



FLORIDA
STATE ASSOCIATION

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Florida FCCLA Students Competed in the National STAR Event Competition at the 2023 FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Denver, CO, July 2-6, 2023



Florida FCCLA State Executive Council (l-r) President Alice Francois, President-Elect Chelsea Edenfield, VP - Community Service Gabe Long, VP - Careers and Alumni Valeria Lozado, VP - Management Katie Barth, State Director Jessica Raia-Long. Missing: VP - Public Relations Andrea Mondragon and VP - Junior Relations Isabella Smith.

Denver, CO, July 2023 – The 2023 FCCLA National Leadership Conference (NLC) took place in Denver, CO from July 2-6, drawing more than 7,900 students, