help students in almost all situations throughout their life. FCCLA helps students to persevere through competitive events and national programs. Throughout my FCCLA career I have participated in four STAR Events and three national programs. My participation has shown me that STAR events take a lot of hard work and effort. Participating in competitive events through FCCLA and FACS courses shows students that they can persevere through big projects and sets them up for success in their future careers. Many FACS courses also integrate means of dedication. For example, students must dedicate time in order to take care of a baby for a weekend. Dedication is a strong skill to have in any situation. Finally, FCCLA integration helps to teach students how to work hard and meet deadlines. Through competitive events and FACS coursework, I have been able to improve my work ethic in order to get the most out of these activities. Overall, the integration of FCCLA into FACS education is highly important as it teaches students career-connected skills that may not be learned in any other classroom. This integration gives parents peace of mind, as their students will be ready for their future careers!

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## Madelyn Heigert

Kansas | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] FCCLA | Comprehensive Affiliation | 4 Year Member  
**Family and Consumer Sciences Courses**

FACS Exploratory(7th): 0.25 | Human Services(8th): 0.25 | Intro to Human Services(9th): 0.5 | Career Connection(11th): 0.5  
Total FACS Credit: 1.5

### FCCLA Offices Held

**Local:** President 2021-2023, Chapter Jr. Advisor 2023-2024

**District:** President 2022-2023

**State:** State 1st Vice President 2023- 2024

### FCCLA Participation

<p><b>Local:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FCCLA Homecoming Committee Chair</li><li>• Created a Chapter Website</li><li>• Talent Show (2021-2023)</li><li>• Chapter Service Projects<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Santa's Express (2020-2022)</li><li>◦ Elderly Outreach (2020-2023)</li><li>◦ Coat Drive (2022)</li><li>◦ Canned Food Drive (2023)</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>State:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• District EW Most Active Chapter Member</li><li>• Take Aim (2021-2022)</li><li>• STAR Events Participant<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Chapter in Review Display: 3rd, Silver (2020)</li><li>◦ Leadership: 2nd, Gold (2022)</li><li>◦ Public Policy Advocate: 1st, Gold (2023)</li></ul></li></ul>	<p><b>District:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fall Leadership Conference Host School (2021)</li><li>• Reinstated Summer Leadership Training Conference (2022)</li><li>• Planned Fall Leadership Conference (2022)</li><li>• Gave Breakout Sessions at FLC</li><li>• STAR Events Participant<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Chapter Service Project Display: 1st, Gold (2020)</li><li>◦ Promote and Publicize FCCLA: 2nd, Gold (2021)</li><li>◦ Leadership: 1st, Gold (2022)</li><li>◦ Public Policy Advocate: 1st, Gold (2023)</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>National:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• STAR Events Participant<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Leadership: 4th, Gold (2022)</li></ul></li><li>• STAR Event National Qualifier<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Public Policy Advocate (2023)</li></ul></li></ul>
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### Contribution to Family & Consumer Sciences Education and FCCLA

**Promotion:** Held membership drives at club fairs & school sponsored events, Advocated on school youtube channel, Spoke to school administrators.

### Participation in School and Community Activities

**School:** FFA, Scholars Bowl, STEP, Forensics(7 time state qualifier), Debate, S.A.F.E. Student Government(Class President), National Honor Society Member(Community Service: Smile Boxes, Amber Heigert Memorial Scholarship), softball.

**Community & Work Experience:** 4-H Shooting Sports, Kansas For Responsible Solar (Speak in front of Kansas Senate, Major Advocation), Farm Hand, Retail Sales, Child Care Provider, Journalist.

Lisa Graham, Advisor



██████████, KS ██████████

April 22, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

As the ██████████ FCCLA Advisor I have enjoyed watching Madelyn "Maddy" Heigert grow into an outstanding young lady whose potential reaches far beyond the local chapter or even state levels. Over the past 5 years Maddy has honed her amazing ability to be a leader. Whether it is upper classman, lower classman or even her friend group, they are all willing to follow her lead. Her leadership style always begins with listening so she will have a better understanding of the needs or end goal. Then her logical and analytical side steps in to focus on solutions and at that point she begins leading people in the right direction. Bringing people together towards a common goal while giving them purpose through involvement in FCCLA. Thankfully her passion for FCCLA has been a great benefit to our local chapter but she recently served as our District E-West President and is currently serving as the Kansas State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

Maddy is involved in a wide range of activities within our school and community. Within our school she is actively involved not only in FCCLA but FFA, Forensics, Debate, National Honor Society and Scholars Bowl to name a few. She plays an integral role in each of these organizations as a leader as well as a team member. Maddy is a very passionate, self-motivated young lady with a kind spirit and positive attitude, making her a wonderful asset to any organization she is a part of. Individually, Maddy maintains her personal list of goals. One of which she accomplished this past February when she earned a first placed finish in the Voice of Democracy essay and speech contest and then went on to represent Kansas in Washington, D.C. where she was honored with a scholarship.

Academics are very important to Maddy. She maintains a perfect 4.0 grade point average while taking advanced level secondary and college classes. Her determination, work ethic and organization are all qualities that allow her to be so involved in activities while maintaining her number 1 class ranking.

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Madelyn Heigert as an FCCLA National Officer Candidate. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at [grahaml@usd321.com](mailto:grahaml@usd321.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Graham".

Lisa Graham



FAX: (785) 296-2294

Email: [plamb@ksde.org](mailto:plamb@ksde.org)

April 24, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Madelyn Heigert has been an exceptional FCCLA officer and member. She has served as chapter and district officers and recently elected as the State 2023-2024 First Vice-President.

Madelyn has taken the lead in her chapter by being an officer as well as encourage other members to get involved in FCCLA activities, competitions, and projects. Her school does a tremendous amount of community service and Madelyn is a big part of making that happen. In her district/region, Madelyn has served as an officer and truly makes sure that meetings are productive, and tasks are completed.

Recently, Madelyn qualified for National STAR Event Competition with the top gold in Public Policy Advocate. Madelyn speaks very well, is very professional and exceptionally poised.

Madelyn is involved in other activities in her school as well as FCCLA. She is very driven and loves to be active.

I have watched Madelyn and she loves working with youth and adults. She has great enthusiasm, a positive attitude, very dependable, works well on a team and takes the lead when appropriate.

Madelyn is an outstanding young lady and would be a great asset to any team.

Sincerely,

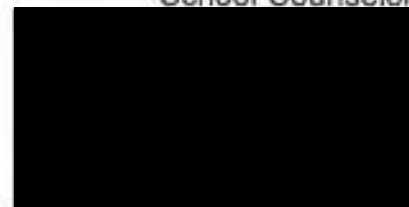
Pam Lamb

Pam Lamb  
Kansas FCCLA State Adviser





**Chelcie D. Heitman**  
School Counselor



To Whom It May Concern:

As the school counselor at [REDACTED] Junior Senior High School, I have had the pleasure of knowing Miss Madelyn Heigert for the last three years. Miss Heigert is an exceptional student leader and has a very bright future ahead of her. Since I have known Miss Heigert, she has always been highly motivated, goal oriented, and has worked diligently on her academic course work. I would like to take this opportunity to recommend Miss Madelyn Heigert as a FCCLA National Officer Candidate.

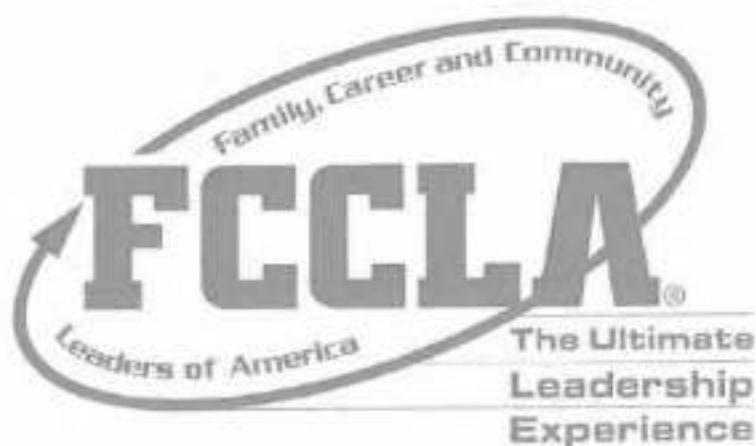
Miss Heigert is the model student-leader in our building. She has been actively involved in several student organizations while attending SMHS. These include: FFA, Scholars Bowl, Forensics, Debate, S.A.F.E, StuCo, NHS, STEP, and FCCLA. She is respected by her peers and staff alike for the service she has done over the past three years. She has demonstrated time and time again that she is dependable, responsible, organized, positive, and kind. In addition to these leadership achievements, Miss Heigert has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA. I believe it is also important to note that Madelyn has overcome many challenges and has done so with immeasurable grace. She has proven to be a strong and resilient human being, which is a unique quality for someone her age. She has taken these challenges and turned them into opportunities to better herself and others. Miss Heigert has been a genuine pleasure to work with over the past three years. She is the type of student that all educators hope to work with and I am so excited to see where her future takes her.

It is for these reasons that I highly recommend Miss Madelyn Heigert. Her diligent work ethic, constant ambition to grow both cognitively and emotionally, and her ability to persevere when faced with adversity make her an extremely desirable National FCCLA Officer Candidate. If you have any other questions about Miss Heigert's qualifications please feel free to contact me at [heitmanc@usd321.com](mailto:heitmanc@usd321.com) or 785-437-6257.

Sincerely,

Chelcie D. Heitman





# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Easton Hrabe

**State:** Kansas



**Region:** Central





The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Easton Hrabe

**State:** Kansas



If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incredible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the [FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#).

Robert Greene once said, "The future belongs to those who learn more skills and combine them in creative ways." Every step of our life is filled with opportunities and experiences that we must take advantage of. Being a member of the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) has given me more experiences and opportunities than I have ever dreamed of. The FCCLA Strategic Plan allows members like me to learn what FCCLA is planning on doing and even contribute to the growth and development of this dynamic organization.

The first goal of the FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan is Communications. This past year I served on the Kansas FCCLA State Executive Council as the Vice President of Corporate Relations and Finance. This was an extraordinary opportunity that allowed me to succeed in the field of communication. During my term, I was able to travel from San Diego, California to the federal district of the United States of America, Washington, District of Columbia (D.C.), in just four months. Traveling across the country, and even my state, has allowed me to gain knowledge and experience in the field of communication. Gaining this knowledge will continue to better me as an individual and also allow me to help FCCLA fulfill the communications sector of the Strategic Plan by allowing me to ensure that our brand is relevant and continues to intentionally outreach the population on the endeavors of our organization. It does not matter where I am, I always tend to somehow bring up this amazing organization.

According to the wise words of Richard Branson, "Every success story is a tale of constant adaptation, revision, and change." This brings me to our second goal, growth. As our organization grows, we are constantly adapting and changing. Like Mr. Branson was saying, in order to succeed we need to be able to be resilient. As we grow as an organization, so will the diversity. A part of our plan is to make everyone feel at home. FCCLA has been my home throughout high school. Speaking to students across the state at workshops and chapter visits, I have been able to share my experiences and enable more students, and even advisors, to recognize that FCCLA is a place for everybody, an organization for everybody, and finally a home for everybody.

The last two goals of our strategic plan are Infrastructure and Programs. As our organization develops we need to ensure that our infrastructure and programs are still relevant and up to date. Keeping infrastructure up to date is essential to an organization's success. If we do not continue to update our protocols, systems, and even the key functions of our organization, we will not fulfill the necessary development needed to maintain success at the national level. Keeping our Programs relevant is also an essential aspect of our organization. Ensuring that our resources are available to everyone is a key component in our organization. Whether I am at home, school, work, or even in FCCLA I have always been one to assist in the personal growth and leadership development of others, as well as myself.

Like Robert Greene stated, success only comes to those who gain and use the necessary skills and knowledge. I believe that as a national organization, we are constantly setting ourselves up for success. I am beyond excited to see what the future of FCCLA has in store.



The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

National Officer Candidate: Easton Hrabe

State: Kansas



Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

According to the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS), Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) can be defined as the, "Field of study focused on the science and the art of living and working well in our complex world." Family and Consumer Sciences Education is essential to live and function in today's society. While we may learn about FCS Education in the classroom, there needs to be a way to implement and use the knowledge we learn in the classroom in the real world. The Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) gives students the opportunity to use these skills and knowledge in a real world setting. Whether students are competing in one of over thirty different competitive events, running for leadership roles, or just being able to network with fellow members, students are able to transfer the skills taught in the classroom and transfer them over to their own lives. The integration of FCCLA into the FCS Classroom is essential for students to develop and thrive in our very complex world.

One of the best examples of this integration is competitive events. Students at my school have the opportunity to take Culinary Arts. Through Culinary Arts we learn the 6 essential nutrients, kitchen safety, and the components of baking. Students have the opportunity to transfer the skills they learn in the classroom and compete in a Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) Event. While I have personally not competed in the Baking and Pastries STAR Event, I have had experience in a different area. Another FCS course offered at my school is Balancing Family and Career. In this course, we are taught about the real world. We learn what it takes to have a career and a family, how to file your annual taxes, and overall how to understand yourself as a person in order to succeed in the game of life. I took the knowledge I gained through this course and implemented it into the Financial Fitness National Program. The way I implemented my knowledge consisted of traveling down to our local elementary school and teaching our sixth grade students about earning, spending, saving, and protecting. I was able to take my knowledge and pass it on to our elementary students and also compete in the National Programs in Action STAR Event.

Another course offered at my school is Leadership. In this course I am able to transfer my school time into my leadership roles. Being enrolled in FCS Education has taught me the importance of leadership not only in high school, but in the real world. Due to FCCLA being directly integrated into our classroom, I have been able to learn and successfully run for Chapter, District, and State Officer. Without the help of FCS Education and FCCLA being integrated into the courses at my school, I would not hold any of the leadership roles I currently hold. FCCLA being integrated into the classroom also teaches students, like myself, how to be functional members of society. These classes teach us how to communicate effectively, which can be directly correlated to one's ability to network. The integration of FCCLA enables students to showcase these abilities at the chapter, district, state, and even national level!

Integrating FCCLA into the FCS classroom enables students to directly transfer their knowledge and skills into a real world setting. FCCLA is truly a dynamic organization with intracurricular possibilities that students across the country need to take advantage of. Like AAFCS said, we have a very complex world and we need the knowledge and experience to thrive in this extraordinary world.

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# EASTON HRABE

KANSAS NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE

FCCLA



## FCCLA INVOLVEMENT

- National
  - 2022 NLC Attendee
  - Election Voting Delegate
  - Capitol Leadership Attendee
- District
  - FLC Attendee
  - FLC Presenter (x2)
- State
  - State Officer 2 terms
  - SLC Attendee (x2)
  - Take Aim Attendee
- Chapter
  - Chapter Officer (x2)
  - STAR Event
  - Rake and Run (x2)
  - Do Good Friday (x2)



## CONTACT



### Phone

(785) 282-4498



### Email

ehrabe.ksfccla@gmail.com



### Address



## EDUCATION



### 2021 - PRESENT (Sophomore)

Jr./Sr. High School

2.5 Years of FCS Instruction



## ACTIVITIES

- FFA
  - 2 Years
  - 2022-2023 Sentinel
  - 2023-2024 Reporter
- FCCLA
  - 2 Years
  - 2022-2023 State Officer
  - 2023-2024 State Officer
  - 2021-2022 Officer
- Scholar's Bowl (2021-2023)
  - 2 years HS
- Class President (2021-2023)
  - 2 years
- STUCO Officer (2021-2022)
  - 1 year
- FCA (2021-2023)
- Forensics (2021-2023)



## AWARDS

- Kansas FCCLA State Officer Term Honors
  - 2022-2023 Term
- Superintendent's Honor Roll
  - 2 Semesters
- Principal's Honor Roll
  - 1 Semester



## WORK EXPERIENCE



### State Officer

Kansas FCCLA

February 2022 -

Present

- Extensive Leadership
- Amplified Networking Skills
- Facilitate Conferences
- Offices Held
  - Vice President of Corporate Relations/Finance (22-23)
  - Vice President of Public Relations (23-24)



### Commercial Administrative Assistant

BHK Financial

May 2022 -

Present

- Advised collectors on legal claims
- Counseled with debtors
- Documented immediate changes



### Cashier

Gene's Heartland Foods

November 2021 -

May 2022

- Showcased customer service
- Corresponded with consumers
- Carried out Business Transactions



## EDUCATION CONT./FCS COURSES

### Culinary Arts (10)

- 1 Semester
- 0.5 Credits

### Balancing Family & Career (9)

- 2 Semesters
- 1 Credit

GPA: [REDACTED]

CLASS RANK: 4

### Nutrition & Wellness (10)

- 1 Semester
- 0.5 Credits

### Intro to FCS (8)

- 1 Semesters
- 0.5 Credits



## SKILLS

### Public Speaking

- FCCLA SLC (x2)
- FLC Workshop Presenter (x2)

### Leadership

- FCCLA State Officer
- FFA Chapter Sentinel
- Class President
- STUCO Officer

### Networking

- FCCLA SLC (x2)
- FFA state Discussion Meet (x2)
- FFA National Convention
- National Voting Delegate NLC
- Capitol Leadership in DC

### Articulate Writing

- 13 Months at BHK
- Social Media Posting
  - State Officer
- KSHSAA Forensics

### Communication

- FLC Workshop Presenter (x2)
- Cashier

### Technical Skills

- Admin Assistant
- K-ACTE Conference Facilitator



## REFERENCES

### Monica Wagner, FFA Advisor

[REDACTED]

### Amy Terrill, FCCLA Advisor

[REDACTED]

**Kansas**



Kansas State Department of Education

FAX: [REDACTED]  
Email: [plamb@ksde.org](mailto:plamb@ksde.org)

April 24, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Easton Hirabe served as the State Vice-President of Corporate Relations/Finance as well as Vice-President of Membership for the 2022-2023 term. He was recently elected as the State Vice-President of Public Relations.

The State Officers travel the State and present workshops to members on communication, leadership and more. Easton made numerous visits to non-affiliated schools to talk to them about the benefits of FCCLA and was successful in his efforts to obtain new chapters. The State Officers also plan and organize a three-day State Leadership Conference for the members with over 1200 in attendance. Easton worked exceptionally hard throughout the year to plan and organize a successful conference this year.

Easton has competed in STAR Event Competitions. He speaks very well in front of youth and adults and is very professional and poised.

Easton is very involved in many activities in his school and chapter. His leadership skills and community involvement are outstanding.

If I need anything done for Kansas FCCLA, I can count on Easton. He works hard and does anything that is asked of him. He will take the initiative when needed and follow through to complete tasks with excellence. He is very personable, has a sense of humor and loves working with youth and adults. His enthusiasm and positive attitude are contagious.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Easton this past year. He is an outstanding young man with great potential.

Sincerely,

*Pam Lamb*

Pam Lamb  
Kansas FCCLA State Adviser



*"Together - We Are Champions"*

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
April 28, 2023 [REDACTED]



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation for Easton Hrabe, a Sophomore at [REDACTED] Jr/Sr High School. I have been Easton's school counselor since he was a 7th grade student. However, since I have had his older siblings in school I have actually known Easton much longer.

Since entering the junior/senior high building Easton has been involved in anything he could be. Therefore, it was no surprise that he joined several organizations when he hit high school. Many students will join several organizations, but choose one to be extremely active in. But not Easton, he joined Student Council, FCCLA, FFA and the SAFE Committee and ran for office in three of the four organizations! He is also President of his class.

An officer position is more than just a title for Easton, he takes his leadership positions seriously. No matter if it's working on a project, leading a meeting, putting on an event, preparing for a ceremony, planning a volunteer activity or coordinating with adults to pull off a convention, Easton has done it and does it very well! He has so many attributes, including, but not limited to: organizational skills, written and oral communication skills, he is dependable, trustworthy, intelligent and personable.

Easton has been a very good student, making the Honor Roll every semester! Because he is so active in both FCCLA and FFA, Easton has had to miss quite a few days of school. But because he is a bright and responsible young man, he has managed to maintain a high school GPA of [REDACTED]. The leadership skills he has acquired along with his curiosity for learning is going to take Easton very far in life.

Just recently, Easton was selected for the National Honor Society, in which I am the sponsor. He was an easy selection, not only for his academic record, his leadership skills and service projects but especially for his character traits. Easton comes from a large family with strong family values and has impeccable work ethics.

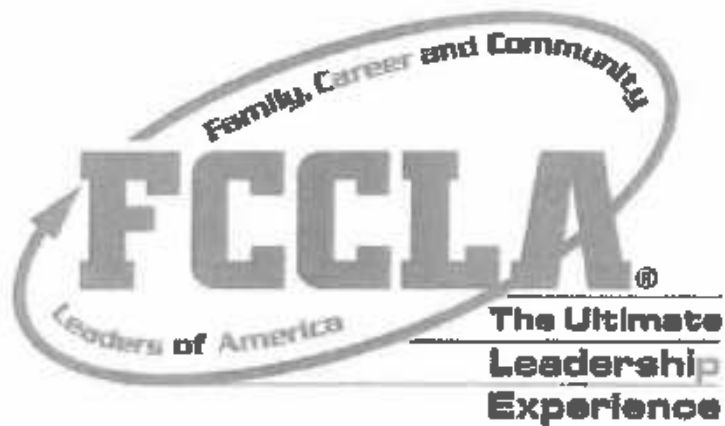
Easton has a special passion for the FCCLA organization, its leaders, its members and its mission. I believe Easton would make a phenomenal FCCLA National Officer and I highly recommend his nomination. Because Easton has proven that he can handle both local and state leadership positions as a Sophomore, I believe he is up to the challenge of a National leadership position. I would be happy to visit with anyone regarding Easton's qualifications and can be reached at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

Kelli Schmidt, Counselor  
[REDACTED] Jr/Sr High School

*"Together - We Are Champions"*

[REDACTED]



# 2023 National Officer Candidate Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Elyssa Schatz

**State:** Missouri



**Region:** Central





## NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE ESSAY 1

The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Elyssa Schatz

**State:** Missouri



If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incredible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

Being able to serve on the FCCLA National Executive Council would allow me to showcase the skills and abilities I can apply to supporting the organization's strategic plan. FCCLA's Strategic Plan outlines things such as: growth, communications, infrastructure and programs. In my experience, I can compare these things to my time as an officer, traveling the nation, participating as a competition volunteer, or serving my community. While being able to compare, I can recognize the ways in which I would be able to support the organization's Strategic Plan through the things I have already had the opportunity to experience as an FCCLA member.

Serving as an FCCLA Officer at various levels of the organization has allowed me to develop and further grow my leadership skills, inside and outside of FCCLA and FCS education. As both a member and an officer, I have set goals for my chapter, region, and state over the last three years. One that brings me great satisfaction in knowing that I accomplished is my chapter reaching one hundred members over the course of this school year. This goal has been in mind for a good period of time, and it was finally achieved. Not only did we increase our number of members, we reached a number of new students who were curious about FCCLA and what takes place through the organization. My experience relates to the "Growth" goal of the Strategic Plan as we increased the number of members and created a more diverse group with active involvement.

Through FCCLA I have been able to travel across the nation, thus allowing me to create new relationships and maintain connections through the organization. Networking at the national, and even state, level has allowed me to not only better my communication and confidence skills, but I have also been able to experience meeting a diverse group of individuals. With each conference or meeting I have attended, my ability to approach and converse with a fellow member or officer has been greatly strengthened. This relates to the "Communications" idea of the Strategic Plan to deliver contemporary and intentional outreach.

Being an active member of FCCLA has allowed me to bring numerous positive things into my life, one of which is stability. In my own experience, allowing myself to also be an active member of my community and to give service there is what has provided me with a sense of stability. The FCCLA Strategic Plan says it will advance in its infrastructure and experiences for all stakeholders through the ongoing development of its team and leadership, and this will allow for more opportunities to present themselves to members. Also stated in the Strategic plan is that the FCCLA Organization will review and refine its resources and programs by ensuring that they are relevant, and this gives members the ability to access resources that will help them advance their skills and successes in the organization. I have been able to reflect upon my experiences in a positive way due to this organization. The FCCLA Strategic Plan set for 2022-2025 has given an idea of the progress the organization hopes to make, but also allows for members to recognize and appreciate the experiences they have had, the memories they have made, and the skill set they get to carry with them for the rest of their lives. The vision of FCCLA outlines that "Through FCCLA, students across the country will be prepared by FCS educators to pursue and prepare for their careers, work productively with others, serve as leaders in their community, and develop foundational knowledge to build strong families." To me, I feel like my experience as a member has given me the ability to utilize the Strategic Plan to prepare myself for my future career, community involvement, and develop the skills needed to build a successful family tie.

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## NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE ESSAY 2

The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Elyssa Schatz

**State:** Missouri



Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

The integration of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America into the Family and Consumer Sciences Education curriculum is a topic that is not often discussed. Although FCCLA members, FCS teachers, and anyone involved with either knows the importance of the skills and knowledge set you can take away by getting involved. By allowing the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Science classes, a building block for vital skills is created in students and the ability to make connections and form relationships is allowed. Through participating in both the FCCLA organization and taking part in Family and Consumer Sciences education, I have been able to have a truly remarkable experience.

Some of the best attributes of a person may not always be the ones that can be distinguished from a first impression. Family and Consumer Sciences classes may not be the base of FCCLA, but they are the building blocks where the great attributes of an FCCLA member truly begin. The main focuses of FCCLA, family, career, and community, are brought to the attention of young minds through the integration of FCCLA into FCS classes. When the introduction of a positive environment is placed as a consistent factor of a learning experience, the impact is shown to be positive, even after the learning environment has been left.

Through FCCLA members are able to travel the nation and meet their peers though different conferences and events hosted by this organization. While most may seem like they go unnoticed, down the road a person may realize that this relationship they formed with a fellow FCCLA member is one that they utilize in the presence of their daily lives. When a connection is able to be made by two people, who may vary in numerous ways, the outcome of a stronger community, and even the organization itself, is presented to form a more functional society. So, when FCS classes teach the lessons of good relationships, building on communication skills, and ability to think rationally, making long-lasting connections is a common occurrence of not just FCCLA members but members of society.

Family and Consumer Sciences education is a subject which I feel has positively impacted my life, both inside and outside of FCCLA. As a shy, timid, 8th grader, I began my education in FCS. I was taught the ins and outs of maintaining both my physical and mental health, how to interact with others around me, and how to effectively approach problems with an efficient solution. Entering High School, I was shown a different aspect of FCS education. I took part in a class that taught me how to use my graphic design, marketing, and leadership skills to effectively create and run a school store. That year, I was also introduced to FCCLA. I quickly became fond of the organization and the very grounds on which it was based, therefore I felt the need to be more involved. Over the last three years, I have served as an officer at chapter, regional, and state levels, where I have used the very skills I learned as an 8th grader on a daily basis.

By being introduced to FCCLA in Family and Consumer Sciences Education, I was able to recognize the skills which I needed to possess and quickly strengthen the skills which I already possessed. While my experiences may vary from others, I feel that the integration of FCCLA into FCS classrooms is an important subject to be made into the lesson plans of teachers across the nation. Every skill, challenge, and relationship discovered by a student at an early age is one that will make an impact that could potentially last a lifetime, so why not take charge and see that it is a positive outcome? To me, this is the importance of integration of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America organization into the classrooms of Family and Consumer Sciences Education.

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# Elyssa Schatz

Missouri National Officer Candidate

## FCCLA Involvement:

### Chapter:

- \*Organizing and planning of upcoming events and fundraisers
- \*Hosting a Hygiene Drive for children in the Foster Care System
- \*Assist with Chapter Meetings
- \*Volunteered at local Nutrition Center for daily lunch preparation and serving

### Regional

- \*Participated in Socks for Soldiers
- \*Participated in Miracle Minute for St. Jude's Children's Hospital
- \*Assisted in Regional Meetings and attended Planning Meetings
- \*Hosted a Mental Health Matters workshop at the Fall Meeting
- \*Served as a group host for Regional meetings
- \*STAR Event Volunteer Judge

### State

- \*State Leadership Conference 2022
- \*Participated in Miracle Minute for St. Jude's Children's Hospital
- \*State Fall Conference 2022
- \*State Leadership Conference 2023
- \*Power of ONE Completer Recognition 2022-2023
- \*STAR Event Volunteer 2022-2023
- \*Participated in Miracle Minute for Rachel's Challenge

### National

- \*STAR Event Volunteer Judge 2022
- \*National Leadership Conference 2022 (San Diego, CA)
- \*National Fall Conference 2022 (Columbus, OH)

## School & Community Involvement:

### School

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| *Student Council - 3 years    | *Student Council Secretary & Elementary Vice-President |
| *FFA - 3 years                | *FFA Assistant Reporter                                |
| *Beta - 3 years               | *Varsity Basketball Captain                            |
| *Varsity Basketball - 3 years | *Class Reporter, Vice-President & President            |
| *Class Officer - 3 years      |  |
| *Varsity Cheer - 2 years      |  |
| *Varsity Softball - 1 year    |  |

### Community

- \*Campbell Park Board Volunteer
- \*Campbell Peach Fair Board Volunteer
- \*Red Cross Blood Drive Volunteer
- \*Little League Basketball Volunteer Coach
- \*Alumni Dinner Volunteer
- \*Wreaths Across America Volunteer

**School District**  
**High School FCCLA**  
**Missouri**

**Upcoming Senior, Class of 2024**  
**3-year Member**

## Office Positions Held

- \*2020-2021: Chapter Secretary
- \*2021-2022: Chapter Vice-President; Region VII Reporter
- \*2022-2023: Chapter President; Region VII Public Relations; Missouri FCCLA Vice-President of Membership

## FCS Courses

- \*8th Grade: Health/Personal Development (0.5 Credits)
- \*9th Grade: Career Development (0.5 Credits) & Entrepreneurship (0.5 Credits)
- \*10th Grade: Teacher Assistant (FCCLA) - Advisory
- \*11th Grade: Teacher Assistant (FCCLA)

## FCS Education Contributions

- \*Began a store in career development for items that were made to be sold.
- \*Hosted hospitality training for underclassmen students who wished to participate.
- \*Annual meetings with the 8th grade students on the positive benefits of FCS classes and joining FCCLA in High School.

## Work Experience

- \*Sugar Shack - Waitress (4/2020 - 5/2021)
- \*First Missouri Bank of SEMO (6/2022 - Current)
- \*Main Street Pizza and Café (9/2022 - Current)



Leslie Morgan

March 28, 2023

Dear 2023 FCCLA Nominating Committee,

My name is Leslie Morgan, Family Consumer Sciences teacher at [REDACTED] High School. I am writing on behalf of Miss Elyssa Schatz. I have known Elyssa for four years. The first time I met Elyssa was in my eighth grade Health class. I sensed that there was something special about her, such as the way her classmates looked up to her as a class leader and a role model. Elyssa continued to be a leader in high school when she joined FCCLA and other various clubs. Elyssa is able to step into the leadership role when needed but also step back to allow members of the chapter and other officers to shine. The leadership skills she has learned in FCCLA have been taken into FFA, Student Council, BETA, and on the basketball court, which has helped improve each. Our chapter goal was to reach 100 members this year, and, with Elyssa's guidance and testimony of how FCCLA strengthened her leadership skills and how FCCLA helped her achieve goals in her life, she rallied other chapter members and began a recruitment campaign to grow FCCLA. Campbell FCCLA now has over 100 members.

Elyssa's community service program this year was to collect hygiene products for the students that are placed into foster homes. Elyssa approached me with the idea and a plan. She stated, "I want to make a difference in the lives of students that are placed in the foster care system. The students will receive dignity with this hygiene care package." Elyssa talked with the elementary principal to allow the elementary school to be involved. With the items collected, FCCLA was able to create 115 care packages. Elyssa also volunteers in the community by helping the Park Board with Little League baseball and softball games by working in the concession stand. Elyssa also volunteers to help coach the Little Dribblers and peewee team at school.

Elyssa's academics are amazing. She carried four college classes this year and maintained a GPA of 3.976. Elyssa takes her studies very seriously and plans to graduate with an AA degree at the same time she graduates from high school. I see Elyssa going beyond what needs to be done on assignments, simply to complete them to her standards where she is 100% satisfied. Each day watching Elyssa, she amazes me on what she accomplishes academically. As Elyssa's academics soar to new heights, her leadership skills do also.

Running for National Office has been Elyssa's goal for two years now. In this process, Elyssa has my full support. I see each day the leader she has become. As Elyssa Schatz continues to take steps to achieve her goals in FCCLA, I am confident this experience will be one of the stepping stones Elyssa will use later in life and will never forget.

Sincerely,

*Leslie Morgan*

Mrs. Leslie Morgan

Natalie Davis

April 3, 2023

2023 FCCLA National Nominating Committee

To whom it may concern,

I, Natalie Davis, the High School English teacher of [REDACTED] School District, am writing this letter to recommend that a current student of mine, Elyssa Schatz, be nominated for a national office, preferably Vice President of Membership, in FCCLA.

Elyssa has been my student for five years, and in that time I have witnessed her positive attitude and growth, both personal and academic. Elyssa was, and still is, always attentive, respectful, and eager to learn. She consistently earns good grades and is among the top students in her class. Elyssa is currently involved in FCCLA (currently Chapter President and previous State Vice President of Membership), BETA, FFA (currently Chapter Assistant Reporter), StuCo (currently Chapter Elementary Vice President), ETS, as well as basketball (Captain).

Elyssa is involved in the community through both school activities and community events. School activities include coaching Little League Basketball, helping with Red Cross Blood drives through StuCo, working hospitality rooms for tournaments, hosting and serving at the yearly Alumni dinners, and planning and hosting a hygiene drive for children in the local foster care system. Outside of school, Elyssa is involved in her community by volunteering for the Park Board to run concession stands and maintain the fields. She also helps the local Peach Fair Board in planning of events, such as pageants, concerts, the parade, and the fair itself.

Elyssa would be an asset to the national office, as she would work hard to exceed expectations. Elyssa is a quick learner and fast study. Elyssa possesses skills applicable to this position, such as technology and computer skills, written communication skills, verbal communication skills, and leadership experience. All of which will enable her to complete this office to the best ability. One of her best attributes is that Elyssa is willing to do whatever it takes to make her dreams a reality. I feel that she would be a great choice for the reasons I have listed above, as well as many I have not listed.

I hope this recommendation will be taken into consideration while selecting a future national officer for FCCLA. If you have any further questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at [ndavis@campbell.k12.mo.us](mailto:ndavis@campbell.k12.mo.us).

Sincerely,

*Natalie Davis*

Mrs. Natalie Davis



**Family, Career & Community Leaders of  
America**

**Missouri FCCLA**

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April 13, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

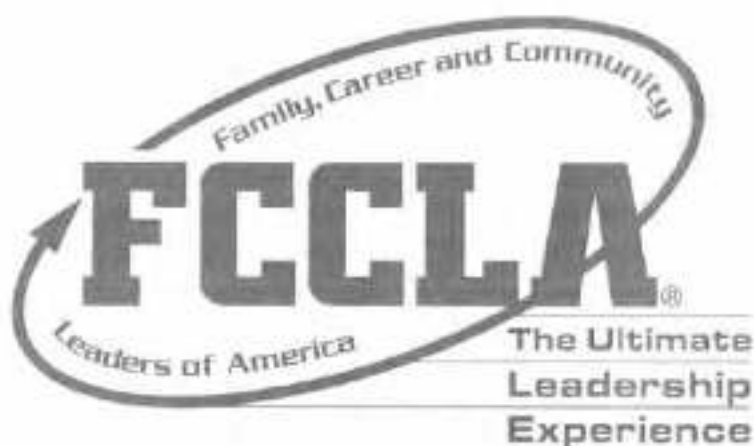
It was my privilege to work with Elyssa during the 2022-23 school year and I am honored to write a letter of recommendation on her behalf. Elyssa served as FCCLA State Vice President of Membership this year and has taken on several roles and responsibilities throughout her term. She is a great team member and is always willing to help other members of the council. Elyssa helped write scripts, scheduled meetings, organized activities, and worked diligently to make sure that Missouri FCCLA's 2022 Fall Leadership and 2023 State Leadership Conferences were well-planned and successful. Elyssa is always willing to go above and beyond in her state officer role.

Elyssa is a very well-rounded student. Through FCCLA and other organizations, she has been able to complete numerous community service activities, including a personal hygiene drive to help children in the foster care system, as well as two Power of One units. Although she stays busy with various sports and other activities, she has learned how to balance all of that and still display excellent leadership skills while helping prepare for local, regional, and state FCCLA events. She will be diligent and work hard as a National FCCLA Officer and Missouri FCCLA would be proud to support her by helping her attend national FCCLA events. If I had to use one word to describe Elyssa, that word would be dependable! If you have further questions with regard to her background or qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Theresa Struempf". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Theresa Struempf, Interim State Adviser  
Missouri Family, Career and Community Leaders of America



# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Jaden Leasure

**State:** Nebraska



**Region:** Central







The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Jaden Leasure

**State:** Nebraska



If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the [FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#).

In order to move along anything plans and goals need to be in place. As we continue to expand our great organization we should have ideas to help expand. I would like to help our organization further our strategic plan with social media, donors, and alumni opportunities. These three things are what makes FCCLA possible.

Social media is how we reach a wider audience both young and old. Expanding to more platforms such as TikTok keeps FCCLA relevant which falls under communication. TikTok is a popular app amongst the age range of our members. Videos within the 15-30 second range with information is the best way to keep members' attention. Studies have shown that teens have a shorter attention span. Meaning videos of this kind are the best way to keep members informed. Along with informing members we can use this opportunity to reach out to potential members and recognize current ones by sharing their experiences in a short submission clip.

Through my time in FCCLA I have learned that donors are the foundation of our organization. None of what we do would be possible without their help and support. I want to help with the infrastructure by working towards a partnership with a big corporation such as Walmart or Scooters. These corporations are in many communities with FCCLA in them. They love the chance to help support their students in the community. Working towards this won't be easy but is one of my biggest goals.

Our alumni are another big part of our great organization. Creating lifelong relationships with our alumni will help with our growth. One way to stay connected is to send a letter to graduating seniors about why they should join our A&A program. Receiving this personal letter gives a more connected feeling to the organization. Most importantly we need to retain alumni. We can retain members by recognizing their years of service to FCCLA. This could be volunteering at conferences or as a STAR evaluator. Another way to show our appreciation is an award for their years of service and most active alumni. This gives members something to work for, while showing our appreciation.

There are many ways to bring FCCLA to the next level. Sharing on TikTok, corporation donors, and developing alumni are only a few examples. As we go through the next year keeping our strategic goals in mind will be what helps us accomplish our goals. We've already made great strides in one year, we will only continue to expand with our goals in mind. Collaborating with others about our ideas will be the key to our success.



The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Jaden Leasure

**State:** Nebraska



Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

The integration of FCCLA into FCS classes is not only important for our organization but also the education of students. Incorporating FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences classes gives a broader learning experience with leading. It also helps prepare students for adult life which sneaks up on many students quickly. This technique is another way to help promote FCCLA, which will then increase membership numbers. Having FCCLA in Family and Consumer Sciences classes is important for promotion, leadership, and preparation for adult life.

The promotion of FCCLA is the best way to gain the attention of many age groups. Having the elements in FCS classes shows younger members what the organization has to offer. For me this is how I learned that I wanted to be in FCCLA once I started my high school career. I saw all the fun things my older friends got the opportunity to do. Which was something I wanted to do as well. Another age group it has reached are the upperclassmen of my school. Seeing the different aspects of FCCLA through FCS classes has gotten many new members excited and retained. The last age group we can reach through the integration of FCCLA into FCS classes is parents and potential donors. Parents, staff, and board members see the experience and learning opportunities through the students in these classes. Parents get to hear about it from their students. While staff and school board members get the opportunity to witness more of it first hand. This then leads to donations from excited adults.

FCCLA helps strengthen leadership skills and incorporating these elements into classes will help students. Throughout my middle school years we would be randomly assigned groups. In each group one person needed to take the lead in order for things to run smoothly. Learning when you should be the leader and when to listen is an important lesson I learned from this experience. This last semester during my healthy relationships class we had an activity where we got to know each other. During this activity learning when I needed to lead the conversation or listen was an important part of getting to know each other. This leadership skill is something I've continued to learn in FCCLA. Incorporating when to listen and when to lead into FCS classes is an important part of the learning process.

During my time in FCCLA it has prepared me for adult life. My experience in FCS classes helped enhance that even further. Having relationship dynamics incorporated into classes helps people understand what is and isn't healthy. I've learned about relationships from breakout sessions and serving on officer teams in FCCLA. Sitting down and learning more about the different kinds of relationships and what makes them healthy or unhealthy has helped me in the personal and professional aspects of my life.

FCCLA being incorporated into Family and Consumer Science classes is important because of promotion, leadership, and preparation for adult life. The opportunities that FCCLA and FCS classes have given me is beyond measure. More importantly I have learned the importance of promotion through these classes that help us connect on a more personal level. I've been able to break out of my shell by becoming a leader and learning about how I want to lead through FCS classes. The aspects of FCCLA that have been incorporated into my FCS classes have made me feel more prepared for my next steps in life.

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## Jaden Leasure

High School FCCLA ~ High School  
Nebraska  
11 grade ~ Years in FCCLA: 3 ~ Years in FCS: 2.5

### FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE COURSES

- 6th Grade: Family and Consumer Science 6 (.5 credits)
- 7th Grade: Fundamentals of FCS (.5 credits)
- 8th Grade: Foods (.5 credits)
- 11th Grade: Healthy Relationships (1 credits)

### FCCLA PARTICIPATION

Local	District	State	National	Office Positions
- Soup charity dinner (2020-2023)	- District 1 leadership conference (2021-2022)	- Fall Leadership Workshop (2022)	- National Leadership Conference (2022)	- Chapter President (2021-2023)
- Tour of homes (2021-2022)	- Breakout speaker (2022)	- Peer Education Conference (2021-2023)	- National Fall Conference (2022)	- State Vice President of Development (2022-2023 term limited)
- Coin show concessions (2022)	- District 2 leadership conference (2022)	- State Leadership Conference (2020-2023)	- Youth session presenter	
- Bake sale (2022-2023)	- Guest speaker	- State Officer Leadership Academy (2022)		
- Sampling in the city (2023)	- District STAR (2020-2021)	- State Officer Retreat (2022)		
- Staff appreciation breakfast (2023)		- CTSO Legislative Day (2023)		

### CONTRIBUTION TO FCS EDUCATION

- Spoke to Governor Jim Pillen and Pete Ricketts
- Spoke to Senator Julie Slama and Teresa Ibach
- Spoke to Mayor Bryan Beckett
- Spoke to Nebraska Supreme Court

### SCHOOL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

#### School

- Choir (6)
- Show Choir (3)
- Band (4)
- Jazz band (4)
- Drum Major (1)
- Speech (3)
- Musical (2)
- Varsity Cheer (1)
- Volleyball (6)
- One-Act (3)
- Spring Play (2)
- National Honor Society (1)

#### Community

- Singing Valentines (2)
- Club Volleyball (2)
- Little girls club volleyball (2)
- Little cheer camp (1)



## Public Schools

Mark Fritch, Superintendent

Jason Hippen  
Director of Student Services

Craig Taylor  
Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Brian Hoover, Principal  
Nebraska City High School

Ethan Pellatz, Principal  
Nebraska City Middle School

Scot Davis, Principal  
Hayward Elementary

Brent Gaswick, Principal  
Northside Elementary

April 25th, 2023

Selection Committee:

I have been asked to write a letter of recommendation for Jaden Leasure; a task I have been looking forward to for the past three years. The chance to tell you what type of person, student, and leader Jaden has become is exciting.

Jaden's most outstanding asset is her character. Finding one with high moral standards is rare and I have seen Jaden continue to choose the path best suited for her and not for anyone else. This path leads her to continuously help others in both formal and informal settings. Whether it is helping younger FCCLA members, assisting freshmen in school or out of school, or band/choir members, I see her performing these tasks with compassion and patience. In addition to her character, she possesses an outstanding work ethic and leadership skills.

I have watched Jaden work hard to turn herself into an excellent leader. She leads through modeling what she expects. She communicates to people their worth and potential and as a result, she has built a team that works well together. All FCCLA Officers are fulfilling their responsibilities and I believe that is due to the leadership of Jaden. I would not hesitate to recommend Ms. Leasure to lead others at the National Level.

She has done all of this while maintaining focus on her academics. We do not have a weighted grade scale, so maintaining a [REDACTED] GPA while taking challenging classes is evidence of her ability to organize her events and work hard to achieve excellence. In addition to her academic and FCCLA responsibilities, she represents the school in nearly all Fine Arts activities which take up multiple nights and weekends throughout the year.

As a Principal, I look for individuals who are willing to serve their school or community with the larger impact in mind. Jaden has served both her community and school through the National Honor Society, our Jr./Sr. Advisor Program, and multiple FCCLA endeavors. Jaden has proved to be an essential part of the positive culture at [REDACTED] High School.

I realize you will be reading a great deal of letters spouting the accomplishments of all types of students. I also realize that you will be hard pressed to find an individual more qualified for what she will earn in life. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brian Hoover - [REDACTED] Principal





## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mark Fritch, Superintendent

Brian Hoover  
High School Principal

Matt Thompson  
Vice Principal / AD

Kori Vodicka  
Guidance Counselor

### Selection Committee:

It is my pleasure to write this letter to recommend Ms. Jaden Leasure for a National FCCLA Officer position. I am the Family and Consumer Sciences teacher and FCCLA adviser at [REDACTED] High School and have had the pleasure of having Jaden as a student and FCCLA member for the past three years.

Jaden has an eagerness to learn which is made apparent in her participation in class and the effort she puts into her assignments. She has shown a great deal of excitement in her learning and has scored highly on all assessments. She is a leader and a great example for other students. Jaden has managed to keep excellent grades throughout high school while being incredibly active in multiple school and community activities. These activities include volleyball, speech, cheer, choir, band, plays, and of course, FCCLA.

Over the past three years as Jaden's FCCLA adviser, I have seen her leadership skills in action. She is our current chapter president, she is the outgoing Nebraska State Vice President of Development, and has been very involved in all of our district activities. Jaden's organization skills are impeccable and her positive and outgoing personality helps motivate other members in our chapter. Over the past three years, I have noticed a significant improvement in our chapter's organization of events and a big increase in membership, largely due to Jaden's innovative ideas and passion for FCCLA. She is by far one of the most involved FCCLA members I have ever had the pleasure of working with, and I know she will continue to make positive contributions to any team she is a part of, whether it be local, state, or national.

As active as Jaden is at school, she is just as active in our community. Jaden regularly volunteers her time working with various different organizations. She especially excels at working with the youth in our community as she regularly volunteers at volleyball and cheerleading camps for young children.

Jaden puts hard work into everything she does and has a passion for life. This is made evident in her accomplishments in school and in her activities. With everything she has accomplished, Jaden has remained very humble and kind and is a joy to have in the classroom and on our FCCLA team.

It is without hesitation that I recommend and fully support Ms. Jaden Leasure as a member of the National FCCLA Officer Team.

Sincerely,

*Stefanie Wenz* 4-25-23

Stefanie Wenz  
FCCLA Adviser  
Family and Consumer Science Teacher  
[REDACTED] High School



**April 21, 2023**

**To Whom It May Concern,**

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Jaden Leasure as an FCCLA National Officer Candidate. Her officer experiences at the chapter and state level have prepared her to be an effective and engaging member of the National Executive Council. Jaden is a bright, dynamic, and passionate youth leader who is actively involved in many activities and organizations within her school and community.

As the 2022-2023 Nebraska FCCLA Vice-President of Development, Jaden was committed to maintaining and strengthening partnerships with our Circle of Friends sponsors. Additionally, Jaden led outreach efforts to potential partners in her local community and across the state. Throughout her time in office, Jaden continuously displayed positive leadership both on her officer team and with members. She never backed down from an opportunity to network and connect with members so she could help them grow through their experiences in FCCLA. Although Jaden is not always the most vocal or outspoken member on the team, she is always listening and considering how she can contribute. When it comes to getting something accomplished, Jaden is the person to get the job done. She will reach out if she has questions, but otherwise will work independently or collaboratively, depending on the task, to accomplish the project in a timely and high-quality manner. Jaden is very creative and was able to engage members through social media posts and through video blogs (vlogs) this past year.

Jaden is an extremely active high school student who maintains involvement in a variety of school-sponsored sports, activities, and organizations all while working hard to maintain a [REDACTED]. Additionally, she is an active member of her community and finds many ways to give back. Jaden has demonstrated very strong communication, creativity, organization, and time management skills in the time that I've known her. She gives her full effort no matter the size or impact of her role, and her kindness and passion often draw others in. These are characteristics that are demonstrated in all that Jaden is involved in.

I wholeheartedly recommend Jaden Leasure as a candidate for the 2023-2024 FCCLA National Executive Council and am proud to support her through this journey. Her leadership, teamwork, and passion for FCCLA are unmatched. She would not only serve as a National Officer with extreme pride but with the utmost dedication.

Sincerely,



**Chelsey Greene**

Nebraska FCCLA State Adviser



# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Leonardo Luna-Duran

**State:** Nebraska



**Region:** Central





The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Leonardo Luna-Duran

**State:** Nebraska



If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

The endless experiences I have had in FCCLA, and will continue to have, will help me support FCCLA's strategic plan. Since I joined FCCLA in my seventh-grade year, I've been able to attend many conferences, compete in different competitions, and hold leadership positions. While involved, I have also taken advantage of participating in and using FCCLA's National Programs and other opportunities. I have learned about leadership, personal development, and strategic planning. These experiences and skills will assist me in making the four strategic objectives a success.

"Communications" is one of the objectives of FCCLA's strategic plan, which focuses on strengthening FCCLA's recognition of what it is and does. With my skills, I can help this task by encouraging new and effective social media tactics, speaking to strangers and potential partners about FCCLA, and educating people on the name change of our organization. These tactics will help society learn more about FCCLA, leading to new partnerships and opportunities for members. Educating the public on the name change from FHA to FCCLA is also critical because older generations might not be aware that the organization they participated in is still here but with a new name that reflects what our organization stands for. These tactics will help bring older supporters back to the FCCLA association.

"Infrastructure" is also part of the strategic plan. This goal highlights the conferences and events FCCLA hosts. Planning and having successful AND engaging events is very critical. I can help upgrade our infrastructure by focusing on making events more engaging. This starts with planning exciting sessions and an entertaining and beneficial expo. The special event must also be fun, as it is a very memorable experience. I also feel that encouraging the organization to host a new event will help FCCLA accomplish its goal. This new event can be a State Officer Training that helps prepare our state associations while offering a new opportunity to members.

"Programs" is the next objective in the strategic plan. Having national programs with resources to use in the classroom is an incredible advantage. However, FCCLA needs to expand its circle when creating the curriculum. I would challenge FCCLA when writing the national program guidelines and curriculum to remember to make the activities accessible to all schools with an FCCLA chapter. Whether it is a school with 4 or 30 students in the classroom or if the class has a low or high budget, the programs should be relevant, adaptable, and convenient. This action would remind schools that FCCLA is cognizant of the diversity of schools.

The final objective of the strategic plan is "Growth." This goal looks at the statistical side of FCCLA. This task will be met with the help and success of the other objectives. Promoting our organization, advancing the experiences members have at conferences, and upgrading the curriculum, will increase not only membership but also investors. With more investors, FCCLA could offer more scholarships and may be able to lower costs so that the number of conference attendees will surge. FCCLA should have the plan to provide more resources for chapters to understand how to attend NLC and know what they can do to fundraise for it.

FCCLA can and will accomplish its strategic plan with incredible leadership and dedication. Using the ideas and goals I have suggested will not only strengthen the image of FCCLA but will allow for the implementation of communication, infrastructure, programs, and growth included in the strategic plan. Accomplishing the strategic plan will help FCCLA give members and supporters the ultimate leadership experience.

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The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

National Officer Candidate: Leonardo Luna-Duran

State: Nebraska



Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

Albert Einstein once said, "Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school." While in high school, there are various subjects we learn about, but few are remembered after graduating. The remembered subjects are the hands-on classes that allow students to apply their knowledge to everyday life. The skills learned help prepare us for our future. These courses are officially referred to as Career and Technical Education. A specific CTE course is Family and Consumer Sciences, which teaches students to make solid and important decisions while looking after themselves and others. These subjects teach students the information they will remember for the rest of their lives.

I clearly remember taking my very first FCS class in the seventh grade. We discussed all sorts of topics in the classroom. However, FCCLA was my favorite because it focused on leadership and opportunities in the organization. The discussions made my classmates, and I open our minds to what we could accomplish, and it made us realize that we are and will be the leaders of tomorrow, motivating us to try new things. Aspiring the leaders of tomorrow to get out of their comfort zone is the start of why the integration of FCCLA in Family and Consumer Sciences classes is essential.

FCS classes alone positively change our world daily by preparing students for real life. Integrating FCCLA into the classroom supports that cause even more. FCCLA added to the curriculum allows students to discuss leadership and its importance. Young adults must know how to guide others daily since they will likely serve on teams shortly or as adults. I was inspired to become a leader during FCS 7 because I saw the confidence and determination of FCCLA members. Getting the liberty to learn about leadership and how it pushes you to success while taking a high school class is a rare occurrence.

Now you will not always get to focus on just FCCLA when taking FCS courses. You will also be learning the curriculum related to the class. These classes can be but are not limited to Child Development, Foods and Nutrition, Family and Human Development, or even Housing and Furnishing. These classes will strengthen your critical thinking, math, and communication skills to a different level. FCCLA can still be integrated while learning by putting your knowledge into action. This was evident when we completed our Food Truck project in Culinary Class. We had to design a nutritional menu, set prices, make a budget, and design our truck for equipment, storage, and preparation. This project is part of the National Programs (Career Connections and Financial Fitness) and Competitive Events (Entrepreneurship and Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation).

FCCLA was also integrated within my FCS Careers class when I was able to research and investigate a career. While working on this segment of the Careers course, we had to complete a job application form, create a resume, and write a cover letter that we used to perform mock interviews. These items are all part of the National Programs (Career Connection and Power of One) and Competitive Events (Career Investigation and Job Interview). My Career FCS class allowing students to expand on practical classroom work, only grows the opportunities with FCCLA in FCS.

Finally, FCCLA lets every student in the classroom be introduced to the endless opportunities it offers, which can and does encourage students to join the organization. FCCLA being in the classroom enhances the learning experience of students, which opens up the door to other FCS courses they might want to take. As you can see, FCCLA gives many positive opportunities and experiences to the leaders of tomorrow. That is why integrating FCCLA into FCS classes is essential to always achieve.

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## Leonardo Luna-Duran

Nebraska National Officer Candidate

Public Schools

FCCLA Chapter

Years in FCCLA: 5

11<sup>th</sup> Grade

Years in FCS: 4

### FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES COURSES:

7<sup>th</sup> Grade (2018-2019): Family and Consumer Sciences 7

8<sup>th</sup> Grade (2019-2020): Family and Consumer Sciences 8

10<sup>th</sup> Grade (2021-2022): Career Education (2.5 credits)

11<sup>th</sup> Grade (2022-2023): Culinary Skills 2 (5 credits)

11<sup>th</sup> Grade (2022-2023): Introduction to Design Principals (2.5 credits)

Program of Studies – Culinary Arts and Design

### PARTICIPATION IN FCCLA:

#### LOCAL:

CHAPTER: Assist with Chapter Meetings and Membership Nights, Canned Food Drive for Local Food Pantry, FCCLA Week Celebration, STAR Event Night, Lead Committees, Fundraisers, Teacher Appreciation Event, Leadership Awards, Highest Point Winner, Alumni, Hospital and Firemen's Banquet, Burger Bash, Red Ribbon Tree, Santa Sacks, and STAR.

DISTRICT: District Leadership Conference, District Officer, STAR Competitor, and STAR Evaluator.

#### STATE:

Presided over the Nebraska State Association, Member of the Nebraska Board of Directors, Overall Chair of the State Peer Officer Team, State Leadership Conference Attendee and Leader, Fall Leadership Workshop Attendee and Leader, Peer Education Conference Attendee and Leader, National Officer Candidate Approval, Legislative Day Attendee, Voting Delegate, Chapter Connections, State STAR Event Competitor, State Leadership Conference Presenter, Gold Chapter Award Recipient, and Feed Nebraska Award Recipient.

### NATIONAL:

National Leadership Conference Attendee, NOC Election Voting Delegate, Conference Voting Delegate, National Fall Conference Attendee and Workshop Presenter, Franklin Covey Leadership Academy Graduate, Capitol Leadership Attendee, FCCLA Week, National STAR Competitor, and State Officer Network Zooms.

### FCCLA OFFICES HELD:

State President (One Term Limit)

(2021-2022) Overall Chair of the State Peer Officer Team

(2020-2021) Public Relations District Officer

(2020-2023) Chapter Offices

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO FCS EDUCATION:

Congressional meetings with U.S. Representative Adrian Smith; staffers from the offices of Representatives Mike Flood, Don Bacon and Senators Deb Fischer and Ben Sasse; Advocated for CTE Funding, specifically FCS, in Washington D.C. and Nebraska Capitol; Encouraged students to take FCS classes.

### SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Activities/Organizations: Nebraska Boys State, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, FFA, FBLA, Student Council, Band, Class Officer, Quiz Bowl, School Advisory Team, One-Act, Speech, Musical, School Play, CCD, Community Garden Volunteer and Board Member, Mercy Meals Volunteer, and employed at Hilltop Drugs.

Honors/Awards: School Citizenship Award, Academic Achievement Awards, Nebraska Gold Seal of Biliteracy, Agricultural Achievement Award, NSAA Multi-Activity Student Award, and NCPA Academic All-State Award.

# FCCLA





## Nebraska Family, Career, & Community Leaders Of America

April 21, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Leonardo Luna-Duran as an FCCLA National Officer Candidate. Leo is a passionate, engaging, and vibrant youth leader. He is involved in a multitude of organizations and activities where he has served in leadership roles. As a member of the National Executive Council, Leo will be able to draw on each of these experiences to serve effectively with a positive attitude and dedication to FCCLA.

As the 2022-2023 Nebraska FCCLA State President and 2021-2022 Nebraska FCCLA State Peer Officer Team (SPOT) Overall Council Chairperson, Leonardo has considerable experience leading his peers and working with adults to carry out a variety of projects. Specifically, he led the efforts to ensure that the State Officer Team's Program of Work was carried out effectively over the last year. Leo guided the conversations each month to ensure that the team was taking the appropriate actions and had the necessary resources and information to make progress. Over the past two years as a state leader, Leo's servant leadership was consistently evident. He was always willing to take on an additional project or responsibility and never failed to assist his teammates with a pressing task or provide feedback when asked. Leo genuinely connects with members and ensures that everyone feels welcome and included in FCCLA, which has resulted in membership growth within his local chapter and at the state level.

Leonardo has remained a very active high school student. Through his involvement in various school-sponsored activities and organizations and as a member of his church, he has found many ways to make a difference within his local community. His SAE through FFA was creating a community garden in [REDACTED]. This project has helped to better connect community members to their food and addressed food insecurity that exists locally. Leo has also maintained a [REDACTED] GPA and has been a reliable employee at the local pharmacy.

I am proud to support Leonardo through the journey as a National Officer Candidate. His positive attitude, servant leadership, and inclusive nature makes him a valuable member of any team. He would not only serve as a National Officer with extreme pride but with the utmost dedication. With highest regards, I strongly recommend Leonardo Luna-Duran as a candidate for the 2023-2024 FCCLA National Executive Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chelsey Greene". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

**Chelsey Greene**  
Nebraska FCCLA State Adviser

Public Schools



April 28, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

It is with great pleasure to be able to write this letter of recommendation for Leonardo Luna-Duran. After having known Leonardo since he became a student of mine and a FCCLA member in the seventh grade, I strongly recommend him for a position on the National Executive Council.

As a classroom teacher and his FCCLA adviser, I have seen Leonardo apply his strong work ethic in everything that he does. He is not only very involved in FCCLA at all levels, but is also highly involved in FFA, National Honor Society, One-Act, Speech, all school play, band, church, and other community activities. Many people can be involved various activities, but Leonardo has shown that he can not only keep up with the demands of each but can excel in each while at the same time keeping his status within the top three percent of his class.

Serving as our chapter president for the past year, I have seen Leonardo grow into a great leader. Leonardo wants to be a leader and is one that shows confidence, respect, integrity, and compassion. He shows how much he cares for the chapter and the members by making sure he welcomes them to each meeting, talks to them in the hallways, and encourages them to try new opportunities. Leonardo believes that belonging to a career and technical student organization is one of the many ways that a person can really learn about themselves and what they are capable of accomplishing.

As a dependable person, Leonardo has through the years, shown my colleagues and myself that when he says he will do something, he will. He is ambitious, confident, and resourceful. He shows this in both the classroom and out of the classroom. If Leonardo does not understand something then he will ask questions or research until he finds the answer. This to me is an important quality for a leader, they need to have the skills to dig deeper so that they can lead others to fulfill their greatest potential. He knows how to push others in completing their responsibilities without being overpowering.

I strongly believe that our National FCCLA organization would greatly benefit by having Leonardo serve on the National Executive Council. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions at 970-466-0138 or by email is [kscarborough@nowarriors.org](mailto:kscarborough@nowarriors.org).

Sincerely,

Kimberly Scarborough  
Family & Consumer Sciences Educator  
FCCLA Adviser

[REDACTED] Public Schools  
[REDACTED]



January 12, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Mr. Leonardo Luna-Duran, a student I am very fortunate to teach and work with since Leonardo's freshman year at [REDACTED] High School. As both Leonardo's teacher and FFA advisor, I have been watching him thrive in the classroom, in his role as an FFA Treasurer, and in his other organizations. He is always wearing a smile, lending a helping hand, and being one of my most dedicated students who is on top of their events, scholarly obligations, and community involvement.

A natural in the classroom, Leonardo dives into course work to push himself outside of his comfort zone. Leonardo has taken introduction to agriculture, animal science, and ag business with me. He is willing to expand his knowledge and constantly show his hard work ethic and high achieving abilities. He applies his skills to FFA, FCCLA, the local pharmacy, and all on top of a full school course load. There are very few students that can manage to do it all, but he has the know-how, the want-to, and the tenacity to go above and beyond while he discovers his future career path.

In my role as his FFA advisor I see Leonardo as a prime example of a FFA member through his leadership positions and the hard work and effort he puts into FFA contests, service events, and even his supervised agricultural experience at the [REDACTED] Community Garden. He is a model FFA member, and in the developing years of the [REDACTED] FFA chapter, he has been a huge component to growing our chapter. It has been a blessing to have him develop chapter files, create new FFA events, and work as a team to grow a strong new culture for our school. He has been a key piece to the puzzle and is blazing the trail for future [REDACTED] FFA members and their success.

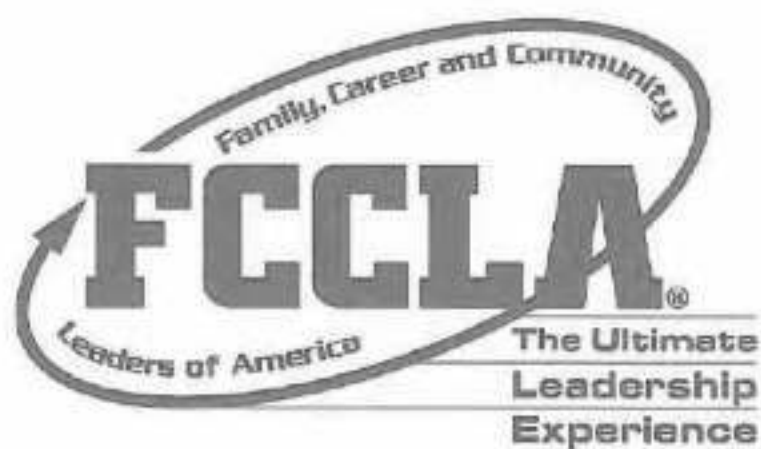
In addition, Leonardo is always looking for new ways to go above and beyond with the goal of improving circumstances around him. Whether he is applying for local grants, organizing FFA treasurer books or records, he will be using his helpful hands and wholehearted dedication as he gains new experiences to take on the challenges from the real world. He wears his blue corduroy jacket and represents the Nebraska FFA Organization proudly, and I am confident he will continue to do that in any position he finds himself in.

If you need more information or specific examples, please do not hesitate to contact me at 308-636-6409 or by email at burnside.kensie@gmail.com. As a recommendation letter likely only provides a snapshot of his talents and achievements, I would be happy to elaborate further on my time working with him.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kensie Burnside". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kensie M. Burnside, Agriculture Educator & FFA Advisor



# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Amanda Chen

**State:** New Jersey



**Region:** North Atlantic



## AMANDA CHEN | NEW JERSEY FCCLA

Years in FCCLA: 6 FCS Instruction Years: 3 Grade: 11 [REDACTED] High School [REDACTED] FCCLA

### LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

2023-2024 NJ FCCLA State Officer-Elect  
2022-2023 NJ FCCLA State President  
2021-2022 NJ FCCLA VP of Communication  
2020-2021 NJ FCCLA Committee Chair  
2019-2020 Chapter President  
2018-2019 Chapter VP of Public Relations

### CONFERENCES AND COMPETITIVE EVENTS

NJ FCCLA State Leadership Conference  
2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023  
NJ FCCLA Leadership Bootcamp  
2020, 2021, 2022, 2023  
NJ FCCLA Fall Leadership Connection  
2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022  
2020, 2021, 2022 National Leadership Conference  
2021, 2022 National Fall Conference  
2021, 2022 Capitol Leadership Conference  
2020 Virtual Leadership Experience  
2020 NJ United CTSO Fall Conference

National 1st Place Gold - Say Yes to FCS Education  
National Consumer Math Challenge  
National 2nd Place FCCLA Knowledge Challenge  
National 4th Place Gold - Professional Presentation  
NJ 2nd Place Gold - Storybook Ethics  
NJ Gold Medal - Banner  
NJ 1st Place Gold - Say Yes to FCS Education  
NJ 1st Place Silver - National Programs in Action  
NJ 2nd Place Gold - Virtual Poster  
NJ 1st Place Gold - Professional Presentation  
NJ 1st Place Gold - Storybook Ethics  
NJ 1st Place Gold - Go Green  
NJ 2nd Place Silver - Reinventing Spaces  
NJ 1st Place Gold - Web Connect

### STATE PARTICIPATION

- 2020 - 2023 NJ FCCLA State Officer Training
- 13x NJ FCCLA Workshop Presenter
- New Directions Newsletters (26 Articles)
- Promoted FCCLA Week, Go for the Red, Red Rose Chapter Award, State Officer Visits
- Created content for NJ FCCLA social media
- State Officer Visits - John Adams MS, Thomas Jefferson MS, Herbert Hoover MS, GCIT
- Promoted Dine in Day/FCS Day with PSAs
- Mentor members at John Adams MS FCCLA

### FCS COURSEWORK

2022-23 Child Growth and Development (5 credits)  
2020-21 Foundations of Food and Nutrition (5 credits)  
2019-20 Foods 8

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO FCS EDUCATION

- Advocated to legislative offices of Representatives Donald Payne Jr., Andy Kim, Frank Pallone Jr., Senators Cory Booker, Robert Menendez; State Senator Patrick Diegnan Jr.
- 2022 Panelist, FCS Northeast Conference
- 2020 - 2022 NJ Curriculum Connections
- Advocated for FCS/FCCLA Back to School Night
- State and Local Board of Education Testimony

### NATIONAL PARTICIPATION

- National Networks: State Presidents & Finance (2022-23), Programs (2021-22), Membership & Competitive Events (2020-21)
- FranklinCovey Leadership Academy ('22, '23)
  - Received College Credits
- 2022 National Officer Election Voting Delegate

### LOCAL PARTICIPATION

- National Programs: FACTS (2022-2023), Student Body (2021-2022), Families First (2020-2021), and Power of One (2019-2023)
- Dance Marathon - Decorations Committee
- FCCLA Prom Fashion Show - Photographer
- Designed and created 9 FCCLA Bulletin Boards
- Mentor to Member Committee Lead
- Led Read Across Edison Book Drive
- Safe Rides-Save Lives PSA Contest (2023)
- Fundraising - Monthly Pancake Breakfast, Wreath Sales, Cupcake in a Box, Car Wash
- Catering Events - Assisted in cooking & serving
- Hands of Hope & Replenish Food Drives
- Raised donations for the NJ Covenant House
- CareerSafe Employability Skills Course
- Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids - Took courses and delivered Take Down Tobacco workshops
- 2020 Most Valuable Member Award

### PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY

- National Honor Society
- National Technical Honor Society
- National French Honor Society
- French Alliance
- Presidential Volunteer Service Award (2020)





The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Amanda Chen

**State:** New Jersey



If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incredible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the [FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#).

Being an active FCCLA member for the past six years and a state officer for three years has made me well-versed in FCCLA's initiatives and programs. As an organization, we must meet the needs of our members, advisers, and chapters by striving to both sustain and innovate growth initiatives. Successful leaders look to the future with goal setting, and we can continue to strengthen our organization with the goals of FCCLA's strategic plan.

Communication has been one of my greatest assets in connecting with our New Jersey FCCLA audience while strengthening relationships within the North Atlantic Region. Having served as the New Jersey VP of Communication, I utilized my creativity, graphic design, and video editing skills to create posts that facilitated reminders, updates, and resources for members. Furthermore, conference in-review videos, public service announcements, and officer takeovers delivered information to members while showcasing FCCLA's events, accomplishments, and initiatives. By bundling my communication skills, I can create more personal connections through social media by developing relatable content and reaching out directly to members. Using interactive stories and posts that can be promoted on the National Executive Council Instagram can greatly increase outreach and relationships. Recognition is important in celebrating achievements and encouraging members. Using photos and videos from chapters will positively increase representation while sharing impactful ideas. My experiences in communicating with members and stakeholders via a variety of media could help strengthen our organization's outreach on the national level.

There are countless opportunities available for FCCLA members! For the past three years, I have actively participated in monthly Zoom calls and discussions on five national networks. My ability to connect with state officers nationwide can help to actively support our infrastructure by providing direct access and support for our stakeholders. Communication is key in not only developing meaningful friendships, but also strengthening state relationships through the sharing of information and solutions. Promoting national networks will develop connections and ideas in the specific areas where state officers may need assistance. I can use my experiences to encourage attendance and active participation. Furthermore, our intra-curricular programming is essential to FCCLA. From comprehending competitive event rubrics to learning from national program guidelines, my understanding as an experienced participant can help me assist in reviewing and ensuring our programs are aligned to serve the needs of our FCS educators and students.

Our membership is the core of our organization. Having been in FCCLA since middle school, my unique experiences have allowed me to understand both the opportunities and challenges members face. Supporting and nurturing middle level chapters creates a return on investment for our organization. Strengthening access, through diversity, equity, and inclusion helps to create richer experiences for all members by embracing our strengths and differences. Having delivered and attended several Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion workshops, my background in developing this understanding of DEI brings a unique perspective to recruiting and expanding membership on the national level.

By actively working and collaborating with others, I can use my leadership experiences to help provide support for our strategic plan. Together, we can head toward new horizons and make an impact!

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The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Amanda Chen

**State:** New Jersey



Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

As young adults, we are at a crucial point on our journey to adulthood. With many decisions, opportunities, and experiences offered to us, the ever-growing challenges that come with being a contributing member of society are not easy. Many adults face rocky terrain with the lack of communication skills that challenge relationships and the difficulty balancing work and family life. However, Family and Consumer Sciences education is our path to success. By providing a core foundation that builds practical knowledge and essential real-world skills, FCS classes develop college and career readiness. Using the integration of FCCLA, students are equipped with the compass to point us in the right direction.

Having experienced the impact of FCCLA since middle school, I can attest that FCCLA truly allows me to apply what I learn in the FCS classroom to real-world applications. Project-based learning implemented through FCCLA's competitive events has introduced topics that I have grown passionate about, increasing exposure to various industry and career opportunities. Having competed fourteen times on the state and national levels, each competitive event experience changed my life in a new way with increased knowledge of content and sharpened skills. For example, with my participation in the STAR Event, Say Yes to FCS Education, I was able to research the education and training pathway while utilizing my creativity to develop and implement a lesson plan. The healthy competition provided through FCCLA gives an outlet for members to challenge themselves to think creatively and make an impact. We are challenged to extend beyond our comfort zones, meet new people, practice public speaking, and develop confidence through this life-changing experience. Having the ability to grow in FCCLA benefits us as students by elevating the impact of Family and Consumer Sciences courses.

Additionally, integrating FCCLA into the FCS classroom creates a network of friendships that I would have never expected to encounter on my path! The welcoming environment that FCCLA provides creates unlikely friendships every step of the way, whether it be in the classroom, a state workshop, or a national conference; many of my closest friends were found in the second home that FCCLA provides. With the similarities and differences of each of our unique stories, integrating FCCLA with FCS helps students meet people within the school community, as well as across the state and nation. As a result, we can learn from different cultures and experiences, which expands our ability to appreciate various perspectives that can make a positive impact on our lives. The ability to communicate, problem-solve, and work with others is crucial, especially as we face more obstacles into adulthood. By creating connections in FCCLA and FCS, students can have a safe space to grow and lead, while enhancing the key interpersonal communication skills that help us become capable adults.

Family and Consumer Sciences education paves the way for a successful future, and with FCCLA, students gain unparalleled experiences and opportunities to apply learning in and out of the classroom. From the application of financial literacy for fundraising efforts to the research and teamwork skills needed for national program projects, FCCLA unites us through common goals and strengthens our leadership skills. No matter what path we decide to embark on, the impact that FCCLA can make on our FCS experience strengthens our capacity to learn and grow in the skills and knowledge we will carry for a lifetime.

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF EDISON TOWNSHIP  
**High School**

**Meredith Quick**  
Principal

**Fay Witowski**  
**Ojay Ray**  
**Robert Robinson**  
**April Eyler**  
Assistant Principals

April 28, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Amanda has been an active member of FCCLA since middle school. She has been a New Jersey State Officer since her freshman year. Amanda is an effective leader for the state as she helps to coordinate community service initiatives that resonate with members. Amanda participates in many community service initiatives as an FCCLA member. She has worked with The Covenant House, The Ronald McDonald House and Hands of Hope (our local food pantry) helping to raise money or goods to donate.

Amanda achieves the honor roll in a very competitive high school. She is able to manage both her leadership responsibilities as a State Officer and her academic responsibilities. Amanda led our chapter participation in Safe Rides Saves Lives PSA Contest resulting in our chapter receiving a FACTS State-Level Award. She successfully led a committee of members in the planning, executing and editing stages.

Amanda has been an advocate of Family Consumer Sciences Education throughout her years as a State Officer. She testified on behalf of FCS Education to both State and Local Board of Educations and advocated to the legislative offices of her representatives. Amanda was a panelist in the FCS Northeast Conference as well offering her insight as an FCCLA member and FCS student.

Amanda is an organized individual who works well with others. Amanda will bring her organizational skills, creativity and kindness to the National Officer Team.

Sincerely,

*Nicole De Mattia*  
Nicole De Mattia

FCS Teacher  
FCCLA co-advisor

# NEW JERSEY FCCLA®

April 25, 2023

Commitment, high standards, caring and motivation... This is Amanda Chen. I have known Amanda for three years as a member of FCCLA and a State Officer for New Jersey FCCLA. Amanda is a remarkable young person and a leader because she cares. Amanda cares about her family, her peers, FCCLA and her community. She works hard every day to accomplish her goals while she makes time to assist her peers in achieving their objectives.

Amanda does not work in a silo. She connects with her officer team and members in meaningful ways. She strives for the success of her team and never seeks the spotlight. She is a skilled networker and does this for the purpose of strengthening FCCLA and her team. She builds confidence in her peers and develops more youth leaders along the way.

Amanda is responsible, reliable, determined and possesses strong moral character. She is an outstanding student who strives for excellence with challenging course work and a rigorous workload. Amanda never takes the easy road and puts effort into everything she does. Often, she volunteers to take on extra responsibilities. This year Amanda served as the NJ FCCLA State President. I am always impressed by her leadership. Amanda jumped at the opportunities presented by the Leadership Academy and received 2 college credits for the FranklinCovey course, 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens. She is now taking her second course in the Leadership Academy, Inspire Others: Leadership Readiness.

Amanda took an extremely active role in the NJ FCCLA Executive Council as she encouraged and supported her team. I was so proud of Amanda and her council with their advocacy efforts both at Capitol Leadership and with local officials. She is an astute young leader who manages her time well while prioritizing and focusing her attention on the important facets of her leadership. Amanda "walks her talk!" She sets high standards for herself and produces quality work. In addition, she is a member of the National Honor Society, the National Technical Honor Society, the French Honor Society and the French Alliance.


Kindness and consideration are a part of the tapestry of Amanda's personality. Her unselfish attitude and caring personality make her well-liked by her peers. She is a cooperative person whose team spirit is evidenced by her ability to work for the best interest of the group. Amanda has a creative heart. She can frequently be found with a camera in her hand. She is always finding a way to incorporate her artistic eye into videos, social media posts, and presentations. She uses this media to recognize the accomplishments of her peers and FCCLA as an organization. No task is ever too big or too small. Amanda has a very mature approach to time management.

Amanda's finest quality is that she is a self-starter with a positive "can do" attitude. She can "think on her feet" and employ creativity and problem solving quickly and efficiently. Her generosity of spirit and zeal brightens up every group with whom she works. Amanda is a delightful student with a well-defined moral compass. Amanda has the complete support of New Jersey Family, Career and Community Leaders of America and the State Advisers.

Sincerely,



Patricia DeGiovanna-Laird  
NJ FCCLA State Adviser



Stacy Dworzanski  
NJ FCCLA State Director

FAMILY, CAREER, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS OF AMERICA

NJ FCCLA State Office | 855 Grove Avenue | Edison, NJ 08820-2200  
www.fcclanj.org | fcclanj@verizon.net | 732.452.2662 | Fax 732.494.4103





# Public Schools of [REDACTED]

Ms. Nicole Halpin  
Supervisor of Career and Technical Education

To Whom It May Concern,

I am excited and honored to write this letter of recommendation for [REDACTED] students Ms. Amanda Chen. Ms. Chen has made the decision to run for FCCLA's National Executive Council and we are both excited and proud of her decision to tackle such a challenge.

Ms. Chen has been a member of FCCLA starting in our middle school chapter and continuing on when she got to high school. She has attended five state conferences and a plethora of other local and national conferences. Ms. Chen is a true leader and advocate for FCCLA and Family and Consumer Science Education. As part of our New Jersey state leadership team she has dedicated her time and efforts to creating and running workshops for our members to strengthen their own chapters, turn keying her knowledge to help others. Ms. Chen serves as our current NJ State President and formally served as JP Stevens chapter officer. I had the opportunity to sit down with her and she told me about all the leadership and community services projects that her and her team have established and are working on. At such a young age it is rare that you have someone who understands that her work benefits the greater good of an organization and it isn't about her, but all who she can help and support.

Besides her leadership, her advocacy for community service, and her commitment to FCCLA Ms. Chen has found success in the competition aspect of the organization as well. She has competed in a variety of categories and has expanded her knowledge in many different areas, thus making her a more well rounded individual.

John P. Stevens and the administrative staff is extremely proud of Ms. Amanda Chen and we happily endorse her endeavor to run for National Executive Council. As a former CTSO advisor myself I know what kind of dedication, passion, and overall love for an organization that student leaders need to make a difference and I can say without hesitate Ms. Amanda Chen has these qualities and more. Please do not hesitate to contact me about this worthy candidate for your position.

Sincerely,  
Nicole Halpin  
Supervisor of Career and Technical Education  
[REDACTED] Public Schools  
[REDACTED] High School [REDACTED] High School





# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Emma Varghese

**State:** New York

**Region:** North Atlantic



## NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE ESSAY 1

The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Emma Varghese

**State:** New York

If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incredible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the [FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#).

Over the past 78 years, FCCLA has provided members with the leadership skills that they need to help them as individuals in a modern society and prepare them with skills for life that are just IncREDible. These skills are supported by the 2022 - 2025 Strategic Plan. FCCLA's focus on growth, infrastructure, communication, and programs all help FCCLA members grow to be their best selves and leave their legacy. By being a part of the 2023-2024 National Executive Council, I feel that I could contribute to our organization to help further the goals as stated in our Strategic Plan. During my term as a member of FCCLA, I have been empowered to advocate for my peers. FCCLA has helped me develop my leadership skills, I would like to pay it forward to future leaders.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, we, as a society, have seen an increase in the use of technology. In an era of increased technology, we are given increased opportunities to connect with people from locations both far and wide. It's no secret that through social media platforms, FCCLA members have been able to connect with one another, share ideas, and overall become a closer community without the need of being in the same room. As a State Officer from New York, I found myself trying to create engaging content, without any formal training, while I was able to figure it out and speak from my own experiences, I felt as if I could do better. In line with the strategic goal of communication, I would like to use our resources to provide State Officers a formal media training. To help guide them as they embark on their journey as leaders for our organization. Coming from New York, we use the resources that we have to help support our bigger needs, such as preparing for a conference and the expenses going into that. However, by having unified media training, we can help our State Officers grow as leaders in being able to educate their members, while also having a unified brand. Helping with the strategic goal of communications will also benefit our goal of making the best out of our programs.

The beauty of Family and Consumer Science courses is that they prepare students for the future, in all avenues, through financial literacy, safe and responsible driving, proper nutrition, etc. Through FCCLA's focus on educating students of the world beyond high school. Alongside educating members of the numerous programs, supporting FCCLA's commitment towards Equity and Access is extremely important for me. Working together to create partnerships with outside organizations, to support these initiatives, while also promoting and educating students about different cultures. At my school, I am involved in the Student Equity team, in this we are able to advocate for students of color, students with disabilities, etc., and overall learn about different people's experiences and perspectives. Across the nation we have students involved who come from different backgrounds, racially, socio-economically, etc., all of their experiences are valid, and it's important to recognize the different paths. As a member, I have had the pleasure of meeting many FCCLA members who each have a unique experience and have worked hard to get to where they are. I hope to use my experiences as a member to help create an equitable experience for both present and future members.

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The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Emma Varghese

**State:** New York

Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

I remember walking into my middle school's culinary club meeting. As my soon-advisor began to explain the procedures of how our meetings' would work, she began to explain how the culinary meetings are an extension of FCCLA. At this point I hadn't taken an FCCLA course yet, however, it excited me to be able to participate in a course that would teach me skills for life. Once I began to take a Family and Consumer Sciences course, it was clear to see the overlap between a Family and Consumer Sciences course and FCCLA.

As a member, we would participate in activities such as making dog pillows for Hudson Valley Animal Rescue Shelter (HVARs). My middle school chapter was prepared to do this service project by taking a family and consumer science course. In our course, we spent a unit learning about different sewing techniques that could be used when working on a project. In class, we were tasked with making a little monster adorned with buttons, with different types of stitches, and filled with stuffing. Through this project, we were able to learn and prepare ourselves with the skills that could help us do a good deed for our community. Following the unit, during our next FCCLA meeting, we were able to make dog toys for HVARs. As we made the dog pillows, we used the skills from our family and consumer sciences course to leave a legacy in our community.

As a seventh grade Family and Consumer Sciences student, we focused on learning about ourselves. Through understanding our personalities, our career goals, our life goals, and the relationships that we build throughout our life. Many of the goals from that year align with the national program of Power of One. Through this national program, members are allowed to look into both their lives and their career goals and understand themselves in a goal-oriented way. While we may not have done Power of One itself at that level, we were introduced to new activities that align well with Power of One. For example, the role that we can play in our families, we were tasked with trying to find one way in which we could contribute to our homes, in particular a chore that we could do to contribute to our family. This activity is similar to the unit focus on family. Chores are an easy way to be a more responsible member of a family. This activity helped both myself and my peers become empowered to take responsibility for our parts in our homes and evidently contribute to society. Additionally, during the course, we focused on our future careers and took a deep dive into finding a field that would interest us to be a career which would all fit well with the Working on Working unit in Power of One.

As a high school student, I have been able to witness the importance of integrating FCCLA into FCS education. At my high school, we have a culinary arts education program, through which students learn various culinary skills. As members went through the course they learned lessons that helped prepare them for both the National FCCLA Culinary STAR events and laying a foundation for a future culinary career. While talking with my advisor, he says that he feels that the projects that he assigns, prepare his students for both star events and build life skills regardless of whether a student decides to pursue it as a career.

This experience has, to say the least, empowered me to both be my best self and feel empowered to be a self-sufficient, dependable adult. With FCCLA being integrated into Family and Consumer Sciences classes, it gives students something to look forward to.

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**SCHOOL DISTRICT  
HIGH SCHOOL**

Executive Principal  
Dr. Don Solimene

Class of 2023

Dr. Donna Bolner, House Principal  
Ms. Jeanne Desire, Associate Principal

Class of 2024

Ms. Deborah Bryant, House Principal  
Ms. Jessie Laguerre, Assistant Principal

Class of 2025

Dr. Richard Carroll, House Principal  
Ms. Katie Nixon, Acting Assistant Principal

Class of 2026

Ms. Sharon Spencer, House Principal  
Mr. Scott Broglia, Assistant Principal

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Family, Career & Community Leaders of America, Inc.  
13241 Woodland Park Road  
Herndon, VA 20171

To Whom it May Concern,

We intend to support our student Emma Varghese in her intent to run for the National Executive Council of FCCLA for the 2023-2024 school year.

As per our school district's policy, Emma is not permitted to travel alone to events. And as such, her Advisor will be accompanying her to any and all FCCLA events during her term of Office if elected.

We understand that expenses for the advisor to attend meetings / conferences is not covered by National FCCLA per the 2023-2024 National Executive Council / Advisor Handbook will be the responsibility of the school district and/or advisor. Further, the School District, or Advisor agree to cover those expenses incurred for the advisor to attend meetings with Emma that are not already covered by National FCCLA.

Thank You,



Dr. Don Solimene  
Executive Principal



Jeremy Losee  
FCCLA Advisor





## Emma A. Varghese

██████████ High School New York FCCLA District 3  
2 years of FCS education || 11th grade || 6 years as an FCCLA member

- **Objective:** I would like to run for National Office to refine the relationship between the National Officers and members, both at in-person meetings and virtual. As a National Officer, I would like to create more equitable opportunities for states to reach out for any concerns that they would have. As well as to provide National FCCLA with insight that would help create positive change for both our organization and other CTSOs.
- **FCCLA Involvement (2017-Present)**
  - **Past State Offices Held:**
    - (2022 - 2023) First Vice President
    - (2021 - 2022) State Officer Elect
    - (2020 - 2021) Junior Leader
  - **Past Chapter Offices held:**
    - (2022 - 2023) Chapter Treasurer
    - (2021 - 2022) Chapter Vice President
    - (2020 - 2021) Chapter Treasurer
    - (2019 - 2020) Chapter President
    - (2018 - 2019) Chapter Vice President
  - **Star Events:**
    - (2021) Event Management (Bronze)
    - (2020) Chapter-in-Review (Covid)
    - (2019) Star Event Consultant
    - (2018) Culinary Arts (Gold)

\*State Officers are not encouraged to participate in STAR events while in office
  - **Awards**
    - (2019) Family and Consumer Sciences Student of the Year
  - **National Programs**
    - (2022 - 2023) Power Of One
    - (2021 - 2022) Power Of One
  - **Participated in:**
    - (2022) National Leadership Conference
    - (2022) Capital Leadership Conference
    - (2022) Joint CTSO Conference
    - (2020 - 2022) Summer Leadership
    - (2018 - 2023) State Conferences
  - **Contributions to FCS Education**
    - (2023) Advocacy Workshop with New Jersey and CT State Officers
    - (2022) Promoted STAR events at District 3 Fall rally
    - (2022) Advocated for FCS and CTSOs to Senator Schumer's Office
    - (2022) Recruited new advisors at local college with FACS education program.
    - (2022) Presented Financial Workshop alongside 2022-2023 VP of Finance
    - (2022) Chapter Outreach presentation around New York
    - (2017 - 2023) Promoted FCCLA at middle school and high school Club Fair and Open House
- **School Involvement**
  - **Family and Consumer Sciences Courses taken**
    - (2018 - 2019) 7th grade Home and Careers
    - (2017 - 2018) 6th grade Home and Careers
  - **Academics**
    - (2017 - Present) Principal's List
    - Currently has a 4.0 GPA
  - **Extracurricular Activities**
    - (2022 - 2024) Conducting research on menstruation - Principal Investigator
    - (2022 - 2023) Course Recommendation committee - Student Representative
    - (2022 - 2023) District Wellness and Belonging Committee - Student Representative
    - (2021 - Present) HOSA - Chapter Vice President of Community Service
    - (2020 - Present) Arlington High School's Equity Association - President
    - (2020 - Present) Student Government - Junior Class Secretary
    - (2020 - present) Water Club
    - (2016 - Present) Karate - Brown Belt
- **Volunteer Experience**
  - (2022 August - Present) Gold's Gym Kids Programs
  - (2021 December - Present) Town of Lagrange Student Volunteer
  - (2019 April - March 2020) Children's Church Volunteer



Jeremy Losee, FCCLA Chapter Advisor  
[REDACTED] High School  
[REDACTED]

April 23, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to be writing this letter of recommendation and support for Emma Varghese to run for National FCCLA office for the 23-24 school year. I have had the pleasure of having Emma in the [REDACTED] High School Chapter of FCCLA for the past three years she has been at the High School, and she has been an amazing leader, involved in many different important initiatives, activities, a well-rounded student and individual.

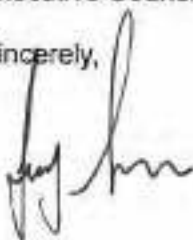
When Emma first came to our club from the Middle School chapter, she had just completed her year in the New York State Junior Leader program. It is through this program that not only did she learn more about FCCLA in general, but also decided that she wanted to become a New York State Officer. So it was during her freshman year that she decided, applied and was accepted into the two year program of becoming a State Officer, becoming only the second student in the history of the [REDACTED] FCCLA chapter to be an officer. She recently completed her term in office, serving as the First Vice President for New York and excelled at multi-tasking her duties for this office, as well as her other outside commitments. She would regularly check in with me on her own a couple of times a week, to work on her tasks and responsibilities as an officer, as well as help plan the state Leadership Conference, its workshops, and formats. In addition to this, she was also serving as a chapter officer in various roles each of these past three years as well.

In addition to FCCLA, Emma is involved in other clubs and activities at the High School, including the Student Equity Club. This is still a relatively new initiative and organization here that Emma helped start, run and is currently the co-president of the group. She was instrumental in helping put together their Spring Equity conference that was attended by over 500 people, where she led workshops and helped collaborate with other presenters to make it a huge success, and well run.

Outside of school, Emma is also involved in her community as well. She has helped out with many community events and fundraiser for the Hudson Valley Animal Rescue & Sanctuary. In addition to this, she is also very active in her local Karate studio, helping teach the younger students the various positions and techniques of karate. Also, she volunteers her time in the summer to help run the summer kids' programs run at the local gym. These programs are like a summer camp for students whose parents work, and she has been an amazing counselor who they have asked to work during the year also during the various school holidays & breaks.

Emma is very active outside of school, but these commitments have not interfered with her academic responsibilities and grades. She is able to maintain a great school and work balance, while also maintaining high grades [REDACTED] in her AP level class that she is taking. Should she be elected to serve as a National FCCLA Officer, I am confident that she will be able to maintain her academic success. As well as everything that is entailed in being a National Officer finding a great balance, and time management skills. I look forward to supporting Emma on her journey to becoming a National Officer, as well as supporting her should she be elected to the 23-24 National Executive Council.

Sincerely,



New York State Association of FCCLA



April 22, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

Acting in my role as State Coordinator for the New York State Association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) I am writing in support of Emma Varghese's intent to run as a National Officer Candidate.

Emma just completed her year as the New York State First President for the 2022-2023 council. Emma has been involved in FCCLA since she was a middle school student. Besides her officer role with the state association, she has been her chapter treasurer. As a middle school student, Emma began her FCCLA journey by holding a position as a Junior Leader. She has participated in two STAR Events and also a room consultant at the National level. Emma has done great work individually and with her council to give presentations to recruit new members and advisors for New York State. Emma took another big step in her leadership role by attending Capitol Leadership and advocating for FCCLA, Family and Consumer Sciences and Career and Technical Student Organizations with Senator Schumer's office. Emma has been a dedicated member of FCCLA at all levels for the past several years and to watch her pursue her goal of working at the National level is something that I believe she has the skills, dedication and abilities to do successfully.

Besides FCCLA, Emma displays the characteristics of a leader by being involved in her school's Student Equity Association and holding office with that organization also. She has been a class officer and she demonstrates her leadership abilities by being the liaison between her school's district office and peers.

Academically, Emma carries a [REDACTED] GPA and has been on the Principal's list. She is one of the most organized and dedicated student leaders I have had the experience of being able to work with. With all of Emma's extra curricular involvement, her academic success is something for her to be even more proud of.

Emma Varghese has done a wonderful job of representing Arlington High School and New York FCCLA and I believe that she would do a great job as a National Officer.

Please contact me via email at [fcclalisa@gmail.com](mailto:fcclalisa@gmail.com) or you can call me at 607-348-8338 with any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Lisa L Thomas*

Lisa L Thomas  
New York State FCCLA Coordinator

**SCHOOL DISTRICT  
HIGH SCHOOL**

Executive Principal  
Dr. Don Solimene

Class of 2023

Dr. Donna Bolner, House Principal  
Ms. Jeanne Desire, Associate Principal

Class of 2024

Ms. Deborah Bryant, House Principal  
Ms. Jessie Laguerre, Assistant Principal

Class of 2025

Dr. Richard Carroll, House Principal  
Ms. Katie Nixon, Assistant Principal

Class of 2026

Ms. Sharon Spencer, House Principal  
Mr. Scott Broglia, Assistant Principal

April 25, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Emma Varghese to be considered for a national officer position for FCCLA. I have known Emma for almost two years. She was a student in my English 10 honors class and she is the secretary for the junior class, which I am the advisor of. I would describe Emma as one of the most dedicated, compassionate and trustworthy students that I have had the pleasure of working with in my years of teaching. Her commitment to her academics, community and role as a leader makes her a perfect candidate to be a national officer for FCCLA.

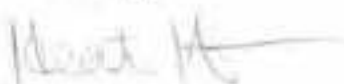
It became clear to me very early on that Emma is a hard worker academically. As a student in my English class, I could always count on Emma to contribute to class discussions, be on time with her assignments, and help out students who may be struggling. She is an avid reader who loves to read both fiction and nonfiction. Her current course load, which includes classes like AP US history, AP Language and Composition, AP chemistry, pre-calculus honors, French honors, science research, and introduction to computer science, shows her dedication to her academic pursuits and her interest in a wide variety of subjects. It is worth noting that Emma has been able to maintain a [REDACTED] unweighted GPA while enrolled in upper-level courses. However, Emma's commitment to academic excellence is not the only quality that makes her a strong candidate for a national officer position.

Emma has also taken on a leadership role within her school community. As mentioned above, Emma is involved in student government and is the junior class secretary of her class. In this role she has been involved in fundraising activities and planning junior prom. More notably, Emma is the co-president of Arlington High School's Equity Association, which is an Anti-Defamation League award winning school. In this role Emma was chosen to host the school's third annual Spring Equity Conference and has acted as a liaison between Arlington's district office and the student body. Arlington High School is a very diverse community, so Emma's role in this organization has helped many students feel accepted and heard in a large school setting.

Finally, Emma's leadership role has not just been felt in her school community but in other aspects of community as well. Emma has a passion for FCCLA. She is not only the local chapter treasurer but also the first vice president of New York State's FCCLA. In these roles Emma has given multiple presentations to recruit members and new advisors and even advocated for Family and Consumer Sciences and Career and Technical Student Organizations to our local senator Chuck Schumer. Her unique sense of maturity and responsibility has allowed her to confidently speak to people in high positions within her community.

Emma is a unique individual whose dedication to her academics, leadership role and community service make her a perfect candidate to be a national officer for FCCLA. As her former teacher, I am excited to see what the future holds for Emma.

Sincerely,



Heather Howard



# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Olivia Johnson

**State:** North Dakota



**Region:** Central







The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Olivia Johnson

**State:** North Dakota



If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

If I were elected to the National Executive Council (NEC), I would utilize my incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan in three different ways; through the FCCLA mission, vision, and goals. I know that I possess the energy, drive, and passion to be the best candidate to support that plan!

First, the FCCLA mission. The focus of the FCCLA mission is To promote personal growth and leadership development through Family and Consumer Sciences Education. Throughout my time in high school, I have done my part to live by the FCCLA Mission; I have taken personal measures to grow my own leadership skills. This includes developing leadership skills during my 2022 STAR Event. My STAR Event was leadership development with which I was able to grow my leadership skills by having three adults in my life fill out peer review forms that stated ways they thought I could improve my leadership skills. I then was able to take the feedback and set smart goals for myself that I was able to achieve over the course of four months by taking small and meaningful steps to reach them and by running for the North Dakota State Officer team.

If I were to be elected to the NEC, I would support the FCCLA Strategic plan through the FCCLA Mission by implementing it into our Family and Consumer Science (FCS) classes. This would give all students a greater exposure to the FCCLA Mission which would then help them learn personal growth and leadership development through family and consumer sciences. These classes teach this through group activities that call for leadership roles and self-reflections that we would fill out to show how we thought of our leadership skills in the classrooms.

Now moving onto the FCCLA Vision and goals. To make the vision of FCCLA come alive, we first must act upon our goals. I know that through my FCS courses and my participation in FCCLA, my advisor has prepared me for my future career in broadcast journalism. I know this because I have gained the skills of leadership in group settings, self-advocacy, and teamwork skills. If I were to serve on the National Executive Council, I have this vision of implementing a point system which would allow chapters all around the country to strive for greatness and meet the FCCLA goals.

The point would involve FCCLA members keeping track of activities they do as a FCS class and as a chapter and strategic plan goals they meet throughout the school year and then at NLC we would take time to recognize those chapters who went above and beyond to meet those goals. By meeting the FCCLA goals, I am meeting the purpose of the FCCLA vision which is Through FCCLA, students across the country will be prepared by FCS educators to pursue and prepare for their careers.

Because of my incREDible experiences with the FCCLA mission, vision, and goals, I know that I would be beyond capable of promoting and publicizing the FCCLA strategic plan not only in my school, but also in every school across the country.





The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Olivia Johnson

**State:** North Dakota



Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

Integrating FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education is beyond important. As all of us FCCLA members know, FCCLA stems from our family and consumer science classes. By integrating FCCLA into our Family and Consumer Science classes, we are giving students a greater exposure into personal and family life beyond high school.

I can tell from personal experience that if it were not for the nutrition and food prep class I took my first year of high school, I would not be where I am today. I was a shy and very timid freshman and when I was signing up for my ninth-grade classes, and then nutrition and food prep caught my eye. I decided to enroll in this class because it sounded fun, and I needed a class to fill my schedule. One day during nutrition and food prep, my FCS teacher mentioned something about FCCLA. At the time I had no idea what she was talking about, but I decided to go to the FCCLA information meeting.

The opportunities offered through FCS courses never failed to amaze me at what was out there. There were so many different leadership skills that I learned through FCS courses that I thought I could only earn in FCCLA, but FCS courses showed me what it is truly like to be a member of a team through group work and the importance of self advocacy through food labs.

Fast forward to my junior year in high school, and here I am typing my essays for the process to run for the National Executive Council. This is why I truly do believe that integrating FCCLA into FCS classes is profoundly important. FCCLA leads to opportunities that I would have never thought possible. I truly do have a passion for leading and I have FCS classes and FCCLA to thank for that.

I would also use my great public relation skills that I have gained from being the North Dakota Vice President of Public Relations to really push individuals to join FCCLA. I used my social media skills to share and promote FCCLA activities that were happening all across the state of North Dakota. All it took for me to join FCCLA was someone to encourage me to join.

FCS classes have shown me that I can be a chaos coordinator and that it is okay to step out of your comfort zone and try new things with people you do not normally spend time with. My favorite moments came from my freshman year FCS class, and I am beyond grateful for that.

In conclusion, it is beyond important to be intergrating FCCLA into Family and ConsumerSciences education as it can truly impact your future just as it has mine. Without the leadership skills I have gained from FCS classes, I would have no idea what I wanted to do with my future. FCCLA and FCS classes I would not have the leadership and self advocacy skills I do now.

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## Olivia Johnson

### Chapter and School

██████ *Public High School, ██████ North Dakota* 2011-Present

Junior

GPA ██████

GPA Dual Credit ██████

██████ *High School FCCLA Chapter, 15076* 3 years

FCCLA Chapter President 2022-2023

FCCLA Chapter Public Relations 2021-2022

FCCLA Chapter Voting Delegate 2020-2021

### FCS Coursework

#### *Food Service*

Nutrition and Food Prep, 0.5 credits received Freshman, 2020

Cultures and Cuisines, 0.5 credits received Freshmen, 2020

Food Science and Technology, 0.5 credits received Sophomore, 2021

Entrepreneurship, 1 credit received Junior 2022-2023

#### *Clothing*

Fashion and Textile Trends, 0.5 credits received Junior, 2022

#### Childcare

Child Development, 0.5 credits received Junior, 2022



North Dakota  
Family, Career and Community  
Leaders of America

March 20, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Recommendation for Olivia Johnson, National Officer Candidate, North Dakota

It is with great pleasure that I write a recommendation for Olivia Johnson in support of her quest to become a member of the 2023-2024 National Executive Council. I have come to know Olivia Johnson in the capacity of a member of the 2022-2023 ND FCCLA State Executive Council-State Adviser relationship during this past school year. Olivia is currently a junior at [REDACTED] High School and a member of the [REDACTED] FCCLA Chapter ([REDACTED]) in North Dakota.

Olivia Johnson is an active member of the Lisbon FCCLA chapter. She has held offices at the local and state FCCLA levels. She has also competed in national STAR Events competitions at the district, state and national levels. She has taken several family and consumer sciences courses as well. With her participation in FCCLA coupled with being actively involved in other school activities, Ms. Johnson has developed skills such as event planning, public speaking, critical thinking and problem solving and empathy to name a few. These skills have helped her to become the strong leader that allows her to encourage her peers to get involved in activities that begin with simple conversations to determine the needs of others thus planning and carrying out projects that solve problems and engage members in meaningful activities that benefit others in her school and community – at – large.

In her time as a state officer, Ms. Johnson served as the Vice President of Public Relations. In her role, I believe she came to realize how social media can serve as a positive resource to brand FCCLA. With her help, ND FCCLA used Facebook, Instagram, and the ND FCCLA website to brand our state association. I observed the development of many skills that will follow her a lifetime as she prepares to brand herself as a competitive and successful young adult in our society. Olivia worked very closely with Annie Dukart, the ND FCSE and FCCLA Administrative Assistant. Ms. Dukart manages social media for ND FCSE and FCCLA. Olivia demonstrated strong communication skills in working with Ms. Dukart.

Ms. Johnson came to the state executive council with a backpack of leadership skills learned through her various activities in her local school and FCCLA chapter. She came ready to not just participate but to make a difference in the lives of all members of ND FCCLA. One of Olivia's greatest qualities is her ability to create an atmosphere of "equality and empathy" for all. Because of this, I believe that she has the capability to bring all people "at the table" together. She is kind and accepting which allows all of our officers to be heard.

Ms. Johnson is consistent in her endeavor to be successful whether it is in leadership activities, academic endeavors, service opportunities, or in the workplace. Because of this, I recommend without hesitation that you choose Ms. Johnson to represent all FCCLA members as a member on the 2023-2024 National Executive Council.

If you would like to visit further about Ms. Johnson's qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Ann M. Dietchman*

Ann Dietchman, State Adviser  
ND Career & Technical Education • State Capitol, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Dept 270 • 600 E Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0610  
Telephone: [REDACTED] • Email: [REDACTED]

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Zahrbock Elementary School Principal

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Providing Equal Opportunities for Employees and Students"

Recommendation

Olivia Johnson

March 9th, 2023

Mature beyond her years, Olivia seeks ways to become involved and be an agent of change in her organizations and activities. She displays strong leadership skills in the positions and roles she currently serves in, showing growth and skills gained throughout her years at [REDACTED] High School.

Olivia came into our high school with a passion to help others and serve. She became a member of many organizations, listening and taking in the experience of being a member.

Her growth and transformation from freshman year until present is empowering as she now seeks leadership positions within these organizations.

Currently she serves as the [REDACTED] School Correspondent for our county's newspaper.

She collaborates with the educators throughout the district and provides an article for the newspaper to publish showcasing the events at [REDACTED] Public School. This is a significant role as it provides a bridge between our school to our parents and community members.

As an assistant teacher at a local preschool, she engages with our youth, both individually and in a group setting, and provides valuable learning opportunities to best prepare them for Kindergarten. She serves as a captain on our school's Speech team, is a Peer Leader for our Sources of Strength organization, and leads classrooms weekly as a Sunday School teacher at Trinity Lutheran Church.

I have witnessed her put in great effort to help these groups be successful, watched her have superior time management skills to balance these commitments, and display strong communication skills in working with all ages of people in a variety of settings. These are pivotal skills to be a successful leader and Olivia has shown, time and time again, that she possesses these skills.

I am happy to offer my recommendation for Olivia Johnson as an FCCLA National Executive Officer. Her strong qualities make her an excellent candidate for this position.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely, Kerri Zahrbock

School Counselor

[REDACTED] High School

701.683.4106

# BOARD OF EDUCATION

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**Dr. Steven L. Johnson**, Superintendent  
**Patrick Adair**  
High School Principal  
**Jared Hoff**  
Middle School Principal  
**Benjamin Zahrbock**  
Elementary School Principal

# **Public Schools**

## **School District No. 19**

*"Providing Equal Opportunities for Employees and Students"*

To Whom it May Concern,

It is my great pleasure to recommend Olivia Johnson as a National Officer candidate. Olivia has been a student in my FACS (Family and Consumer Science) courses and apart of FCCLA(Family Career Community Leaders of America), at [REDACTED] Public High School for three years. Olivia currently holds the position of Vice President of Public Relations for North Dakota FCCLA. Before her time as a state officer Olivia was the District 5 President.

Olivia is currently [REDACTED] Public High schools FCCLA Chapter President and has helped take our chapter to another level in 2023. She has led four chapter service projects, participated in two additional service projects, and helped recruit new members to our chapter during R.U.S.H. week. Additionally, Olivia is amazing at promoting FCCLA and FCS to younger students within the middle school. She has brought potentially interested 8<sup>th</sup> graders into the FCS room and explained to them the cool things they will gain by joining FCCLA next year. Olivia's enthusiasm for FCCLA has helped recruit 15 new freshman members to our chapter in 2023. Whether participating in FCCLA or in FCS class, Olivia is always looked up to as a leader by her peers and always finds a way to keep a positive attitude.

Olivia is a driven FCCLA member and has been for the last three years. Olivia has set high goals for herself within the FCCLA organization. Olivia, as a Junior, exhibits exceptional leadership qualities such as teamwork, enthusiasm, flexibility, and goal setting. Olivia is a natural leader among her peers in extra-curricular activities as well. Olivia is involved in many extracurricular activities such as speech, student council, and drama, just to name a few. I believe these qualities make her a prime candidate for FCCLA National Office. I know her work ethic will take her far in her career aspirations, life, and as a National FCCLA Officer.

Olivia is not trying to improve her leadership qualities just to be an awesome FCCLA member, which she is, but she is planning on applying these leadership skills to her future career as a broadcast journalist. Olivia finds joy in meeting new people and hearing about their story! Olivia will make a great broadcast journalist as she has developed many transferable skills through FCCLA and FCS courses. It is my honor to write this letter of recommendation for Olivia Johnson. Olivia's peers and educators find Olivia to be a natural leader, modest, active participant in her education and inquisitive. I look forward to what Olivia will do in the future, as she is able to accomplish anything she sets her mind to.

Sincerely,



Ashley Nudell  
FCCLA Adviser  
701.388.2956





# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Violet Lowe

**State:** OH

**Region:**



## NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE ESSAY 1

The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

### National Officer Candidate:

### State:

If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the [FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#).

What does it take to be an incREDible organization? Star Events. National Programs. Knowledge Bowl. Programs and initiatives created by FCCLA. Social media. Newsletters. TeenTimes. Communication has been used by the Family Career and Community Leaders of America to enhance their programs. Over 200,000 members. This is the amount of growth FCCLA has been able to achieve because of the incREDible programs and communication methods implemented by the organization. These improvements in participation, communication from across the country, and overall growth would not be possible without thousands of members' experiences in FCCLA. I will support the strategic plan with my extensive experience in programs, communication, and growth.

I bring over 4 years of experience in accurately communicating and promoting the work done by this incREDible organization. Since my first year in FCCLA, I have regularly spoken to my community school board about the opportunities and skills FCCLA offers to students. Beyond that, when I traveled to my first National Leadership Conference in Nashville, TN, where I had the opportunity to present a workshop, I was able to network with people from all over the country. Over the past year, I have started an Instagram account to show my involvement and dedication to FCCLA and share ideas and experiences with other members. Since being elected as a Regional Officer for Ohio FCCLA, I have had many chances to communicate with other members. At our Fall Leadership Training, I collaborated with members from across my state. A month later, I attended the National Fall Conference in Columbus, Ohio; where I was able to interact with people all over America. Within the last 6 months, I have had the opportunity to connect with Ohio Chapters on a personal level through Chapter visits. Through Chapter visits, I have made personal friendships and connections. All these opportunities to attend and lead networking sessions have strengthened my skills in communication, especially with different demographics. These are just a few of the experiences I have had communicating with other members, every day brings another opportunity to connect with Family Career Community Leaders of America.

A significant component of FCCLA is experiencing new growth in the organization. Since I have been a member, I have seen growth due to my own recruitment methods. This past year, in my own chapter, I was elected as Vice President of Service Learning. Since then, my chapter has had a 70% growth in membership. Since becoming an Ohio FCCLA Regional Officer I have learned many recruitment strategies from my State Executive Council and current FCCLA National Officers. My chapter's growth Beyond chapter growth, Ohio has had immense growth this past year. While working with the Ohio FCCLA State Executive Council we have had chances to network with members and recruit new people, helping us to reach ten thousand Ohio members. This success would not have been possible without our emphasis on reaching diverse groups of people. As a National Officer, I would be dedicated to working as a team to continue experiencing growth as an organization.

Programs, communication, and growth are all essential parts of FCCLA. As a National Officer, I would use my experiences in these fields to support FCCLA's Strategic Plan. I would be dedicated to working as a team in order to review programs to make them accessible for everyone, continue to communicate with not only National FCCLA but with my state, community, and members from across the country, and also continue to prioritize growth in FCCLA to new and existing demographics. Through my personal experiences, I will support the strategic plan through my experience in communication, growth, and programs.

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## NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE ESSAY 2

The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:**

**State:**

Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

"If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, then you are an excellent leader." This was said by Dolly Parton, one of FCCLA's most well-known alumni. Not only is Dolly Parton an incREDible leader, but she shows the effects that FCCLA has on a person's future. Through her multiple successes, she has created an organization dedicated to teaching children, advocate for the importance of families, and inspire others. This quote truly applies to my experiences in FCCLA. Since I have strengthened my leadership skills, I understand the importance of watching other leaders develop and follow their dreams. For most members, FCCLA would not be a part of their lives without the integration into Family and Consumer Sciences. FCCLA is an essential part of Family and Consumer Sciences because it provides students with opportunities to strengthen leadership, learn real-world skills, and find a career path.

The most noticeable and arguably important effect of integrating FCCLA into FCS is the strengthening of leadership. Since taking multiple Family and Consumer Sciences classes I have seen students grow in the projects advisers implement. This growth is the norm in FCCLA's National Programs. These programs allow students to gain an understanding of FCCLA's opportunities and start building key leadership skills; many students continue their growth in STAR events and other FCCLA programs. One of the most essential leadership skills they obtain through their first project is teamwork. According to FCCLA's College Info from 2018, FCS students have grown their teamwork skills by 68% due to the integration of FCCLA. Without the integration of FCCLA into FCS, most members would not be as inclined to participate in what FCCLA has to offer.

Family and Consumer Sciences are well-known for providing students with real-world skills for their futures. In my first year, I was enrolled in Principles of Food, which taught me the importance of nutrition and food preparation. This was not only important for me, but it was important for all students to learn basic cooking skills. FCCLA plays an important role in expanding those essential skills that I have learned through FCS. Through FCCLA's programs, students expand their basic understanding of these skills by learning more about them for certain projects. This is clearly reflected in FCCLA's first purpose, "To provide opportunities for personal development and preparation for adult life." Without the integration of FCS courses, FCCLA students would face great challenges in learning these practical skills.

Career preparation provides students the ability to expand their understanding of certain career paths. While participating in programs, they have the opportunity to connect with community members. While completing STAR events, I took the lead by meeting community members within specific career fields. In most FCS classes community members are invited to inform students about important topics and inspire them to discover their passions. FCCLA expands this through its projects and conferences, allowing students to learn more about what they might be interested in after graduation. In FCCLA's College Info from 2018, it showed that there has been a 33% increase in students choosing a career in the culinary/baking industry. These experiences are important for students to develop, providing them with a clearer understanding of their own passions and interests.

FCCLA is an essential component of any FCS course. Without this integration, most people would not be involved in FCCLA. Without that participation, people would not be able to strengthen their leadership, learn more about their future careers, or have such a strong foundation of practical life skills. FCCLA is an essential part of Family and Consumer Sciences because it provides students with opportunities to learn real-world skills, strengthen leadership, and find a career path.

STOP typing here! You must not continue typing past this page for Essay 2. Additional pages will not be accepted.

**VIOLET LOWE**  
**OHIO FCCLA**

INFO	LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN FCCLA
<p><b>Email</b> violetlowe017@gmail.com</p> <p><b>School</b> [REDACTED]</p> <p><b>Chapter</b> [REDACTED]</p> <p><b>Year in School</b> Sophomore (Class Of 2025)</p> <p><b>Years in FCCLA</b> 5 (2019-Present)</p> <p><b>Years in FCS</b> 5 (2019-Present)</p> <p><b>FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE COURSES</b></p>	<p><b>RDCEs Attended: 3</b> <b>CDE Gold Metals: 3</b></p> <p><b>2021 &amp; 2023:</b> Planned and implemented 5 FCCLA week activities adapted from National FCCLA resources</p> <p><b>2019-2023:</b> Led Meetings in Chapter</p> <p><b>2022-2023:</b> Assisted in planning and hosting the Region 1 Career Development Event</p> <p><b>2022:</b> Received the FCS Department Award for my achievements in FCCLA</p>
<p><b>10th Grade:</b> Child Development (0.5 Credit) <b>9th Grade:</b> College and Career Readiness (0.5 Credit) <b>8th Grade:</b> Textiles and Interior Design (0.5 Credit) <b>7th Grade:</b> Principles of Food (0.5 Credit)</p> <p><b>FCCLA OFFICES HELD</b></p>	<p><b>STATE PARTICIPATION IN FCCLA</b></p> <p><b>SLCs Attended: 2</b> <b>CDE Gold Metals: 3</b></p> <p><b>2020:</b> FACTS Initiative Grant</p>
<p><b>2022-2023</b> OH FCCLA Regional Executive Council <b>2022-2023</b> [REDACTED] HS/PCC VP of Service Learning <b>2019-2021</b> [REDACTED] JH/PCC Chapter President <b>2020-2023:</b> Liaison for Penta CC from Anthony Wayne</p> <p><b>CONTRIBUTIONS TO FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES EDUCATION</b></p>	<p><b>2022:</b> Attended and planned Fall Leadership Training</p> <p><b>2022:</b> Certified Chapter Degree recipient</p> <p><b>2022-2023:</b> Chapter Officer Visits</p> <p><b>NATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN FCCLA</b></p>
<p><b>2020-Present:</b> Advocated the importance of FCS, FCCLA, CTE, and CTSOs to Anthony Wayne Board of Education and Penta Career Center Board of Education</p> <p><b>2019-Present:</b> Planned and implemented 5 community service events for FCCLA members to participate in.</p> <p><b>PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES</b></p>	<p><b>NLCs Attended: 2</b> <b>STAR Gold Metals: 2</b></p> <p><b>2021:</b> FACTS Incentive Grant</p> <p><b>2020:</b> NLC Presenter</p> <p><b>2022:</b> NFC Presenter</p> <p><b>2023:</b> Power of One recipient</p>
<p><b>2022-Present</b> Environmental Awareness Club Communications Officer</p> <p><b>2022-Present</b> Art Club Officer</p> <p><b>2019-2022</b> Student Council Member</p> <p><b>2018-Present</b> River Road Garden Club Member</p>	

April 10, 2023

To National FCCLA Selection Committee,

It is with honor that I write this letter of recommendation. Violet Lowe is a very mature, conscientious, hard-working student who knows what her goals are and is willing to pursue them. She is thoughtful and thorough in everything she undertakes and exhibits excellent problem-solving skills.

Violet has been an active member of the Penta – [REDACTED] FCCLA chapter for the past four years. I always know that if I need a task done, I can ask Violet and she would do it using her best effort. She is dependable. If she is expected to be somewhere she is there. I really got to interact and know Violet last year as she was preparing her FCCLA Project, receiving a Gold rating while serving as Ohio FCCLA Regional Officer. Last year she ran for Regional Officer and was selected by the Ohio delegates, so for the past year she has served as Ohio State Console as Region One Officer. This responsibility required her to have the respect of the Ohio State Officers and, of course, have leadership skills.

Violet has also showed a willingness to put extra time and effort in to her education, volunteerism and clubs through many extra-curricular activities such as: Family Career Leaders of America, Art Club, and Environmental Club. She was required to show leadership and willingness to step up to help when needed. Along with all her extracurricular, Violet has put in many volunteer hours through her FCCLA project, Event Planning. In addition, she has volunteered at her school musicals, community cleanups, Food for Thoughts, Toledo Grows and Cherry St. Mission (homeless shelter) to name a few. Along with Violets involvement she is in advanced courses maintaining an impressive GPA ([REDACTED]).

As a Regional Officer of Family, Career and Community (FCCLA), Violet exhibited outstanding leadership through her example of acceptance of duty, devotion to the task and readiness to encourage FCCLA members to work for the common good. Violet's leadership raised the performance level of all the FCCLA programs at Penta Career Center and the Family and Consumer Sciences programs to a new level of excellence. She completes her work on time, and she maintains a positive attitude. She is willing to help other officers and students.

Besides being both an excellent student and an excellent leader, Violet is, more importantly, an outstanding individual who has a caring insightful personality. Violet has an understanding and personal interest in others and devotion to others has been an inspiration to those who have worked with her. With friendliness and sincerity, Violet encourages all those around her to excel and achieve their personal best.

As I stated earlier it is with honor that I recommend Violet Lowe for the opportunity to run for this National FCCLA Position. I believe she is deserving of this opportunity because she is hardworking, a leader, and thrives to do her best in all she does.

In Conclusion I would be honored to support Violet if elected to the National Council. Thank you for your time.

Thank you,

*Dova Zak*

Dova Zak

Penta Career Center

FCCLA Coordinator



## 2023 National Officer Candidate – To Whom It May Concern

It is my great pleasure to strongly recommend Violet Lowe as a 2023 National Officer Candidate.

I am Cornelia Wagener, a retired Budget & Financial Advisor from Corning Incorporated, the last 20 years actively involved in several non-profit organizations they include Ducks Unlimited life sponsor and volunteer (30 yrs.), treasurer & Co-Chair (16 yrs.), River Road Garden Club (RRGC 20 yrs.), past treasurer (10 yrs.), past president Club (3 yrs.), Awards Chairmen and many other chair positions, Garden Club of Ohio officer (6 yrs.), Golden Membership Scholarship Fund Chairmen (7 yrs.), Flower Show Chairmen and many other community fundraising service volunteer positions. Violet Lowe is one individual I have worked with who is uniquely wise and inquisitive that stands out in each encounter.

My first experience with Violet's respectful leadership demeanor that was both very professional and thoughtful for a an amazing young soul towards elderly individuals December 2016 was absolutely amazing. My future encounters of her leadership demonstrated her strong engaging and willingness to step up her participation in many different activities always extremely helpful, polite and respectful with all ages she encountered. Violet has been very active with RRGC. With her natural leadership, she lead how to grow micro greens & their uses for young children and their parents, her flower show participation as a winner, she taught Cub Scouts at Whitehouse Community Gardens gardening and helpful uses of the products, helped make decision regarding programs, Heralding The Holidays fundraiser sold bake goods, raffles and homemade products, helpful with the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tea & hosted garden member tours, plant sales, Toledo Grows fundraiser for downtown community gardens (inspired her career aspirations), she won Garden Club Youth Award working with youth, , Garden Club Youth Service Award doing outstanding work with youth in the service area, & Youth Leader Award for exceptional ability over a period of time (during Covid), She was instrumental with RRGC achievements at state level: Outstanding Garden Club 2020 & 2021 plus Garden Club of the Year 2020 & 2021 (youngest member of 15 total), she totally understand deadlines and has met them on several occasions. She marketed and promoted fundraiser for Bethany House domestic violence program and Martial Arts defense course, several educational opportunities Toledo Grows, Toledo Botanical Gardens, Schedel Arboretum & Gardens, Wine Tasting Event, Ducks Unlimited event set-up and raffle volunteer.

Violet is extremely dedicated, very organized and thought provoking to work with at all levels, along with her positive can-do attitude and team building skills which many of our members have valued for a job well done. I am very confident that she will be a successful leader for FCCLA National Executive Council.

If you need more information or specific examples, please do not hesitate to contact me at 419-297-5179 or by email at [cewagener55@gmail.com](mailto:cewagener55@gmail.com). As a recommendation letter likely only provides a small picture of her talents and achievements. I would be happy to further discuss my time working with her.

Sincerely,

*Cornelia Wagener 4/10/2023*

Cornelia Wagener

GCO Toledo District Director member of River Road Garden Club



**OHIO**  
STATE ASSOCIATION

April 19, 2023

To Whom It May Concern

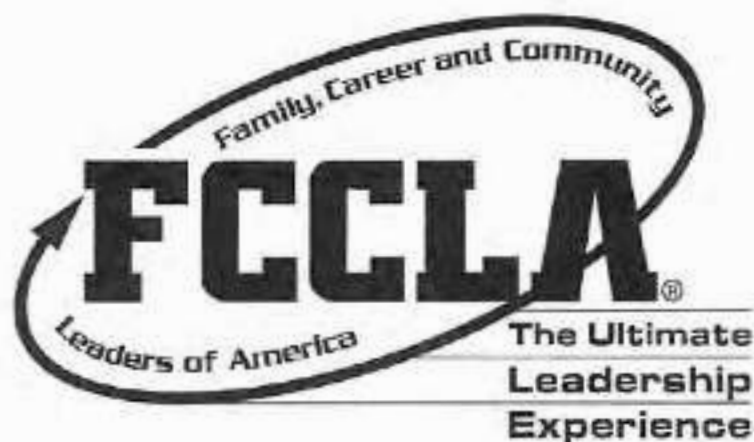
As the Ohio State Adviser, I am recommending Violet Lowe to represent Ohio as a Family, Career and Community Leaders of America national officer for the 2023-24 school year. I have worked with Violet this past year in a leadership role as she served as a Regional Executive Council member.

Through the training she has had the opportunity to improve her leadership skills through training with Team-Tri as well as state staff. Throughout the year the Ohio Executive Council members read the following leadership books to read and discuss: How Full is Your Bucket, Grit and Dare to Dream. Through each book discussion you could tell that Violet was growing in her leadership skills.

Please accept my recommendation for Violet Lowe to run for a position on the national Family, Career and Community Leaders of America executive council. If you have additional questions feel free to contact me at Maryjo.kohl@education.ohio.gov or phone 614-644-6333.

Sincerely  
Mary Jo Kohl

State FCCLA Adviser  
Education Program Specialist  
Career Technical Education  
25 S Front Street, MS 611  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-41183  
614-644-6333  
Maryjo.kohl@education.ohio.gov



# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Olivia Boeckman

**State:** Oklahoma



**Region:** Central





The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Olivia Boeckman

**State:** Oklahoma



If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the [FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#).

If elected to the National Executive Council, I will put into effect the goals of the Strategic Plan and make sure they are being met every day. If I am given the incREDible opportunity to serve FCCLA as a national officer, I will be diligent in the development of FCCLA's infrastructure, growth, programs, and communication goals.

I will help develop FCCLA's infrastructure by ensuring that communication and consistency is top tier in every situation. Consistency and communication are the most important tools when improving processes and systems in any organization. By making sure that communication is consistent in all things, members and advisers will be more satisfied with their experience. If members and advisers leave a conference feeling energized and confident rather than stressed, more growth will happen in all chapters.

Developing the growth of the organization is all about making an outreach to communities, corporations, and organizations. My working with organizations that make major impacts in communities like Lead for Change and WeHelpToo will help more people learn about FCCLA. As more people, especially young students, hear more about FCCLA, the more members and advisers we will gain. As always, when more minds enter the mix the more diverse any situation will become. The same is true for FCCLA.

Programs are a very important element of FCCLA. Not only do we have National Programs, but each STAR Event, Skill Demonstration Event, Knowledge Bowl, and so much more could all be viewed as an individual program. As a leader in FCCLA, I feel it is important to make sure all programs are relevant to today's students by ensuring that all programs align with current issues in students' lives. FCCLA can achieve this by adding or changing a couple STAR Events to have a focus on building friends up, or creating a positive action goal.

Communication is a large passion of mine. I believe that if there is poor communication in any situation there will be struggles and difficulties. In everything I do I try to have very clear and concise communication. When meeting new people, I work on making intentional connections to FCCLA by communicating to them what this organization means to so many individuals, what it has done for me, and what it can do for others. I explain how I got involved and what kind of skills I have developed in my 5 years in FCCLA. Also while talking to members and posting on social media I work on remaining understanding, compassionate, and empathetic to what people may be going through. While understanding that everyone has something going on behind the scenes, I strive to communicate how FCCLA can help these individuals with their struggles. I know FCCLA has helped me with many issues as it has provided me with an outlet, and has given me the feeling of being part of something so much larger than myself.

In conclusion, if I am elected to serve as a member of the National Executive Council I will work diligently to achieve the goals of the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. With a focus on communication I believe I can make a positive impact on the progress and completion of the goals of this plan.



The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Olivia Boeckman

**State:** Oklahoma



Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

I originally joined FCCLA for the goodie bag I received when I paid my dues. I went on every day in class hearing about the Ultimate Leadership Experience, and listening to what FCCLA can do for me. Just because I really wanted some gum and a Gatorade, I realized that I had more opportunities at my feet. I decided to ask my teacher about these opportunities, and how I could get involved. She suggested that I compete in a STAR Event. Thanks to her encouragement, I competed in Professional Presentation. I found something so much larger than myself, something I could pour my heart, soul, and passion into. FCCLA quickly became my outlet, and I have been dedicated to this organization ever since. I would not have been involved in FCCLA if it was not integrated into each and every lesson.

Once I heard about FCCLA and got involved, I found a place to put what I was learning into action. Just sitting in the classroom will not actually teach students to become leaders, nor will they find their future career. Most students not only learn, but remember what they were taught. Then, FCCLA gives students a chance to show off what they have learned, and then get recognition for it. There are not many other chances that truly allow students to achieve this level. Working on developing my leadership skills would do nothing if I did not have a chance to practice and hone these skills before entering the real world. In my educational experience, the Family and Consumer Sciences classroom is by far superior to any other standard classroom. This is not only because it is a fun environment, but also due to me having a feeling of making progress outside of school. I know that due to FCCLA being integrated into my FCS class I will be provided opportunities to directly use my new skills and information in the real world. When I am learning information that feels useless, I find I don't want to learn. When I know what I am learning will be put to use in a STAR Event, an officer interview, or when presenting a workshop I find I am not only excited, but thrilled to learn more and more.

While in a Family and Consumer sciences class, students find a new environment with different minds involved. When you go from FCS to FCCLA, students gain an experience many individuals may have never had before. Students will find a group of like-minded individuals, and adding FCCLA creates an environment with like minded individuals working toward a similar goal. Students will not find this unique experience in any other classroom, other than a Family and Consumer Sciences classroom. Without the integration of FCCLA into the classroom, many students will not have the opportunity to have this experience. It would be a poor mistake that may allow many students to never find a passion. It only takes one spark to ignite a flame in students. The integration of FCCLA into the Family and Consumer Sciences classroom could be that spark for many young students

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**Olivia Boeckman**

Oklahoma National Officer Candidate

Oklahoma – [REDACTED] Public School – [REDACTED] FCCLA

Junior, Class of 2024 – 5 years in FCS

#### **Family and Consumer Sciences Courses Taken**

- Culinary Basic Skill - 11th Grade (restaurant and food/ beverage services) Credit: 1.0
- Career Orientation - 10th Grade (teaching/training) Credit: 1.0
- Human Growth and Development - 9th Grade (counseling and mental health services) Credit: 1.0
- FCS Basics - 8th Grade (counseling and mental health services) Credit: 1.0
- Tween Living - 7th Grade (counseling and mental health services) Credit: 1.0

#### **FCCLA Participation**

##### National

- 2020-2022 National Leadership Conference Attendee
- 2018-2022 FCCLA Week Participation
- 2021 Community Service National Program
- 2020 FACTS National Program
- 2020 STAR Event Qualifier: Silver recipient
- 2019 Skill Demonstration Event Volunteer
- 2019 Student Body National Program
- 2019 National Fall Conference Attendee
- 2018 Families First National Program

##### State

- 2019-2023 State Leadership Conference Attendee
- 2021-2022 Lead Conference workshop leader
- 2018-2021 State STAR Events winner, Top 3 in every event
- Countless workshops presented at summer training: Summer Leadership Summit (for young members) and District Officer Training

##### Local

- 2018-2023 Thanksgiving Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- 2018-2023 Food Drive Scavenger Hunt
- 2022 7th-8th grade Recruitment Presentation
- 2021-2022 Citizens Caring for Children Socktober- 1,000 items in 2 years
- 2018- Current Manna Food Pantry Volunteer

#### **School and Community Involvement**

- 2021- Current National Honor Society
- 2011- Current Back Home Again Community Ministries (over 500 Impact Hours)
- 2016- Current Band Member
- May of 2023 Paging at Oklahoma State Capitol for Representative Carl Newton
- 2022-2023 Cheerleading
- 2018-2022 Spirit Express All-Star Cheer
- 2016-2021 Basketball, Softball, Track

#### **Work Experience**

- 2022- Current Bridget Blood Photography and Video Assistant
- 2022- Current Bank of Kremlin Employee and Teller
- 2020-2023 Child Care Worker
- 2018-2022 Spirit Express Tumbling Instructor

#### **FCCLA Offices Held**

##### Local

- 2021-2024 Chapter Vice President of Development
- 2020-2021 Chapter First- Vice President
- 2019-2020 Chapter Vice President of Public Relations

##### District

- 2020-2021 North 2 District President

##### State

- 2023-2024 State Vice President of Parliamentary Law
- 2022-2023 State Vice President of Community Service
- 2021-2022 State Vice President of Community Service

#### **Contributions to FCS Education**

- 2022-2023 Advocated for FCS and FCCLA at the Oklahoma State Capitol on CTSO Day
- 2021 Advocated for FCS at the Oklahoma State Capitol on FCS Day
- 2021 Meetings with Oklahoma Senator Roland Pederson and Representatives Carl Newton and Mike Dobrinski Advocating for FCS Education
- Promoted FCS enrollment to 7th and 8th grade students
- Served on FACS advisory board



Drummond FCCLA  
Loren Dillingham, Advisor



To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in recommendation of Olivia Boeckman in her pursuit of holding an office on the National Executive Council.

Olivia is going to be a Senior at [REDACTED] High School. Olivia has been an active member and leader in FCCLA. She has held a classroom office position as Vice President, Vice President of Public Relations and is currently our Vice President of Development in our [REDACTED] FCCLA chapter. She held the position of President of the North II District and has held the position of our State Vice President of Community Service for two terms. As Olivia's FCS teacher, Olivia has been outgoing in everything that she does and is a gifted young woman. "Gifted" is used intentionally, as I could not have asked for a more well-rounded member. Olivia is an active cheerleader, NHS member, and participates in the [REDACTED] band. While functioning as an exemplary student in everything that she does, she also maintains excellent grades and attendance.

Olivia is poised, well-versed, and intelligent. She sets goals for both herself and for our Drummond chapter, then she works diligently to set out to accomplish them. In addition to all of these attributes, she maintains a friendly, positive attitude towards her classmates and all other members of the FCCLA organization.

In summation, Olivia Boeckman comes with my highest recommendation. She impresses each person she encounters with her professionalism, positive attitude, and drive. She would be an asset to the Oklahoma FCCLA State Executive Council. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or email me any time.

Sincerely,

Loren Dillingham  
[REDACTED] FCCLA Advisor



**OKLAHOMA**  
STATE ASSOCIATION

Family and Consumer Sciences Education Division  
Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education  
1500 West Seventh Avenue Stillwater, OK 74074-43

April 28, 2023

National FCCLA Nominating Committee  
FCCLA  
13241 Woodland Park Road  
Herndon, VA 20171

Committee Members:

It is a privilege to write a letter of recommendation for Olivia Boeckman, National Officer Candidate. I have known Olivia for three years, as she has served as a State Officer since 2021, and I absolutely support her decision to run for a National Office.

Olivia has served two terms as the State Vice President of Community Service and is currently our State Vice President of Parliamentary Law/National Officer Candidate. I have grown to know Olivia well over the last three years and I think she is exactly what the NEC needs. She is dedicated to FCCLA, kind, intelligent, creative, and the ideal office to represent FCCLA well.

Olivia served her first term when Oklahoma chose to select Citizens Caring for Children (CCC) as our state outreach project. Over the last two-year partnership, she has led the state in efforts to raise funds and items and has done such an amazing job that CCC now operates a mobile store, allowing counties in areas without resources for foster children to have a van come to them to bring supplies. In fact, in the time Olivia has worked with them, CCC has not had to purchase socks, books, or personal hygiene kits for our over 7,000 children in foster care thanks to donations from Oklahoma FCCLA. Olivia has also served on the CCC Teen Board for two years. Olivia is groundbreaking in the fact she led the charge to select an international outreach partner through 2025, The Pearl House. This organization is working to bring Home Economics (the United States is the only country to refer to this as Family and Consumer Sciences) to Ghana, Africa and begin virtual FCCLA visits with their students. Impressed is completely an understatement. Not only is her leadership and passion for FCCLA helping students in Oklahoma, but now across the globe!

Olivia has served Oklahoma FCCLA beautifully the past two years and would do an amazing job on the National Executive Council. Having been a National Officer myself, I know what skills and qualities an NEC member should possess, and Olivia has them. She can speak to any member and make them feel heard and is a fantastic workshop presenter. She rivals some of the professional presenters with whom I have worked! I am immensely proud of her; I strongly encourage you to consider Olivia as an outstanding candidate for the National Executive Council. She carries a passion for the organization that will not diminish with time.

Sincerely,

Brittani Phillips  
Oklahoma FCCLA State Adviser



Citizens  
Caring for  
Children

730 W. Wilshire Creek Blvd., Ste. 112  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116  
405.753.4099 | [cccokc.org](http://cccokc.org) | 405.753.4095 fax

April 23rd, 2023

National FCCLA  
13241 Woodland Park Road Suite 100  
Herndon, Virginia 20171

To Whom It May Concern:

I first became acquainted with Olivia Boeckman through Oklahoma FCCLA as a current member of the Oklahoma FCCLA Alumni & Associates Board of Directors. As a board member, I sat on the general interview committee when Olivia was elected to serve on her first term as the Oklahoma FCCLA Vice President of Community Service for the 2021 – 2022 school year. Olivia Boeckman is an incredible individual and I highly recommend her for a National FCCLA officer position.

Since 2021, I have worked with Olivia in her position as Oklahoma FCCLA Vice President of Community Service while serving on the Citizens Caring for Children (CCC) Teen Board where I am currently the Director of Development & Communications. CCC is the 2021 – 2025 Oklahoma FCCLA State Outreach Project. The Teen Board includes Oklahoma high school students that raise awareness, while planning fundraisers for Oklahoma foster care children. Our Teen Board is highly competitive, and Olivia was selected as one of 70 members from over 120 applications for her first term. This year, Olivia was re-selected to our Teen Board and serves as our Community Outreach Committee Chair for the 2022 – 2023 school year. During her time as a Teen Board member, she has successfully led multiple individual fundraising efforts for kids in foster care, volunteered 54 total service hours, and advocated immensely for meeting the needs of children in foster care within our state.

Olivia excels in everything that she does. She is an outstanding individual, essential member of the CCC Teen Board, and incredible asset to Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America. In the six years that I have worked with our Teen Board members and ten years of experience with Oklahoma and National FCCLA, I have never observed servant leadership like what Olivia possesses. It has been easy to see her passion and desire to serve others each day, as she is always placing others before herself.

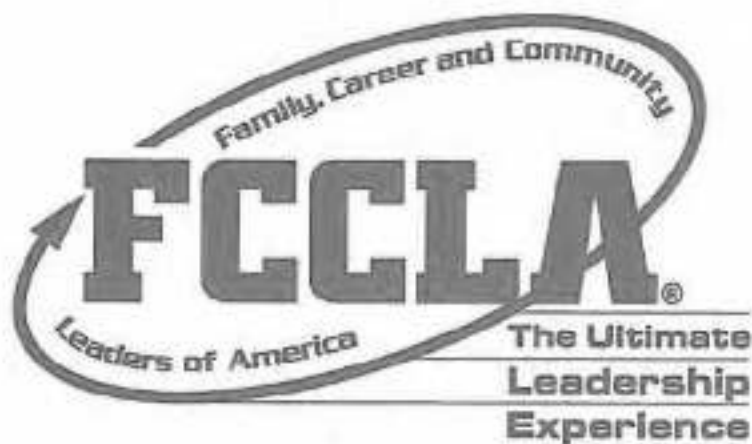
As a former National FCCLA Vice President of Community Service, I know firsthand the need for strong leaders to serve our great organization. I can confidently say that Olivia is the epitome of what National FCCLA stands for and would serve the organization impeccably if elected. She exemplifies what it means to be a Family, Career, and Community Leader of America member. It is without hesitation that I recommend Olivia Boeckman to serve as a National FCCLA Officer. She is a remarkable individual, student, and leader. Should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

*Abigail Werth*

**Abby Werth (Alred)**

CCC Director of Development & Communications  
2013 – 2014 National FCCLA Vice President of Community Service  
[awerth@cccokc.org](mailto:awerth@cccokc.org) | 405.714.3945



# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Davin Budy

**State:** Oklahoma



**Region:** Southern







The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Davin Budy

**State:** Oklahoma



If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

FCCLA offers many great programs and events that allow its members to grow into great leaders in their communities and other areas. It can be hard to improve on a plan that is working so well. However, I do have a few ideas.

For the strategic goals in the areas of communications and growth, I believe the organization needs to fully embrace technology. By embracing technology and multiple social media platforms, we can better reach FCCLA members and produce more engagement. This is a tool that is constantly growing. Most youth today have social media accounts that they check often and the best way to reach them is through their peers. My next idea is to create a challenge to all Chapter Presidents to make at least one post a week showing the activities and involvement of their chapter in the community. The local advisers would be tasked with overseeing these posts. We could turn this into a contest with winners in every state. It could be called the "Promote Positive FCCLA Experiences Campaign" to raise awareness of all the many fun and educational opportunities FCCLA has available. I also believe that we must continue to foster partnerships with industries, organizations, and legislators. Ensuring that these partners receive consistent communication from the organization will be vital in maintaining and developing new partnerships.

I have two potential ideas geared toward the programs strategic goal. The first is to develop a new national program that centers around mental health. Although there is a unit on mental health in our current Student Body program, I believe that this is the number one issue facing students today, and we need a stand alone program dedicated to this area. We must continue to develop initiatives that meet the changing needs of our members. Some of my experiences in FCCLA have included participating in STAR Events, community service, serving as an officer, and fellowshiping with other members. I have used much of the information that I learned in Family and Consumer Science classes to develop my projects for STAR Events and to address areas of need in our community. For example, we have talked about the importance of good mental health. I created a project to promote mental health and met with legislators regarding this issue. I presented it to many groups in the community, giving them ways to deal with stress. We have also discussed the dangers of drug use in class. I developed a project about the Opioid problem, interviewed victims to understand it better, and presented it to groups in the community to raise awareness. Another project I have implemented from knowledge I learned in class was driving safety. I asked my peers in my school and area schools to sign a no text and drive and seat belt usage contract. All of these projects have allowed me to make an impact to improve the future for many people. We must be willing to regularly evaluate our programs and campaigns to ensure that they are providing relevant experiences for our members. My next idea is to produce professional videos that show examples in each of the STAR Event categories. This would allow students to see what the STAR Events require and how to present the information. These videos would help take away some of the fear and uncertainty surrounding these contests, for both members and advisers. If our goal is to grow in both membership and programs, this would be a great opportunity to facilitate potential growth in the area of competitive events.

By staying relevant and ensuring that we are adapting to the ever-changing needs and interests of our members, FCCLA will continue to provide valuable leadership opportunities to our members. This will allow members to continue to make a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

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The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Davin Budy

**State:** Oklahoma



Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

Family and Consumer Sciences education provides students with a foundation and valuable information in many different areas they can use throughout their lives. Integrating FCCLA into the FCS classroom gives students the opportunity to implement and develop skills and knowledge in areas that are essential for their personal and professional lives.

Family and Consumer Sciences education is a large field that covers various areas such as nutrition, parenting, textiles, interior design, and personal finance. By integrating FCCLA into this curriculum, students can gain practical experience in these areas, which can help them make informed decisions in their personal lives. For instance, when students learn about nutrition and food service, they can apply this knowledge to make healthier food choices for themselves and their families. In my FCS program, FCCLA members gain valuable industry experience by providing catering services for many different school and community functions. This is integrated into the classroom curriculum and into the regular classroom schedule. Non-FCCLA members also gain this professional knowledge. In my chapter, we have seen an increase in membership resulting from integrating FCCLA projects and programs into regular coursework.

Similarly, when students in our program learn about personal finance, they develop financial management skills that will enable them to make sound financial decisions in the future. In my chapter, we put personal finance skills into practice by competing in the FCCLA/Knowledge Matters Virtual Business Challenge. We also compete in the Oklahoma Stock Market game twice annually. These programs allow us to gain valuable, real-world experience that would not be possible without the integration of these programs into the classroom. In our stand alone financial literacy course, students receive instruction in fourteen different financial literacy standards mandated by the state of Oklahoma. Our family and consumer sciences instructor helps supplement her curriculum with units and lesson plans from the Financial Fitness National Program.

Our STAR Event contests give students a structure and guide to establish a project and present it. This can include using skills in research, planning, organizing, public speaking, community service and teamwork to name a few. FCCLA also allows members to network and meet members from all over the state and nation. They make many new memories and friendships that can last a lifetime. FCCLA gives them opportunities to help their community and see the impact they can make through various projects. All of these experiences help students to be prepared for their future careers and life. It helps them to understand how they can be a positive influence on their generation and to make a difference in the world around them. In my chapter, many STAR Event guidelines are used to facilitate classroom projects for members and non-members alike. STAR Events truly bring Family and Consumer Sciences standards to life.

An education is a valuable asset, but until you use it, it has no purpose. FCCLA gives value and purpose to the Family and Consumer Sciences standards by allowing members to implement what they have learned. By participating in FCCLA activities, students can enhance their personal growth and prepare themselves for success in their personal and professional lives. It is imperative for schools to prioritize the integration of FCCLA into their Family and Consumer Sciences curriculum.

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**DAVIN BUDY**

State: Oklahoma | Chapter: ██████████ FCCLA | School: ██████████ High School  
 Current Year in School: Sophomore | Years of FCCLA Membership: 3 | Years of FCS Instruction: 1.5

**FCS COURSES**

- *Investigate Family and Consumer Sciences*; Human Services Pathway; 7th Grade; .5 Credit
- *Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness*; Hospitality & Tourism Pathway; 10th Grade; 1.0 Credit

**OFFICES HELD**

- 2023-2024 Oklahoma State Vice-President of Programs
- 2023-2024 Local First Vice-President
- 2022-2023 District Vice-President of Membership
- 2022-2023 Local Vice-President of Competitive Events
- 2021-2022 Local Vice-President of Community Service

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO FCS**

- Attended the inaugural Oklahoma Say Yes to FCS Day
- Hosted "Mental Health Day" in conjunction with a local treatment center
- Facilitated traffic safety symposium with law enforcement
- Facilitated meeting with founder of the Austin Box Foundation in conjunction with project over opioid abuse
- Met with state legislators to advocate and promote the role of FCS in addressing mental health, opioid abuse, and traffic safety

**SCHOOL & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

- Vacation Bible School helper; Stamp Out Starvation; community Easter egg hunt volunteer; Christmas angel tree; donated show animal to Oklahoma Hunger Challenge; FFA Officer; Speech and Debate; One Act; All-State Actor; 4-H

**LOCAL FCCLA INVOLVEMENT**

**2022-2023:** Attended all monthly chapter and officer meetings; Presented opioid abuse workshop to local chapter and local fine arts department; FCCLA Kickoff Party; FCCLA Chief Pantry; National Read a Book Day presentation; Red Ribbon Week Planning Team; FCCLA Product Drive for Citizens Caring for Children; Veterans Day Assembly and Luncheon; FCCLA Friendsgiving; FCCLA Elf at Main Street Santa Store; FCCLA Christmas Party; Competitive Events Committee Chair; Recruitment Week Committee; Membership Committee  
**2021-2022:** Presented Mental Health Workshop at local high school and elementary school; Volunteered at local food pantry; FCCLA cookies for teachers; FCCLA Back-to-School Bash; Provided breakfasts for faculty members; Veterans Day Program; Canned food drive; Sunshiners' Dinner; FCCLA Christmas Party; Community Service Committee Chair; Fundraising Committee  
**2020-2021:** Presented traffic safety workshop at local high school; Organized traffic safety symposium with law enforcement agencies; Presented about seatbelt safety to elementary students; Veterans Day Program; Homestead Retirement Center volunteer; Participated in food drive

**DISTRICT/REGION FCCLA INVOLVEMENT**

**2022-2023:** District Leadership Conference Facilitator; District STAR Events Facilitator; District Officer Training; Regional STAR Events Facilitator; 1st Place - District, Professional Presentation Level 2; 1st Place - Region, Professional Presentation Level 2; District Meeting Planning Committee; District Conference Decorating Committee; Sponsored hygiene product drive for Citizens Caring for Children  
**2021-2022:** District Leadership Conference; Presented mental health workshop at a high school in our FCCLA District; Participated in sock drive for Citizens Caring for Children  
**2020-2021:** District Leadership Conference

**STATE FCCLA INVOLVEMENT**

**2022-2023:** State Leadership Conference; FCCLA Day at the Capitol; District Officer Training; LEAD Conference Facilitator; Get SET Conference; State Champion - Professional Presentation Level 2; Courtesy Corps at State Convention and State STAR Events; Volunteer at Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma  
**2021-2022:** State Leadership Conference; LEAD Conference; Oklahoma Challenge; State Champion - Public Policy Advocate Level 3 (competed up one level on a team); Oklahoma FCCLA Frontier City Event  
**2020-2021:** State Leadership Conference; State Runner-Up - Public Policy Advocate Level 2 (competed up one level on a team); Oklahoma FCCLA Frontier City Event

**NATIONAL FCCLA INVOLVEMENT**

**2022-2023:** National Runner-Up - Nutrition Challenge Level 2; National Championship Qualifier - Virtual Business Challenge, Personal Finance  
**2021-2022:** Attended NLC in San Diego; National Runner-Up and Gold Medal - Public Policy Advocate Level 3 (competed up one level on a team); Participated in We Help Two at NLC  
**2020-2021:** Attended NLC in Nashville; National 3rd Place and Gold Medal - Public Policy Advocate Level 2 (competed up one level on a team); Participated in We Help Two at NLC

**National Programs Completed:**

Stand Up (2023, 2022, 2021); Student Body (2023, 2022); Career Connection (2023); Community Service (2023, 2022, 2021); Financial Fitness (2023); FACTS (2022, 2021)



**Heather Gottsch**

Family and Consumer Sciences | FCCLA Adviser

██████████ High School

Past President, Oklahoma Association of Teachers of  
Family and Consumer Sciences

Chairwoman, Board of Directors, Oklahoma FCCLA Alumni and Associates



April 15, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to recommend Davin Budy to be considered as one of FCCLA's National Officer Candidates. Although I have only known Davin for ten months, I have seen the immediate impact he has made in our FCCLA Chapter and in our school. Academically, Davin excels and has proven he is committed to academic success. He maintains a perfect GPA of ██████ while still being extremely active in many different extracurricular activities. It is not often that a school receives a transfer student who makes such an immediate impact in a variety of programs, but Davin has done just that for ██████ High School.

Along with FCCLA, Davin is involved with our Chiefs Theatre program and in Speech and Debate. In his first year in a competitive theatre program, Davin earned the honor of being named an OSSAA Class 4A All-State Actor. Davin truly shines on stage and I have been thoroughly impressed with his ability to manage all of his academic coursework while truly excelling in all of his extracurricular activities.

Davin has also been involved extensively as an FFA Member. From his involvement in numerous service projects to his winning speeches, Davin has proven his ability to excel regardless of the stage he is on. As a freshman, he placed 4<sup>th</sup> in Creed at the State FFA Speech Contest. He had the honor of presenting the creed on stage in front of nearly 15,000 attendees. He has also qualified this year to compete in the State Finals of the AFR Speech Contest.

Davin joined FCCLA as an eighth grader, the first year he had the opportunity to do so. He immediately made an impact, competing up a level in his STAR Event, where he and his partner finished as State Runner-Up and with a gold medal and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place finish at the National Leadership Conference in Nashville. The next year, he (again competing up a level) and his partner finished as State Champions in Public Policy Advocate and topped that with a National Runner-Up finish at NLC in San Diego. Davin recently competed in the Nutrition Challenge in conjunction with the 2022 National Fall Conference and finished as the National Runner-Up in Level 2. He stepped outside of his comfort zone this year and competed in the FCCLA/Knowledge Matters Virtual Business Challenge, where he qualified for the National Championship in the Personal Finance division. He repeated in 2023 as a State Champion in Level 2 of Professional Presentation. Again, it goes without saying that Davin shines through his involvement with FCCLA.

Davin is one of the most responsible students I have had in my fifteen-year career. From his ability to portray Boggis and Mabel from Fantastic Mr. Fox on stage to the day a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives walked into my classroom for an interview with him, Davin has the drive and skills necessary to make connections with and relate to a myriad of people. As an alumna of FCCLA and a former state officer, I can say with complete confidence that Davin would be an excellent representative for FCCLA on the national stage. It is without hesitation that I recommend Davin Budy to you.

Sincerely,

Heather Gottsch

Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher and FCCLA Adviser, ██████ High School  
Chairwoman, Oklahoma FCCLA Alumni and Associates Board of Directors



**OKLAHOMA**  
STATE ASSOCIATION

Family and Consumer Sciences Education Division  
Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education  
1500 West Seventh Avenue Stillwater, OK 74074-43

April 28, 2023

National FCCLA Nominating Committee  
FCCLA  
13241 Woodland Park Road  
Herndon, VA 20171

**Committee Members:**

It is a privilege to write a letter of recommendation for Davin Budy, National Officer Candidate. I have known Davin for one year as a District Officer and now current State Officer.

Davin has served as District Vice President and Chapter Vice President. He has competed in STAR Events, bringing home 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the state and 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the National Leadership Conference in 2021 and 1<sup>st</sup> place at State and 2<sup>nd</sup> place at National Leadership Conference in 2022. This is no small feat! Along with his FCCLA involvement, he is actively involved in other CTSOs, is a One-Act Play State Champion, and excels in his academics.

Davin is intelligent and hard working. He is first to volunteer to serve and assist and last to leave, ensuring all jobs are completed before departing. He has a servant's heart, contributing countless hours to the betterment of his community and those around him. He is, without a doubt, a student that would represent all FCCLA members well and would make everyone proud to be the "face" of FCCLA.

Davin has worked with the Austin Box 12 Foundation, which is a foundation to help end opioid addiction. Austin Box, a former football player at the University of Oklahoma, tragically passed due to his addiction. Davin has worked closely with Gail Box, Austin's mother and founder of the Austin Box 12 Foundation, to plan community Red Ribbon Week activities. Davin took it upon himself to seek out Gail, schedule a meeting with her, listen to her story, and work to help prevent future deaths from opioid addiction. Following their meeting, Gail even said she had grown concerned for the world her grandchildren would be growing up in but after meeting Davin, he had given her hope that there are young people his age that will make a difference. As National Officers are the spokespeople for the organization and often meet with stakeholders and partners, this one experience shows Davin is capable and ready to take on the challenge of serving as National Officer.

I strongly encourage you to consider Davin as an outstanding candidate for the National Executive Council. He carries a passion for the organization that will not diminish with time.

Sincerely,

Brittani Phillips  
Oklahoma FCCLA State Adviser





KEELA PATTERSON

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
BRYCE SCHANBACHER, SUPERINTENDENT



LANE PRUETT

May 1, 2023

Dear FCCLA National Officer Committee:

I am writing this letter to recommend Mr. Davin Budy, [REDACTED] High School Student of the Class of 2025, for the honor of attaining a National FCCLA office. I am the School Counselor here at [REDACTED] High School, and I feel that I can certainly attest to the fact that Davin is a deserving candidate for this honor. I have known Davin's family all of my life, and I have become very well acquainted with him throughout the last couple of years. He has always been an exceptional young man; however, this year I have witnessed him develop into a young man who is ready for the challenges of FCCLA Leadership at the National Level.

Academically, Davin has produced a stellar transcript with all of his graduation requirements. Throughout his high school years he has maintained a [REDACTED] GPA while keeping a calendar full of extracurricular events. He takes his academics seriously and has the determination to achieve distinction in his coursework. His high school academic plan includes the rigors of concurrent enrollment plus attending Biomedical courses at NW Technology Center in the Fall.

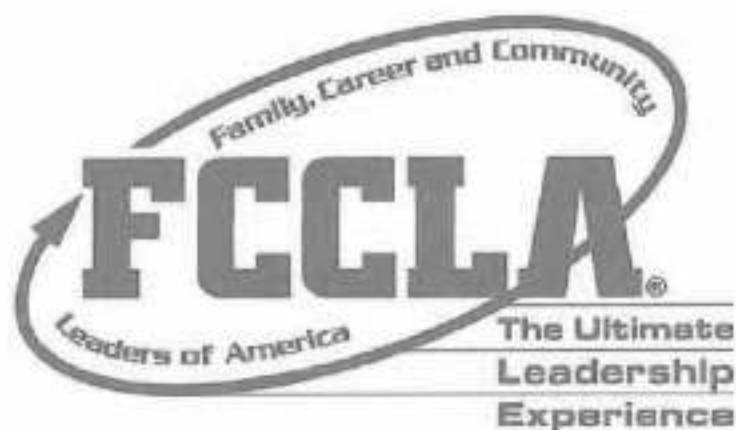
As far as extracurricular activities, Davin goes above and beyond with his level of involvement plus all of his accolades. Davin has practically been in every extracurricular activity throughout his high school years; speech, One Act, vocal, FFA, and of course FCCLA. In each of these he has had numerous awards such as; All-State One Act cast member, State Champion One Act, NW Career Academy honor, State Runner Up FFA Beef Skill-a-thon, plus many, many more. He has also been actively involved in the leadership with his Class, One Act, FFA, and FCCLA such as; being a class officer since JH, FFA Officer, and attending countless leadership meetings. In FCCLA he has been a Star Event National Winner in multiple events, representing the State of Oklahoma. This year as the CHS FCCLA Vice- President of Community Service and District VP, Davin has been instrumental in organizing and participating in multiple school/community events such as; NW District FCCLA meeting, Veterans Day, Main Street Banquet, Valentine Cupcakes, and many more. Davin has been an integral part of all of these organizations.

My interactions with Davin Budy can only be described as a privilege for me. I have been inspired by the kindness Davin shows to all the students no matter what is occurring. Davin has shown encouragement to others as he was cheering them on in their events and consoling them in defeat. He has an inner light that shines and brightens others pathways too. I am very proud of this young man and know that he has everything he needs to succeed in leading FCCLA.

I am confident to say that Davin Budy would be an amazing National FCCLA Officer. He has a strong, solid foundation of being able to balance academics and extracurricular activities, plus he has a wonderful family who will love and support him as he moves forward to this level of leadership. Please give Davin Budy your highest consideration for the FCCLA National Officer elections. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Anita Jordan, M.Ed., [REDACTED] Public Schools Counselor



# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Peter Smith III

**State:** South Carolina



**Region:** Southern





The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Peter Smith III

**State:** South Carolina



If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the [FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#).

Communication is imperative to the growth of FCCLA. As we support the communication goal, it will be essential to create a conversation guide or a flow chart for FCCLA members to fully explain FCS and FCCLA. Throughout my experience advocating for FCS, members would know adequate information about FCS/FCCLA, but they did not know how to present it. Depending on the individual, you may have to ensure key points are discussed, so they better understand. There is a difference between explaining FCS to different types of people, such as community leaders, business owners, parents, students, and even government officials. In addition, we can have State Officer training that solely focuses on explaining FCS to the general public and specific audiences, such as legislators, and the State Officers can take back what they learn to their state. Further, the flow chart would detail the roles of the student leaders and members, so each individual is aware of their role and how to communicate to each other and members outside of the organization, which builds more leadership and employability skills.

Growing FCCLA is essential to the overall success of FCCLA. Creating popup ads and hype videos to FCS teachers to start a chapter and students to join would be the initial start. In my experience, I've found out there were some teachers who just did not want to start a chapter. We could create a teacher group chat on social media that FCCLA could market to all FCS teachers and even new graduates. There were some teachers who wanted to start a chapter, but they did not know how to implement a chapter. We can create a buddy system to pair up an experienced FCCLA chapter adviser with a new one. Within our hype videos, we will send out information to become a part of our organization and how to become an advisor. In order for FCCLA membership to increase, we need student members, of course; however, to truly increase, we need to gain more chapters - which means more chapter advisors. With hype videos, we gain access to target teachers who are unsure but curious about FCCLA, and we can attract students who do not know about FCCLA. Our organization can become a mainstream topic that students and teachers would want to learn more about.

In order to support the infrastructure goal, we can create step by step tutorials for how to navigate the FCCLA website. Through my experience, my chapter advisors and stakeholders would always ask numerous questions about the location of events and various rubrics as it relates to state and national events. The step by step tutorials would be run by the officers of each chapter, for they will use their leadership skills to ensure that each member is sufficiently prepared for organizing and operating chapter meetings and other pertinent FCCLA business. This small step within infrastructure would easily help chapter advisors and members organize their chapter to help improve the system.

A major part of growing FCCLA is supporting and strengthening the program's goal. One of the primary focuses is mental health illness. Mental health has become an alarming issue during COVID and has gotten worse. The vast majority of the youth vape due to mental health concerns. They see it as a way to cope with everything. Vaping rates have also skyrocketed in teens as they have found hiding places, such as the school restrooms, where they circle in groups just to vape. Students in middle school even started to engage in this behavior. A plethora of students are getting addicted, and we can put a stop to it if we provide students with the appropriate resources to matriculate throughout their lives. Anti-vaping groups will be invited to come to present at Fall and NLC. We can also have a competition for chapters to an anti-vaping campaign at their schools.

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The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Peter Smith III

**State:** South Carolina



Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

Within my chapter, we believe that it is our responsibility to build, support, and promote personal growth and leadership development within our students and stakeholders. This is evident throughout the initiatives of the chapter as we have gathered full support from our school leaders, peers, and community. As the former State President of FCCLA, it was essential for me to bring awareness of FCCLA by hosting seminars, chapter meetings, and building partnerships with other student organizations. Throughout my tenure, many accomplishments were made, and I encourage myself, my chapter, and all other chapters to continue to pay it forward.

While enrolled in Child Development, I learned about the entire development of the child: emotional, intellectual, social and physical development of a child from birth. Learning about the areas of child development in class is one thing, but actually being able to experience beyond class is another level of understanding. As I volunteered at the elementary school on a service project with my FCCLA chapter, I demonstrated my knowledge by interacting with the children at the school. I recall having lunch during the Christmas season as we made Christmas cards, and I understood the emotional and cognitive abilities of the students by engaging in strong collaboration and truly listening to their concerns. Through FCCLA, I not only developed good listening skills, and learned how to collaborate with kids where they may understand, but I gained a deeper level of passion for humanity. I realized the true importance of service before self.

Another pertinent course that I was able to take was Teacher Cadet, which provided me with a wealth of knowledge. Along with my peers and mentor teachers, I was able to go into the classroom, share my knowledge with students, and watch them build upon what I had taught. This experience was unforgettable. At the end of my experience, I went back to volunteer because the teacher struggled with grouping her students, so I assisted them in small groups. I realized students struggled with the basic skill sets in mathematics, which made me become creative with how to teach them. I used many interactive games and my peers as resources to demonstrate fractions, addition, and subtraction. This experience caused me to think about how I might assist the students better. Further, our Teacher Cadet program now volunteers to the school after school program, and we tutor our peers during lunch.

Perspective is everything, and FCCLA has allowed me to fully see and understand how to evolve as a person. I am thankful that my service and growth helped me to be perceived as an influential person, who my peers and friends view as someone to follow. Seeing my work within the community and the school has shifted their perspective. My peers and friends have now broadened their minds to new opportunities as they work consistently to serve the community and grow their life skills in the process. During our last chapter meeting, I asked every member to reflect who they have become while joining this organization. One member stated, "I feel as if I became a part of something greater than myself because I have learned new skills, and I am able to capitalize on my skills." This showcased that we are doing the work, but we must continue to reach back to pull the rest. Through FCCLA, we all were able to understand what learning is like in real life and make a deeper connection to our understanding through our involvement.

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***Peter Saxmore Smith III***

South Carolina | [REDACTED] High School | Years in FCCLA: 3 | Years in FCS Education: 1

**Family & Consumer Sciences Courses**

Child Development 1 11th (1 credit)

**National Involvement**

National President Networking Sessions **2023**  
FCCLA week **2021 - 2023**  
National Voting Delegate **2022**  
Student Leadership Workshop **2022**  
State Officer Training **2021 - 2022**  
FCCLA week **2021- 2023**

**Chapter Involvement**

Mental Health "Love Yourself" Week **2022-23**  
Sock Drive **2023**  
Canned Goods Drive **2020-23**  
Habitat Humanity Home Works Site **2022**  
Angel Tree Gift Wrap **2020-23**  
Soup Kitchen Volunteer **2022**  
Open house presenter for FCCLA **2021-23**  
Tutored K - 1st at the elementary school **2023**

**State Involvement**

State Gold Winner - *Interpersonal Communication* **2023**  
CTE @ State House **2023**  
Leadership Conference Presenter **2022**  
Mental Wellness Conference Presenter **2023**  
State Leadership Conference **2023**  
STAR Events Judge **2022**

**Community Involvement**

Co-Founder of P. Saxmores Foundation **2023**  
OSHA 10 Certified **2023**  
Donated to St. Jude **2023**  
Covid Supply Drive **2021-22**  
Cooked food Ronald McDonald House **2021-22**  
Tennis Racket Drive **2021**  
Food Bank Volunteer **2019-23**  
Donated gifts/Cooked for Ronald McDonald House **2018-23**

**FCCLA Local and State Offices**

- SC FCCLA State President **2022 - 2023**  
Most notable accomplishment or biggest responsibility for this position
- SC FCCLA First Vice President **2021 - 2022**  
Most notable accomplishment or biggest responsibility for this position
- Chapter President **2020 - 2021**  
Most notable accomplishment or biggest responsibility for this position
- Chapter Vice President **2019 - 2020**  
Most notable accomplishment or biggest responsibility for this position

**Contributions to Family & Consumer Sciences Education**

- Local and State Legislatures  
Met with Representative Stevens and other Districts Representatives to explain the importance of FCS Education, FCCLA, and Career & Technical Education
- South Carolina High School & Middle School Principals  
Contacted **75** principals to explain the benefit of supporting an FCCLA chapter through their FCS program at the high school and middle school levels
- South Carolina Family & Consumer Science Teachers  
Contacted **100** FCS teachers encouraging them to start or continue an FCCLA Chapter at their school.





[REDACTED] High School  
[REDACTED]

April 21, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored to recommend Peter Smith III as a national officer.

As his teacher and advisor of Family, Careers, and Community Leaders of America, I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Peter for three years. He has been a tremendous student and an asset to the [REDACTED] High School FCCLA chapter and school body. His eagerness to learn and participate in various activities within his school and community shows his devotion to strengthening his school and district.

Peter is a dedicated, hardworking, and dependable student leader. His academic and leadership résumé extends beyond the classroom. Peter is an active member of various school, state, and national organizations, including Junior Beta Club Member, Interact Club Member, Clemson's Challenge for Academically Talent Students, Yale University Leadership Summit Participant, and other groups and organizations. As a Family, Careers, and Community Leaders of America member, he has served as the South Carolina State 1st Vice President and South Carolina State President of FCCLA. In these roles, he has successfully navigated and led the state FCCLA organization through the Corona Virus Pandemic by making outreach to all FCCLA school advisers across the state of South Carolina and outreach to schools that did not have active FCCLA school organizations or who were not aware of the organization's work, presence and impact on the local, state and national levels. As a result of these actions, the South Carolina State Chapter FCCLA experienced a tremendous increase in membership, which led to the largest Fall Leadership Conference that the state has ever experienced.

While Peter has positively influenced the South Carolina State Chapter of FCCLA, he is positively affecting the school community by organizing mental health education week for the students, and teachers called "Love Yourself." He is organizing a partnership between the Middle School Agriculture class and FCCLA high school chapter to start a garden to promote healthy eating. For these reasons, I recommend Peter Smith III to become an officer of the National Family, Career, and Community Executive Council.

Sincerely,

Linda Lewis  
FCS Teacher  
FCCLA Adviser



## SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ASSOCIATION

April 18, 2023

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Peter Smith III as a National Officer Candidate for Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). Peter's enthusiasm for learning and getting involved in activities for school and community involvement shows his determination to be successful. His support and dedication to this organization makes him the ideal candidate to represent this organization.

Peter has been a South Carolina State Executive Council member for two years. This past year, he has taken on the challenge of leading South Carolina as our State President. In the two years I have known Peter, he has worked tirelessly to rebuild SC FCCLA after COVID. From meeting with district representatives and schools to help rebuild SC FCCLA to building networks and channels that helped schools maintain membership and stay connected. Under his leadership, we had one of the largest Fall Leadership Conferences in South Carolina History. Under his presidency, the state executive council focused on leadership development, which resulted in the largest number of officer candidates in recent history. Peter also was involved in several volunteer activities, including Habitat for Humanity Home Work Site, Soup Kitchen Volunteer, and an Open House presenter for FCCLA. Peter was able to utilize his leadership training and skills outside of FCCLA through organizations such as JROTC and the Yale University Leadership Summit. Peter excels both in and outside of the classroom.

I am most impressed with Peter's self-respect and self-confidence. These two qualities and his ability to communicate make me confident that Peter will succeed in every endeavor. As you see, Peter is involved with many school organizations and activities, and he has excelled in all of them. He is a student who always encourages his peers and respects all advisers. As the State Adviser for SC FCCLA, I highly recommend Peter Smith III as a National Officer Candidate.

Sincerely,

  
Ginger Hill  
State Adviser for SC FCCLA



April 26, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I take great pleasure in recommending Peter Smith III for your consideration. I have the distinct joy of working with Peter as one of my Honors Calculus I students in the South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics intensive engineering program called Accelerate. As one of the most rigorous STEM programs in the state, Peter applied and qualified to participate in taking honors and dual-enrollment courses over 3 years virtually while still attending his designated home school, Woodland High School. Peter has risen as one of the top students in the program.

Academically, he is an outstanding student. His mathematical reasoning skills and work ethic serve him well. He is conscientious about his work and asks insightful questions. Exemplifying his leadership skills and breadth of interest, he is an excellent athlete and musician. He is the team captain for the varsity tennis team and a sectional leader in the marching band. On top of this, he is the SC FCCLA State President.

Most importantly, Peter is a young man of character. He models compassion and commitment in all that he does. His breadth of leadership and participation is strengthened by his servant heart. He strives for excellence in everything he does. He chose to challenge himself by taking the most difficult high school curriculum that he had available to him.

Overall, Peter is an outstanding young man with much to offer. He continues to demonstrate a depth of maturity and capacity that has earned the respect of his teachers and peers. He is certainly worthy of your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Gott", is written over a horizontal line.

Tim Gott, Ed. D.

Math Instructor



*Jeff Beckwith*  
*Superintendent*



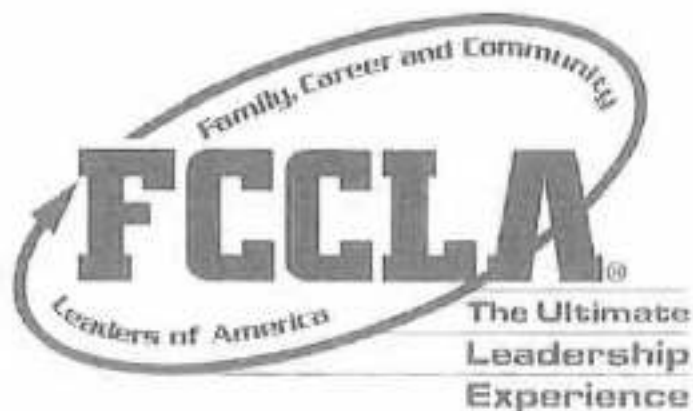
To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to verify that if Peter Smith wins the election for the National Office of National President, [REDACTED] School District Four agrees to provide a chaperone to accompany him on all required events. The advisor for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Linda Lewis, will be the accompanying party. We are extremely proud of Peter's willingness to seek such an eminent position in your organization.

Should you need any additional information, please contact the Director of Student Support Services, Nancy Britt-Stevens at [REDACTED] or via email [nstevens@dd4.k12.sc.us](mailto:nstevens@dd4.k12.sc.us).

Educationally yours,

Nancy Britt-Stevens, Ed.D



# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Lilly Mae Blume

**State:** South Dakota



**Region:** Central







## NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE ESSAY 1

The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Lilly Mae Blume

**State:** South Dakota



If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

If I were elected to be part of the 2023 National Executive Council, I would utilize my incREDible FCCLA experiences by reviewing the National Strategic Plan. The strategic plan has helped me gain key skills when communicating with many members.

To support the plan's goal of increasing communications, FCCLA needs to build a robust online presence that is up-to-date, visually appealing, and easy to navigate. A more substantial presence on social media platforms will allow the National Executive Council to connect with our members and people from different parts of the country. Sharing our message with a broader audience will help the organization stay vital and up-to-date with societal issues. As a national officer, I could offer how to social media training for officers and members on the correct usage of social media while in office and how to increase engagement in the community. These training workshops would happen at the national meeting and national fall conference. Members could complete short online training seminars for those unable to attend the national meetings. Bridging the gap between officers and members is important because being a new member can be scary. We want younger members not to be afraid to ask questions or get involved. Virtual meet and greets would be a great way to break the ice, and help new members feel more comfortable at the state and national level, while connecting with officers, advisors, and members.

To build upon Communication, Growth is the next part of the strategic plan. FCCLA would be difficult to continue without its members. We need to reach a national audience by leveraging the media to grow FCCLA by increasing the number of advisors and members with diversity of populations. FCCLA could increase its outreach by pitching stories to local and national newspapers, magazines, and television networks or working with a public relations firm that has connections with national media outlets. FCCLA could provide information to its advisors to aid recruitment efforts, such as workshops, webinars, and ready-to-use ideas posted on the website or sent out to chapters. To connect with members, we need to provide materials that showcase what FCCLA is in a fun way. For example, FCCLA could host a national contest where chapters submit a video of their recruitment activities. The top videos can be posted on social media accounts. Some of the resources that would be created could go under the Programs section of the strategic plan on the website.

The third part of the strategic plan is Infrastructure. Infrastructure relates to how the National Executive Council and staff are available to the membership. Collaborating with other non-profit organizations with a strong national reach is also an effective way to reach a wider audience. By working together, FCCLA and other non-profits can pool resources and reach a larger audience than before.

The final part of the strategic plan is Programs. Participating in National Programs is an effective way to connect with our national audience. By being present at these events and having a solid message, FCCLA can attract attention and build momentum. This could lead to the importance of providing advocacy training. FCCLA could offer advocacy in person and online training to teach members how to advocate at the local, regional, state, and national levels for CTE, FCS, and CTSOs. By being creative and persistent, we can make a significant impact and achieve FCCLA's goals.

I will continue to incorporate my incREDible experiences in my future by using the strategic plans tools of communication, membership growth, infrastructure, and programs.

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## NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE ESSAY 2

The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Lilly Mae Blume

**State:** South Dakota



**Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.**

Family, Career, and Community, Leaders of America (FCCLA) and Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) education have prepared me for my future in many ways, just as they have for all other members and students. FCCLA and FCS are sometimes overlooked in schools and communities. I started my advocacy on the local and regional levels, then slowly worked on my confidence and skills to advocate at the state and national levels. This advocacy experience has enabled me to speak out for our organization.

FCS education teaches students practical skills that can be used throughout their lifetime. Students provided with FCS education are better prepared for college, the workforce, and adult life. For example, Employability prepared me to select a career and use my skills to acquire a job in the future. I used my communication skills to inquire about job shadowing opportunities and learned how to interview. I used the interview skills gained in Employability to run for offices in FCCLA while promoting Career and Technical Education during radio interviews and leading workshops.

FCCLA is integrated into FCS, exposing students to work-based learning, business, and industry networks. As FCCLA members, we explore career opportunities and build our real-world skills. One area which I have integrated these skills is with my business, Stone-Cold Hat Company. I use the applied academic skill of communication when publicizing my business. Math and management skills are needed to carry out a profitable business. I use critical thinking and problem-solving skills when planning designs, organizing my supplies, and navigating supply issues. Supply issues have forced me to consider options and weigh the pros and cons to make proper decisions. The time management skills I have gained help me keep up with my academics and extracurricular activities. This has been invaluable to me as I continue to strive for goals within the FCCLA organization. The career cluster of Visual Arts and Design encompasses the career of Fashion Design. The designing and marketing of hats ignited my entrepreneurial spirit.

Without FCCLA, I would not be the leader I am today. I am fortunate to have a strong FCCLA chapter and school that offers many classes to help strengthen my skills in FCS. People who work with a group need to be able to negotiate and compromise because there are different opinions and perspectives. FCCLA has enhanced my interpersonal skills and helped me work cohesively with a team. FCS education provided me with many skills for life. These classes are where I got inspired to run for office on the local, region, state, and now national levels. Learning the basics of FCCLA sparked my interest and helped me gain comfort in speaking publicly and meeting new people without being shy.

The location of my chapter makes it essential to integrate FCCLA into FCS education. My hometown has a low socio-economic population. Many students battle dependency issues and have difficult home lives. The national program Families First can be taught in classrooms, showing members and students different tactics to integrate skills in their personal lives and homes, creating a more positive future for themselves.

As a state officer, I have been given opportunities to promote interpersonal skills by attending many meetings to speak about how local members can succeed in our organization. I regularly use skills provided by FCS courses to incorporate leadership and teamwork skills to accomplish results that benefit communities and individuals.

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## Lilly Mae Blume

South Dakota | [REDACTED] High School | [REDACTED] Chapter | Grade 11 | Comprehensive Affiliation | 5 Year Member

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### FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES COURSES - Total FACS Credits: 1.83

FACS Exploratory (.33): 7<sup>th</sup> | Careers (.5): 7<sup>th</sup> | Employability (.5): 11<sup>th</sup> | Fundamental Foods (.5): 9<sup>th</sup>

### FCCLA OFFICES HELD

**LOCAL:** Vice President 2019-20 & 2021-22, VP. of Communications 2020-21 **REGION:** President 2020-21

**STATE:** SD Vice President of Public Relations 2021-22, SD Advocacy Team Member 2022-23

### FCCLA PARTICIPATION

#### NATIONAL:

- Franklin Covey Leadership Academy: 2023
- National Program Award interview: 2022-2023
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place-FCCLA Knowledge Event-NFC 2022
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place FCCLA Chapter Website: Gold-NLC 2022
- Capitol Leadership-Advocacy Event: 2021
- NFC Participant: 2020, 2021, 2022
- NLC Participant: 2020, 2021, 2022
- NLC STAR Event Evaluator: 2022
- Families First Workshop Presenter: 2021
- South Dakota Primary Voting Delegate: 2021
- Preside Over SD State Meetings: 2021
- State Officer Training: 2021
- FCCLA Knowledge Bowl Participant: 2020
- Families First Workshop Presenter: 2020
- Go for the Red Individual Award: 2020
- Power of One (all 5 modules): 2019

#### STATE:

- SD State Leadership Conf. Participant: 2019-2023
- Families First STAR Event: 2019
- State-Wide Fundraiser Chair/Organizer 2021
- Region I & VI Officer Selection Team: 2021
- Leadership Team Service Project/Workshop: 2023
- Power Training: 2020; Presenter 2021
- State Leadership Training-Advocacy Team: 2022
- Most Outstanding Jr. High Member Award: 2020
- State Officer Training/Legislative Shadowing: 2022
- Fall Leadership-Plan, Preside, Presenter: 2021
- Plan/Preside SD State Leadership Conference: 2022
- SD FCCLA National Officer Candidate: 2023

#### REGION:

- Power of One Modules Recognition: 2019
- Region Meeting Participant: 2019-2022
- Plan/Preside Region Meeting: 2020
- Workshop Presenter: 2022

#### LOCAL:

- FCCLA Week Participant: 2019-2023
- Membership Committee: 2021
- FCCLA Week Committee: 2019-2023
- Birthday Boxes Chairperson: 2019
- CTE Awareness Night: 2019-2023
- Pink Night (Breast Cancer): 2019-2023
- Dodge Ball for Diabetes: 2019
- Veterans' Day Meal: 2019-2023
- Frozen Meals for Families: 2021
- Donut It Feel Good to Give (Diabetes): 2019
- Letters to Santa: 2019-2022
- Ronald McDonald House: 2019
- CTE Community Appreciation: 2019-2023
- Lettered: 2019-2023
- Presentation/Chapter Award Night: 2019-2023
- Outstanding Awards: Rookie, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, Jr., Sr.

#### SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

- **SCHOOL** – Competitive Cheer, FFA, National Junior Honor Society, Honor Roll
- **COMMUNITY** – Core Kinetics Dance, 4-H, National Junior Angus Association, National Junior Hereford Association
- **WORK EXPERIENCE:** Nanny, Barista-Simply Charming Coffee Shop, Stone Cold Hat Owner

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### PROMOTION & CONTRIBUTION TO FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES EDUCATION AND FCCLA

- Advocate for CTE, FACS Education, CTSO's, and FCCLA on Capitol Hill during 2021 Capitol Leadership in DC
- Shadowed SD Representative Caleb Weise at State Capitol-Feb. 2022-Advocated for CTE, FACS, & CTSO's
- Promote CTE at Annual CTE Auction for local CTE Scholarship and community awareness
- School Board and classroom presentations promoting CTE, Family & Consumer Science Education, and FCCLA. Shared school and community projects completed, and benefit to community
- Encourage membership and share opportunities – FCCLA recruitment in local school, region, and state
- Local radio interview: Promoting CTE Education Month and FCCLA Week



February 20, 2023

*Home of the Pheasants*

Dear National Officer Selection Committee,

Lilly Blume is an outstanding student and leader. I have had the pleasure of working with Lilly for 5 years and have known many years. I have seen her grow in experience and as a person. Over the past five years I have had the privilege of having her as a student and member in FCCLA. She is the type of person that is self-motivated, levelheaded, and self-sufficient. As one of the students that I worked with, she excelled in what she set out to do, from running for office, being a local, region, or state officer or in competitive event contests. During these five years she has demonstrated her leadership skills as a local officer (2 years), region officer, State Leadership Team, and State office as the South Dakota State Vice President of Public Relations. Currently Lilly is improving her leadership skills by participating in the Franklin Covey Leadership Academy. She is one of those students that everyone hopes to get to work with sometime in their career. Lilly is a person with great perseverance, when presented with obstacles she doesn't give up, but looks at all the alternatives to accomplish the assigned task.

Lilly Blume is an individual that exemplifies the highest standards of a FCCLA member, a student, and as an individual. She is a courteous, friendly, and hardworking person. She started as a seventh grader and has set goals of what she wanted to accomplish in school academics, school activities, life, and FCCLA. She manages to take what she has learned through her experiences and apply it to FCCLA, school and life. I have found that Lilly is an individual that strives for success. I can always count on her to complete tasks that are set in front of her and with a high degree of accomplishment. She is a goal-oriented individual that will perform well in life and willing to go that extra mile to make things just a little bit better. She is not afraid to try new things.

As a leader, Lilly is the type that will work with others to accomplish the tasks set before them. She is willing to listen to other's opinions and work toward a common goal whether it is a member, another officer, or another individual. Lilly's communication skills are one of her greatest assets; I feel this is an extraordinary trait to have. It doesn't matter if she is talking with her peers or adults; she is very confident and considerate when discussing concerns of each group. Over the past five years Lilly has carried out volunteer projects, prepared and presented many speeches, and other leadership skills through projects and STAR Events that are important on all levels of our community and FCCLA. The past 3 years she presented on projects for nationals on National Awards won by the chapter. Recently Lilly took place in a video interview with NEC on this past years National Program.

Lilly works hard in school, after school and on weekends. She can balance school and her work to achieve excellence in academics, activities, and work. Lilly is a person that sets her sights on something and will do what it takes to achieve the outcome that is satisfactory for her.

Lilly is one of the most caring and honest young ladies with a smile and heart to match. When others need someone to talk to or help with something, Lilly is always there with her words or encouragement and support. Her sense of humor can put anyone at ease and relaxed.

I am honored and privileged to highly recommend Lilly Blume for the position of National FCCLA Officer. She is a very deserving individual and would represent the ideals and standards of the FCCLA to the utmost.

Sincerely,



Cindy Brace

FCS Teacher and FCCLA adviser





# Heartland State Bank

Your Locally Owned Bank • Member FDIC

February 20, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Emily Rodgers and I am a Commercial Loan Officer at Heartland State Bank in [REDACTED] SD. I have known Lilly Blume since 2019 when she introduced herself to me and inquired about babysitting for our children during the summer. She was confident and eager and was mature beyond her years. Lilly has been our nanny since that day and has taken her job with us from a potential babysitter to part of our family. During the COVID 19 pandemic, Lilly stepped up in a huge way for our family. She helped our children with schoolwork when they had to do virtual learning during the end of the 2020 school year all while ensuring she had her own schoolwork taken care of. She structured their days to mirror a typical school day the best she could. Lilly had scheduled outdoor time, time to focus on each subject, made sure they read appropriate books or stories for their age and created art class-like projects for them.

During the summer, she continues this structured and educational atmosphere for our children. Lilly takes the kids with her to care for her show cattle and leads by example, showing them the importance of caring for animals and that work can also be a lot of fun. Lilly takes the kids on a lot of field trips to various places as well. Over the years they have visited the Watertown Zoo, various water parks and explored Wylie Park/Storybook Land in Aberdeen. My husband and I have never planted much around our house, so Lilly took it upon herself to take the kids to the store and buy flowers and plants, planters, and soil. They spent time learning how to repot the flowers and plants, how to care for them and what is best to make sure the plant grows and survives. Lilly goes above and beyond the role of "babysitter" and has given our family a lot of experiences they may have not without her.

Most recently Lilly has spent a lot of time at our home working on her small business, Stone Cold Hats Company, where she customizes felt western hats. As a business banker I work with a variety of businesses, most are established businesses, but I have worked with a hand full of startups. Lilly came to me with her idea and an example of a hat so I could understand exactly what she was doing. She had a marketing plan ready and avenues of how she will receive payments and communicate with customers. We have sat down for hours together discussing appropriate pricing, website design and construction and how to reach her maximum profit margin. The preparation and thought process of her business shows a high level of responsibility, drive and enthusiasm not often shown by someone of her age.

Watching Lilly mature from a wide-eyed, curious young girl to a determined, motivated and extraordinary young woman has been a privilege for our family. Lilly exudes strong leadership skills, is involved heavily in our community and has determination to make the world a better place.

Sincerely,

Emily Rodgers  
Commercial Loan Officer  
Heartland State Bank



Wessington  
PO Box 165  
Wessington, SD 57381  
(605) 473-2233

Higmore  
PO Box 219  
Higmore, SD 57347  
(605) 252-2177

Tulare  
PO Box 210  
Tulare, SD 57476  
(605) 596-1133

Redfield  
PO Box 40  
Redfield, SD 57449  
(605) 473-5500





South Dakota Association of  
*Family, Career and Community Leaders of America*

South Dakota State University

April 30, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

As the State Adviser for South Dakota FCCLA, I am pleased to recommend Miss Lilly Blume for consideration of a National FCCLA Officer position. Miss Blume has been an active member in the local, region, and state FCCLA organization for the past five years. She is an exceptional candidate for this opportunity. Miss Blume has shown leadership by holding numerous offices in the organization: State-Vice President of Public Relations, Region IV President, along with numerous local offices. As an officer, Lilly has been a good role model for members by actively participating in chapter, community, region, state, and national projects. Her energy and enthusiasm are contagious.

Miss Blume has demonstrated leadership on the region, state, and national level by participating in Competitive Events, Knowledge Bowl, and numerous National Program and community service projects. Lilly has attended leadership trainings at all levels. She really enjoyed the Franklin Covey Leadership Academy. She has presented workshops at the local, region, state, and national levels. Lilly prepared and presented three workshops for the South Dakota FCCLA Fall Leadership Conference in October of 2021. Lilly is responsible, and completes tasks assigned to her in a timely manner. She is not afraid to ask for assistance if needed, and willingly accepts and implements suggestions for improvement.

On the National FCCLA level, Lilly has participated in STAR Events, Knowledge Bowl, Online Events, Skill Demonstration Events, presented workshops, served as a youth evaluator for STAR Events, completed Power of One, attended State Officer Training, and served as South Dakota's primary voting Delegate at the 2021 NLC. I believe these leadership opportunities and responsibilities have helped Lilly strengthen her leadership skills and learn more about the organization.

Miss Blume has demonstrated leadership in school and community activities by setting and reaching high goals. She is active in 4-H, FFA, competitive cheer, core kinetics dance, National Junior Honor Society, National Junior Angus Association, and National Junior Hereford Association. She has learned through her leadership experiences to handle stress and balance her time between extracurricular activities and academics. As a state officer, Lilly completed officer responsibilities in a timely manner with tact and accuracy. Her responsibilities included publishing 8 issues of the state newsletter, preparing news releases for state sponsored events, and SD FCCLA social media posts throughout the year. She was an integral part of the state officer team. She was the bright light of optimism during her state officer term.

Lilly has a friendly, inviting personality, and communicates easily with others. She is responsible and dependable, two qualities that make an excellent National FCCLA officer candidate. I am certain Miss Blume would be an asset to the National Officer team because of her strong commitment to FCCLA. I fully support Lilly Blume in her endeavor to become a member of the 2023-2024 National Executive Council. Please give her your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,

Kris Brockhoff, State Adviser

*South Dakota Association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America*  
SDSU, Box 0507  
Brookings, SD 57007



# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Laney Spencer

**State:** South Dakota

**Region:** Central



## NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE ESSAY 1

The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Laney Spencer

**State:** South Dakota

If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

If elected to the National Executive Council, I would use my incREDible FCCLA experiences to promote growth, communication, improvement, and programs. A National Officer should have the resources and the drive to push our organization into the future; if elected, I plan to do exactly that.

Our organization would not be made possible without our incredible advisers who push us out of our comfort zones, teach us new things, and help us strive to be better. My adviser is an amazing example of this because she has brought me out of my comfort zone and taught me to be outgoing. As someone who used to be scared to speak in group projects, FCCLA has taught me how to effectively and actively communicate. Through many local chapter meetings, state leadership conferences, and national meetings, I have learned that communication is necessary, and it does not have to be scary. As a national officer, I would have unlimited opportunities to share my personal experience as well as show members how beneficial FCCLA can be.

We recently broke over 225,000 members nationally, which is a huge accomplishment. While this population is incredible, we shouldn't stop there. We should continually increase our membership and spread the word about our organization. If elected to a national office, I would use social media to reach potential members. By using social media, we could expose FCCLA to many non-members and show them all of the opportunities and benefits that we offer. During my time as a state officer (2022-23), I utilized social media to promote South Dakota FCCLA and my local chapter. I set up an Instagram account to promote my chapter on the local level. I would like to continue to use my experience to further our organization on the national level.

As a dynamic student organization, we should constantly strive to do better. As a teenager, I see trends come and go daily, but one thing that is a constant foundation in our organization is leadership and dedication. FCCLA is always trying to promote leadership and dedication, but as trends change, we have to adapt and change with them. As a National Officer, it would be my personal goal to make our organization not only more interactive on social media, but engaging and fun for members and non-members alike.

FCCLA should continue to promote our opportunities and programs through social media. Our organization has so many incredible opportunities and programs. For example, I have participated in several Zoom meetings with the current National Executive Council, and I have enjoyed learning so much about our amazing organization. As a national officer, I would continue to promote the numerous opportunities available to members so they can become more involved and experience everything FCCLA has to offer. For example, social media posts can inspire members to attend our National Fall Conference and be an advocate for FCS and FCCLA at Capitol Leadership.

To summarize, FCCLA has millions of opportunities; by promoting our strategic plan and goals, we can help members learn more about these experiences. Our strategic plan has been set in place to push our organization into the future, and if elected to the National Executive Council, I plan to work with the other National Executive Council members to set goals to benefit our national strategic plan.

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The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

National Officer Candidate: Laney Spencer

State: South Dakota

Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

"Look, if you had one shot, or one opportunity to seize everything you ever wanted, one moment, would you capture it or just let it slip? Picture it: my palms are sweaty, knees weak, arms are heavy." Well, not actually... those are the opening lyrics to the song "Lose Yourself" by Eminem. During the 2022-2023 school year, I had the incredible opportunity to help assist with a Nutrition and Wellness FCS class lesson. The class was made up of about ten students, many had never made more than microwave macaroni and cheese. They were tasked with making thirty dozen cookies. I came in and helped with the mixing process. At first, I was like the Eminem song "Lose Yourself"; I was nervous to try and oversee ten high school boys who had never made cookies before. However, my experiences in FCCLA helped keep me calm, cool, and collected. I realized FCCLA had taught me to overcome more challenging tasks than baking cookies.

Most people you will meet in FCCLA will tell you how they used to be shy, and being in FCCLA has helped bring them out of their comfort zone, which is 100% correct. However, I was extreme. I was the type of person who people questioned if I had actually ever learned how to talk. My current adviser taught me a unit about FCCLA during FCS classes in 7th grade. Since she exposed me to FCCLA in that FCS class, I have taken off and not looked back. Since learning about FCCLA, I have been a local officer for four years, a region officer twice, and a state officer once (one term allowed). Now I am taking the incredible opportunity to run for a national office.

FCCLA should be integrated into FCS classes because many of our goals go hand in hand. FCS classes correlate to many different FCCLA programs and career development events. For example, the boys I taught in the FCS Nutrition and Wellness class could go on to compete in STAR Events like Food Innovations, Nutrition and Wellness, Sports Nutrition, or even Event Management. Both FCS and FCCLA teach life skills. I have overcome my fear of public speaking and learned about time management, prioritizing, respect, and being an effective leader. I have also learned real-life skills like preparing a resume, filling out applications to run for office and applying for scholarships which help me prepare for college.

FCS classes can be used as gateways to all of the experiences that FCCLA offers. If I had not taken 7th grade FCS class, I would not be the person I am today. I could quite possibly still be shy and unknowing of my true potential. FCS and FCCLA go hand in hand because they both teach similar things. However, FCS classes would be even more beneficial if FCCLA was taught in them. I have learned so much in FCCLA, and by sharing those experiences in an FCS classroom, more people would be inclined to join our fantastic organization.

By taking an FCS class and being a FCCLA member, I learned that life does not have to include "palms sweaty, knees weak, and arms heavy." I have learned organizational skills, basic life skills, and presentation skills. FCCLA has given me my shot to seize everything I've ever wanted; this would not have been possible without my exposure to FCCLA in the 7th grade FCS classroom. I feel my journey through FCCLA and FCS mirrors many other member's experiences. As a National Officer, I would hope to inspire members to seize everything they've ever wanted. The integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education would help other students develop the skills needed to be successful in their future.

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## LANEY SPENCER

### SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE

██████████ SOUTH DAKOTA | ██████████ FCCLA CHAPTER | GRADE 11  
5 YEARS IN FCCLA | 1.5 CREDITS OF FCS INSTRUCTION

#### FCS COURSEWORK (1.5 credits)

- 7th grade Family and Consumer Sciences (.5 credit)
- 8th grade Family and Consumer Sciences (.5 credit)
- Personal Finance (.5 credit)

#### OFFICES HELD

##### Local:

- Chapter Historian: 2019-20
- Chapter Vice President of Public Relations: 2020-21
- Chapter President: 2021-22
- Chapter Vice President: 2022-23

##### Region III:

- Region Treasurer: 2020-21
- Region President: 2022-23

##### State:

(One Term Allowed)

- Peer Education Team Member: 2021-22
- Vice President of Public Relations: 2022-23

#### COMMUNITY/SCHOOL

- Varsity Cheer Team Captain
- Burke Color Guard Member
- Middle School Math Tutor
- ██████████ School Band
- ██████████ National Honor Society
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church Member
- Lifeserve Blood Donator

#### WORK INVOLVEMENT

- Local Pharmacy Employee
- Daysprings Coffee Company Barista
- VFW Post 9950 Janitor

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES EDUCATION

- Taught Financial Education Lessons to 7th Grade FCS Class: 2021
- Capitol Leadership Advocate: FCS Education, CTE, CTSO, & Perkins Funding: 2022
- SD Legislative Session Advocate: FCS, CTE, Education, & Funding: 2023

#### FCCLA INVOLVEMENT

##### National Level:

- Power of One (All 5 Modules) & Step One: 2018
- National Conference: 2020 (Virtual)
  - National STAR Event Competitor 2020: National Programs
- Participant in National FCCLA Webinars: 2021-Present
- National Conference: 2022
  - Volunteer Youth Room Consultant
  - State Officer Training/National Networking (Connections Network)
  - Planned and Presided Over 3 South Dakota State Meetings
- Capitol Leadership: 2022
  - Legislative Scheduler (on behalf of the State delegation)
  - State Representative (Capitol Hill & FCCLA Conference)
- National Fall Conference: 2022 Skill Event Evaluator

##### State Level:

- Fall Leadership: 2021, 2022
  - State Peer Education Team Training: 2021
  - Host/Presenter 1st & 2nd Year Member Training: 2022
- State Conference: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
  - STAR Event Competitor: 2018, 2019, 2020
    - Top Superior STAR Event Award: 2018, 2019, 2020
  - State & National Officer Voting Delegate: 2020
  - Peer Education Workshop Host: 2022 Conference

##### Region Level:

- Region III Meeting: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
  - Region Knowledge Bowl Participant: 2019, 2020
  - Region Voting Delegate: 2019
  - Planned and Presided Over Region III Meeting: 2023

##### Local Level:

- Community Service Project & Fundraiser Participant: 2018-Present
- Local Level Project Chair: 2018-Present
  - Membership Drive, Children's Carnival, Environment Clean Up, Oktoberfest, Cancer Fundraiser (3 Events), Tornado Relief Fundraiser, Canned Food Drive (4 Events)
- Middle/High School FCCLA Promotions: 2019-Present
- Create ██████████ Chapter Website: 2021



# Burke School District 26-2

P.O. Box 382

Phone: (609) 775-2644 Fax: (609) 775-2468

Robby E. Thompson  
Superintendent

Tim Sanderson  
Principal

Deb Indahl  
Business Manager

To Whom It May Concern,

It gives me great pleasure to recommend Laney Spencer as an FCCLA National Officer candidate. I have known Laney for 10+ years as a student and for the past 5 years as an FCCLA member, and have watched her grow and mature into a responsible leader in our school, community, and state organization.

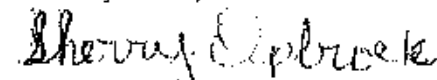
Laney is a good student who is a very independent worker. If the chapter needs something done, I can depend on her. She strives to stay on top of things and gets projects done in a timely manner. She is also not afraid to think outside the box and takes on new ideas and projects with a smile and a can-do attitude. She works well with her peers and strives to be a good role model for the younger members in our chapter.

Laney is a very compassionate young adult who is involved in her community, not only in FCCLA, but also in other organizations such as her church and other extra-curricular activities. Since joining FCCLA as a seventh grader, she has done extensive projects involving her peers, elementary students and those in need in her community. She is a "team player" and works hard to involve others in her projects, which makes her a good leader. As a member of the SD National Outreach Leadership team, she worked hard to involve her local chapter members in the projects that she has designed and planned.

Laney has many good leadership qualities. She is motivated to get things done in a timely manner and uses her resources wisely. She is goal-oriented and knows how to prioritize the things that need to get done. She is a people person and works well with others and does so in a positive manner. As a chapter officer, she works hard to be very democratic and listen to all suggestions. She is very realistic when planning activities and stays on task when given a list of things to do, but is not afraid to listen to other's ideas on how to do things.

Since she possesses so many positive characteristics, I highly recommend Laney Spencer as a National FCCLA officer candidate, and would be honored to be her adviser in this opportunity. I feel she has the leadership skills and qualities to represent FCCLA as a true advocate for our organization.

Sincerely Yours,



Sherry Opbrock

FCCLA Chapter Adviser

# Burke School District 26-2

P.O. Box 382

Phone: (605) 775-2644 Fax: (605) 775-2468

Robby E. Thompson  
Superintendent

Tim Sanderson  
Principal

Deb Indahl  
Business Manager

February 27, 2023

Dear FCCLA Selection Committee,


It is my pleasure to recommend Laney Spencer for a position on FCCLA's National Support Executive Council. As Laney's principal, I have observed her work in the classroom and out in the community.

Laney maintains a [REDACTED] GPA and is currently ranked 8th in her class of 21. She is a leader in our FCCLA chapter, band, and cheerleading team. This year, she was selected to be captain of the varsity cheer squad. When not at school, you can find Laney working at the local coffee shop, babysitting, volunteering, and participating in church activities at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

In FCCLA, she has held offices for our local chapter, as well as been region treasurer and president. Many of Laney's FCCLA projects have received gold and superior ratings. In 2020, Laney received top superior gold at the national conference. Laney's numerous FCCLA projects have positively impacted our school and community. I have always applauded her for choosing projects that help people. Her projects have benefited cancer survivors, middle school students, and community members during the tornado of 2019.

Last Fall, Laney had the opportunity to attend Capitol Leadership where she was able to visit with our local representatives and advocate for rural schools. I feel Laney possesses excellent leadership skills and would be an asset to the Executive Council. She has worked to promote FCCLA at the local, state, and national levels.

For these reasons, it is without reservation that I recommend Laney Spencer for a National Executive Council.



Tim Sanderson  
K-12 Principal  
[REDACTED] School District



South Dakota Association of  
**Family, Career and Community Leaders of America**  
103 Wenona Hall, Box 507  
South Dakota State University  
Brookings, South Dakota 57007

April 30, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

As the State Adviser for South Dakota, I am pleased to recommend Miss Laney Spencer for consideration of a National FCCLA Officer position. Laney has been an active member in the local, region, and state FCCLA organization for the past five years, and is an excellent candidate for this opportunity. Locally, Miss Spencer has shown leadership by holding the following offices: Historian, Vice President of Public Relations, Vice President, and Chapter President. As a local officer, Laney has been an excellent role model and mentor for all members by actively participating in chapter and community projects. Every year Laney plays a key role in planning and carrying out numerous community service projects.

Miss Spencer has demonstrated leadership on the Region and State levels by serving as Region III President and Treasurer, State Vice President of Public Relations, participated in STAR Events and Knowledge Bowl, and served as a member of the State Peer Education Team. Laney attended State Rookie Camp and State Leadership trainings, led workshops at Rookie Camp, and presented workshops at the local, region, and state leadership conferences. Laney is responsible, completes tasks assigned to her in a timely manner, and completes high quality work. She is not afraid to ask for help and willingly takes suggestions for improvement.

On the National FCCLA level, Laney has participated in Leadership Academy, Capitol Leadership, National Fall Conference, National Leadership Conference, Power of One, served as a room consultant at national meeting, and served as an evaluator for Skill Events at National Fall Conference. I believe these leadership opportunities and responsibilities have molded Laney into the leader she is today.

Miss Spencer has demonstrated leadership in school activities by setting and reaching high goals. She is active in band, color guard, sideline cheer, National Honor Society, and is a tutor/mentor for students in her school. She has learned through her leadership experiences to handle stress and to balance her time between extracurricular activities and academics. She maintains high academic standards while being actively involved in extra-curricular activities.

Laney has a pleasant, friendly personality, which is an asset when working with peers and adults. I believe her positive attitude and personal qualities - hard working, responsible, organized, and dependable are the qualities that make an excellent National FCCLA officer. I am certain Miss Spencer would be an asset to any officer team because of her strong commitment to FCCLA. Please give her your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,

Kris Brockhoft, State Adviser

**South Dakota Association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America**  
SDSU, Box 0507  
Brookings, SD 57007



# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Madison Nash

**State:** Texas



**Region:** Southern





## NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE ESSAY 1

The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Madison Nash

**State:** Texas



If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the [FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#).

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America is a national influential, dynamic career and technical student organization promoting personal growth through Family and Consumer Sciences. The 2022-2025 Strategic Plan supports a common goal of FCS educators preparing students for their future career endeavors. This goal can be achieved by introducing new, modern programs. Communication between youth and adults is one of the many assets acquired through FCCLA. As future leaders, students will use this skill in day-to-day life. One of the main ways to reach youth is through social media and being active on various platforms. However, many of these challenges only ask members to submit written responses, so I wondered how we could incorporate more public speaking into these programs. When affiliation was due at the beginning of the fall semester, my chapter was approached about ways to promote FCCLA in three schools. Immediately two other regional officers and I traveled to these schools and showed them FCCLA's values. As a result, all three chapters saw a substantial membership increase, and one chapter was even able to compete because of its increase in membership. Experiencing this firsthand has shown that physical connection can powerfully ignite youth communication. From this experience, the National Executive Council members could host meetings that provide one-on-one connections and promote FCCLA because of the offered interpersonal communication. Our social media challenges could encourage members to produce videos of what is going on in their chapters. These challenges would motivate other chapters to participate and set new goals locally.

Being a student-led organization appeals to many business professionals, but the appeal increases when they learn about all of the leadership opportunities we offer. Throughout my term, I have learned ways to advocate for FCCLA to expand partnerships, even at our chapter level. There have also been many times when our organization and its members have educated outside personnel about the endeavors of the Ultimate Leadership Experience. These expanded partnerships have assisted in growing our chapter and support from local businesses. If FCCLA expands its territory and increases the number of corporate business partners, it can expand support from the public and improve communication between youth and adults.

Creating new ideas each year for membership week can be a challenge. This year, our adviser took the initiative, made themed daily gifts, and passed them out to non-members and our returning, affiliated members. Our annual award ceremony highlights the members' accomplishments throughout the year and acknowledges the time and effort displayed to grow our chapter overall. Suppose FCCLA introduced a program where not only advisers but members could also submit ideas for ways they think would be practical to increase membership and make this accessible to all state associations and individual chapters. In that case, it would make meeting these chapters' goals easier. This program's name could be associated with the annual theme "Incredible." For example, a potential name could be "IncREDible Ideas" with a hashtag that corresponds and is highlighted on all social media platforms. The National Executive Council members could promote this program by encouraging state officers during the monthly Zoom and adding a link for the portal on the Member Minute.

FCCLA teaches many skills needed for future adult life. By installing new programs and incorporating technology, FCCLA will continue to stay relevant and prepare future leaders for their future endeavors.

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## NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE ESSAY 2

The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Madison Nash

**State:** Texas



Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

Family and Consumer Sciences is the study of four pathways that prepare students for maintaining a career. These pathways are; Human Services, Hospitality and Tourism, Education and Training, and Visual Arts and Design. Joining hand-in-hand with this Career and Technical Education is the Career and Technical Student Organization, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. Our organization provides many outlets such as National Programs, Competitive Events, Skill-Demonstration events, and so much more. They offer real life examples of what to expect in life after high school. I believe without integrating the classroom and FCCLA together, it would not have allowed our organization to excel in the ways it has.

During my time in the FCS classroom, I have taken; Principles of Human Services, Introduction to Culinary Arts, Culinary Arts, and Advanced Culinary Arts. These classes have taught me basic cooking skills, but they have taught me how to be a professional within the kitchen, and how to work cooperatively with others in the workforce. Principles of Human Services not only teaches about the different pathways offered in this career cluster, but also teaches individuals professionalism in the classroom, job force, and the overall public. All FCS classes teach employability skills, which are essential and necessary when preparing yourself for a future job. These skills apply to every career cluster and every pathway available. Family and Consumer Sciences courses can also assist in members' future success by acknowledging different careers within each pathway. In Addition, they have introduced myself and others, to a completely new world of opportunities with the background information needed for potentially required degrees. FCS education is also an important aspect while exploring STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) events such as Job Interview, Culinary Math Management, and Entrepreneurship. These classes can support the decision, by providing background knowledge and evidence for factual statistics. FCS classes correspond with FCCLA by providing background education and knowledge when researching different careers and hands-on opportunities to use the skills learned.

Including FCCLA within the classroom shows students unfamiliar with the organization and how using FCS education can assist and implement decision-making throughout projects and adult life. As limitless as the opportunities are in FCCLA, many do not understand the importance of FCS education. By simply being in a Family and Consumer Science class, an individual is able to affiliate with FCCLA. There is a common notion that FCS only covers basic knowledge such as child development and Culinary. However, when an individual affiliates and takes the chance by taking an FCS class, they discover how truly versatile FCCLA can be. My IncREDible journey with FCCLA started during my sophomore year, but I did not know what my role in the organization would be. After conducting research and attending a Fall conference, I realized that FCS and FCCLA were my destiny and that I was meant to pursue it. Continuing to integrate FCCLA in the classroom allows students to discover their IncREDible skills and utilize them when becoming active in FCCLA.

Our organization inspires thousands of students each year. FCCLA impacts the lives of many who are associated with it directly and indirectly. Some of our most prominent public figures such as Reba McEntire, Dolly Parton, and Bo Jackson were influenced by this outstanding organization. Who knows what the future holds for all of our members? One thing I do know is FCCLA touched them all and will leave a mark on the future because of their choice to " Say Yes to FCS."

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April 5, 2023

Mrs. Kinsley Lester  
[REDACTED]

To Whom it may Concern:

It is with honor and privilege that I write this letter of recommendation for Miss Madison Nash to represent the Texas Association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) on the national level as a National Officer Candidate. Madison has been a student of mine for the last two years at [REDACTED] High School. I have had the honor to have her in class, as a chapter member, and regional officer. Madison is in good standing with her local chapter and high school in all aspects of her participation and responsibilities.

Madison shows great strength in her leadership and community services. She has participated in many service projects including; the Marsha Fry Memorial Scholarship, Veterans day program and luncheon, region and state service learning projects, 9/11 Memorial Run, and school board appreciation. She has become a face in our community and a leader in representing our chapter and the organization to its fullest.

Madison is considered and viewed as a driven individual on campus. She exceeds all expectations set forth by her teachers and advisors. She is the type of individual that sets high goals, and does what is necessary to achieve them. Please reach to me if you would like any additional information or examples of Madison's excellence at [kinsley.lester@ballingerisd.net](mailto:kinsley.lester@ballingerisd.net).

Respectfully,



Mrs. Kinsley Lester  
[REDACTED] FCCLA Advisor  
[REDACTED] High School FCS



April 10, 2023

To Whom it may Concern:

It is with great confidence that I recommend Madison Nash for a position on the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Executive Council for the 2023-2024 membership year. Madison is a member in good standing from [REDACTED] FCCLA. Madison served as the Texas FCCLA Region II Vice President of Public Relations in 2022-2023.

Madison's involvement in FCCLA includes serving as a local officer, regional officer, and completer of all units of Power of One. She has worked on various community service projects on both the local, region, and state levels. Additionally, she has completed civic presentations promoting FCCLA within her community. Madison has also participated in One Act Play, is a member of the National Honor Society, class officer, and member of the band.

Madison has exceeded the expectations set forth as a region officer in Texas. She is the kind of leader that would excel as a member of the NEC. If you need more information or additional examples, please do not hesitate to contact me at [misaacs@texasfccla.org](mailto:misaacs@texasfccla.org).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Isaacs".

Melissa Isaacs  
State Adviser

# BALLINGER

Independent School District

April 17, 2023

FCCLA Committee Evaluator,

I am privileged to write in support of Madison Nash. Madison has studied at [REDACTED] High School, during which time I have witnessed her tremendous growth and development. This development came not only in the area of academic achievement and leadership, but in maturity and character as well.

I believe Madison exhibits many of the qualities that are essential to success at the college level and beyond. Additional opportunities at through your organization will help her hone these qualities, while enhancing her career opportunities. I highly recommend Madison Nash for your council and know that she will be successful in this environment.

This submission is certain to list extensive winning ways exemplified by awards and accomplishments. I seek to contribute that Madison's role offers even more added dimensions. I have watched this young lady grow and overcome as obstacles were placed in her path. With a limitless intensity, she has become an intelligent young woman ready to work hard to achieve her dreams.

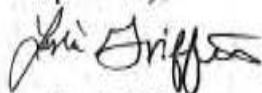
Madison is organized, efficient, extremely competent, and has an excellent rapport with people of all ages. Her communication skills, both written and verbal, are excellent. While in high school she has been active in FCCLA, class officer, NHS, UIL One Act Play, band, and student council. All the while, Madison has maintained an 'A' average and is in the top of her class.

In addition to her participation in school sponsored activities, Madison has shown her work ethic and giving spirit through community involvement and volunteer efforts. Through her local membership local philanthropies, she has given her time to volunteer with the needy and travel abroad on mission trips. Holding with her regard for others, she also chose to spend her volunteer hours giving back to her community through service with the National Honor Society group at Ballinger High School. Ethical leadership skills are part of this all-round highly developed candidate.

I recommend Madison Nash with absolute confidence. She has made me proud, as her principal, and I am sure will continue to do so as she grows at college and beyond.

Thank you for the opportunity of correspondence.

Respectfully,



Leslie Griffis

Principal

[REDACTED] High School

[REDACTED] Independent School District

## **Madison Nash**

██████ Tx ██████  
██████ FCCLA

### **Personal Profile**

- I am currently a junior from ██████ High School, and a proud member of ██████ FCCLA. I have been a member of our chapter for two years, but have been taking Family and Consumer Sciences courses since my freshman year. For three years, I have been taking Culinary Arts, so I overall have 7 credits, but I am currently working on my 8th credit. During my sophomore year, I completed two credits in Principles of Human Services. The employability skills I acquired, as well as having my Food Handler's Certification, assisted me in receiving my first job as a waitress at a local business.

### **Past FCCLA Offices Held:**

- Chapter Vice President of Competitive Events. **(2021-2022)**
- Region II Vice president of Public Relations. **(2022-2023)**
- Chapter Vice President of Community Service. **(2022-2023)**
- Region II State Officer Candidate. **(2023-2024)**
- Texas National Officer Candidate. **(2023-2024)**
- Executive Chair of the Chapter Officers. **(2023-2023)**

### **FCCLA Involvement.**

- Bearcat Café, Marsha Fry, passing out cards at the nursing home for Valentine's Day, clean up our community, Ballinger Auto Shop Grand Opening, Presentation to the 8th Graders, Veterans Day program, selling products at the Grinch, Trunk or Treat booth, Kiss A Pig, M'Packed, decorating for Pink Out, Fall Leadership, Region II Leadership Conference, Texas State Leadership Conference, Virtual Fall Leadership Conference. **(2021-2022)**. Wylie presentation and recruitment, Freshman night, Eula/Millsap FCCLA workshop, Fall Leadership Workshop, Veterans Day Program, Nursing- home outing (monthly), Marsha-Fry Pink out decorating, Pass the Bucket for Breast Cancer, Bearcat Café, Ballinger Dinner Theatre, Homecoming Spirit Gifts and Float building, Powderpuff, Volunteer for Toys for Tots, Angel Tree, June Leadership Officer Training, State Fall Leadership Conference, Region 14 Center Fall Leadership Workshop, Region IV Conference, Fall Executive Council meeting, August Chapter Officer Planning, Chicken Spaghetti Fundraiser, Operation Gratitude Sewing Night, Region II Leadership Conference, State Leadership Conference, All five Power of One Recipient, End of the Year Installation and Award Ceremony. **(2022-2023)**.

### **School Honors and Community Involvement.**

- Who's Who award for Spanish 2, A-B honor roll for 6 years consecutively, District Honorable Mention All-Star Cast, State Honorable Mention All-Star Cast, State One Act Play (first place) Runner-up, Bi-District Champions, Area Runner-up, Regional Champion, Chapter Member of the Year **(2021-2022)**, Leadership Award **(2021-2022)**, Helping Hand Award **(2021-2022)**, Band Area Finalist. Head Bass Drum **(2021-2023)** One Act Play Zone All-Star Cast, Junior Class President, Student Council Historian/ Reporter, National Honors Society Member, Basketball Concession Stand, Homecoming Week School Decorating with cheerleaders, Memorial Day 5k volunteer, Ballinger Theatre Camp volunteer, Teeing up for Tate volunteer, Pancake Meal, Mexico Mission Trips, Federal Funds Advisory Council Member. **(2022-2023)**





# 2023 National Officer Candidate

## Application Packet

**NOC Name:** Estrella Trujillo

**State:** Texas



**Region:** Southern





## NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE ESSAY 1

The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Estrella Trujillo

**State:** Texas



If elected to the National Executive Council, how will you utilize your incREDible FCCLA experiences to support the organization's strategic plan? Thoroughly explain your ideas and connect them to specific strategic goals from the [FCCLA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#).

My incREDible experiences with FCCLA include my first year of becoming a FCCLA member and running for an officer position. Prior to becoming a Regional Officer candidate, my adviser saw my potential despite me not having any experience in regards to FCCLA; however, this only encouraged me more. FCCLA has permitted me to make new friendships who I now call my family. As I attended FCCLA events, I shared my journey on social media which captured the attention of students. Using social media, it allowed me to complete one of the Strategic Plan, Growth by increasing our chapter membership. After my first year with FCCLA our chapter membership skyrocketed 75 percent. A key component in the growth of FCCLA is our advisers, my adviser gave me the opportunity and without them there would be no FCCLA.

Along with the growth in chapter membership, a way to increase international communication for FCCLA is by investing in more social media content. Young adolescents live on social media and are constantly entertained and provided with ads that interest them. For instance, the creation of an FCCLA Tik Tok, Instagram Reels, and Snapchat would benefit the organization. Tik Tok is a global app that allows individuals to interact with others and can increase our diversity. Instagram Reels are similar to Tik Tok, and it would be convenient since FCCLA already has followers on Instagram. A way to incorporate FCCLA into Snapchat would be by assigning different weeks to each National Officer to showcase how they embody FCCLA in their personal lives. Another way to increase communication in FCCLA is through the use of branding. For example, the Texas state officers have decided to incorporate personalized ducks for officer training camp. By doing so every time an individual sees a rubber duck, they are reminded of FCCLA. I believe FCCLA should advertise the national pet mascot more to create an amazing opportunity for branding and cohesion. In fact, Texas FCCLA has done this, with a stuffed monkey which intrigues many individuals to gain more interest in the organization. Which then leads to the third Strategic Plan, Programs. I was able to experience the Community Service program through my peers who competed in it. This program is dedicated to collecting food cans to donate to those unable to obtain food. This program allowed unity within my community and made a positive impact. However, we need to make sure the national programs are relevant to the changes we see in society and accessible to all members. Working through the FCCLA national programs is often a difficult process to navigate as a newcomer because the layout is difficult to comprehend. Including a slideshow or examples thoroughly explaining each step would allow more incomers to complete not only the power of ones but numerous programs.

Those who invest and dedicate their time to the infrastructure of FCCLA help numerous students find their identity. I was able to branch out and see a whole new side of myself through FCCLA. A way to increase the infrastructure is by networking with more CTSO organizations to bring in individuals with similar interests. This world informs stakeholders that they are not just helping random individuals but students who will lead the world to a better place through the knowledge they obtained from FCCLA. While looking through the main components of the strategic plan, the inclusion of FCCLA members in every step of the decision-making process is important because they are what makes this organization incREDible. Just like millions before and after me, FCCLA has allowed me to conquer my weaknesses through the FCCLA mission. In addition, I grew as an individual and developed leadership skills useful for my future career. Which supports the validity of the FCCLA vision that creates future leaders of America.

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## NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE ESSAY 2

The essay question below is limited to one page only, do not alter this format, and do not attach additional information.

**National Officer Candidate:** Estrella Trujillo

**State:** Texas



Explain the importance of the integration of FCCLA into Family and Consumer Sciences education, providing examples from your own educational experiences.

Students who are involved in FCCLA enhance their involvement in Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) education by developing lifelong skills including leadership, organization, eloquence, and analytical skills. Without the incorporation of FCCLA into FCS education, numerous students would not have the opportunity to become future leaders of America. For instance, members of FCCLA can get out of their shell and compete in categories they are interested in from FCS classes. Through the categories provided in FCCLA, individuals expand their speaking abilities by running for office and presenting their projects to judges. In fact, prior to me becoming an incREDible FCCLA member, I was not able to speak in front of a crowd. When I was in the Introduction to Culinary Arts class on occasions, I would be too nervous about something incorrect, so I would sit back and observe. This all changed once I joined FCCLA and witnessed multiple individuals shining bright and presenting themselves with pride. This inspired me to submit my regional officer candidate form. I have seen my speaking ability improve drastically through my experiences as an officer, as well as growth within myself.

The introduction of FCCLA in FCS education allows individuals to meet a wide diversity of people around the world. In fact, without FCCLA, students would not have the opportunity to travel around their state and to Nationals. FCCLA has offered multiple opportunities for people to meet new peers who they can now call family. The bonds I have made through FCCLA are some of the strongest connections in comparison to other friendships. I tend to look forward to FCCLA events and conferences not only for the leadership opportunities, but also for the ability to see my long-distance friends. As the number of FCCLA members rise, so do countless numbers of new families.

FCCLA helps students strive in FCS education by helping them discover their career paths and achieve goals with guidance and scholarships. The competitive events and programs provided in FCCLA have a broad-spectrum in the workforce for students to succeed in their career. For instance, food science and service, child development, fashion design, interior design, and hospitality are all examples of the various classes provided to individuals that allow growth. In addition, it allows students to gather professional perspectives and industry experiences. In my previous term as a Regional Officer, I had the responsibility to take minutes and function at the registration and FCCLA store. This is an activity performed in meetings including businesses, school board administration, and other professional situations. By working at the registration and FCCLA store it allowed me to get hands-on experience with strategic management and marketing. Furthermore, students often struggle to acquire enough money to support their passion and future degree. Therefore, the scholarships provided by FCCLA can greatly benefit and motivate students to be involved in FCCLA.

Prior to the installation of FCCLA in 1945 to FCS education, individuals did not have the same opportunities to improve speaking abilities through competitions, and the ability to travel around the state and build unbreakable connections with individuals. Furthermore, the introduction of industrial and business career experiences with scholarships help students access those dreams. Without FCCLA, students would not have the opportunity to stimulate leadership growth and personal development. These developments in FCCLA and FCA have created a program that offers numerous opportunities for all students to participate in activities, experiences that have the potential to change their lives, and help them pursue a bright successful future.

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**Estrella Trujillo**

Texas

High School

FCCLA

Junior

FCCLA member 2 years

Total Years Completed FCS: 1 year

### **Objectives**

I have acquired numerous skills necessary to represent FCCLA as a National Officer such as integrity, compassion, flexibility, and strategic thinking. I understand the responsibility and commitment one must do in regards to becoming a National Officer. In addition, I am willing to prioritize my efforts towards this organization before any other extra-curriculars.

### **School Involvement**

Family and Consumer Science Courses Taken

INCULART (Sophomore) 1 credit

### **FCCLA Involvement**

#### **Past Offices Held**

Local Vice President for FFA (2020-2021)

Local Chapter- Vice President of Service Learning,  
(2021-2022)

Region I Vice President of Records, (2022-2023)

Local Chapter Vice President, (2022-2023)

State VP of Leadership Development(2023-2024)

#### **Power of One Unit Completed**

A Better You

Working on Working

Take the Lead

Speak out for FCCLA

Family Ties (all 2021)

#### **FCCLA Events and Projects**

Region 1 Service Learning Project, (2021-2022)  
(2022-2023)

FCCLA Officer Training Camp, June 2022

Fall Workshop, San Angelo, Sept. 2022

FCCLA Community Service Project, 2022-2023

Helper for Region II (Registration and Store), 2023

Membership Drive (2022-2023)

#### **Extra-Curricular Involvement**

Varsity Track Team(2020-2021)

(2021-2022)(2022-2023)

Varsity Cross Country (2020-2021)

FFA (2020-2021)

Varsity Volleyball Team (2021-2022)(2022-2023)

FCCLA (2021-2022)(2022-2023)

### **School Honors**

FFA Greenhand degree (2020-2021)

FFA Banner (2020-2021)

All A honor roll (2020-2021)(2021-2022)(2022-2023)

Area qualifier track and field (2020-21) (2021-2022)

Regional qualifier for track and field

ServSafe Food Handler Certification (2021)

National Honor Society Inductee (2022)

Valedictorian (9th-11th)

Top 10 Percent Class (2022-2023)

Eagle Award; Intro to Culinary Arts

Eagle Character Cards

Prom Committee (2022-2023)

Athlete of the Year (2021-2022)

Volleyball Eagle Award (2021-2022)

Dual Credit and Enrollment (2022-2023)

### **Community Involvement**

Serving Meals at Elementary Family days  
(2021-2022)(2022-2023)

Concession stand worker (2021-2022) (2022-2023)

Fort Concho Volunteer (2022)

Food Can Drive (Fall 2022) (Spring 2023)

Teach & Rise Conference (2021-2022) (2022-2023)

NHS Community Service, 2022-2023 (10 hours)

Sock Fundraiser (donate pairs back), 2023





April 10, 2023

To Whom it may Concern:

It is with great confidence that I recommend Estrella Trujillo for a position on the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Executive Council for the 2023-2024 membership year. Estrella is a member in good standing from [REDACTED] FCCLA. Estrella served as the Texas FCCLA Region I Vice President of Records in 2022-2023.

Estrella's involvement in FCCLA includes serving as a local officer, regional officer, and completer of all units of Power of One. She has worked on various community service projects on both the local, region, and state levels. Additionally, she has completed civic presentations promoting FCCLA within her community. Estrella has also participated in FFA events, is a member of the National Honor Society, and track teams.

Estrella has exceeded the expectations set forth as a region officer in Texas. She is the kind of leader that would excel as a member of the NEC. If you need more information or additional examples, please do not hesitate to contact me at [misaacs@texasfccla.org](mailto:misaacs@texasfccla.org).

Respectfully:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Isaacs".

Melissa Isaacs  
State Adviser



512-306-0099



1107 W. 15th Street, Austin, TX 78758



[misaacs@texasfccla.org](mailto:misaacs@texasfccla.org)





High School Campus

Website: [www.grapecreekisd.net](http://www.grapecreekisd.net)

To whom it may concern,

It is with my greatest pleasure that I have this opportunity to recommend Estrella Trujillo for a position on the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Executive Council for the 2023-2024 membership year. I have known Estrella for the past three years while she has been an extremely active member and officer of the Family Career Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) at [REDACTED] High School as well as a student in my class.

Estrella is an outstanding FCCLA officer who consistently works hard and exceeds my expectations. She is able to quickly grasp new concepts and apply knowledge to practical situations, she is witty and thinks quickly on her feet. She communicates her ideas effectively both orally and in writing, she is an excellent public speaker and has been recognized for her talents. These traits have helped her in FCCLA competitions where she has run for regional and state officer positions.

I have seen firsthand that she not only works well independently but with her peers through my involvement with her in and out of the classroom. Estrella is very organized, and determined and has an infectious zeal for life. She is able to motivate others and brings positivity to every activity she participates in. There are not many young people today I can say that about.

Miss Trujillo is very mature, motivated, and hard-working with a clear sense of her goals. She adapts well to new situations and is well-liked by her fellow students, she is also very nurturing, and after all, that is a wonderful characteristic for a student to have.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mandi Hasty".

Mandi Hasty

[REDACTED] FCCLA Advisor

FCS Teacher

# Grape Creek

Independent School District



High School Campus

Web site: [www.grapecreekisd.net](http://www.grapecreekisd.net)

10 April 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in recommendation of Estrella Trujillo, a junior at [REDACTED] High School. As the Principal at [REDACTED] High School, I have known Estrella for the past three years. In this time, she has proven to be a thoughtful and determined student with strong leadership and interpersonal skills.

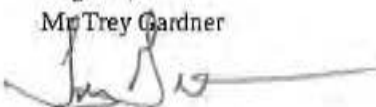
Estrella is involved in a variety of worthy public service activities. Through her school, she is a selected member of the National Honor Society at [REDACTED]. She has participated in NHS community service, serving meals to the community during Thanksgiving and Christmas, as well as volunteering at Fort Concho. Ms. Trujillo has helped organize and run food can drives for the local food bank the last two years. Her willingness to serve others speaks volumes about the strong character and senses of "life direction" that she possesses.

In addition to these activities, Ms. Trujillo has been active in [REDACTED] High School, participating in FCCLA where she has served as Local Chapter Vice President and Region I Vice-President of Records. During this time she has completed the Power of One, participated in the Region 1 Service Learning Project, Officer Training Camp and FCCLA Community Service Project. Outside of FCCLA, Estrella has served as Local Vice-President for FFA, been a member of varsity volleyball, cross-country and track, in which she was an Area Qualifier.

Lastly, but certainly not least, Estrella Trujillo is a strong student. Currently ranked first in her class ([REDACTED] GPA), Her ability to volunteer, participate in varied high school activities, and maintain strong academic performance proves that Ms. Trujillo is able to live a well-balanced and busy lifestyle. This attribute will undoubtedly lead her to success in the academic and professional realm.

I recommend Estrella Trujillo without reservation. Not only do I believe she will succeed in her post-secondary endeavors, but I also believe that the talents that she brings will add to the value of any program. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,  
Mr. Trey Gardner

  
Principal

[REDACTED] High School  
325-653-1852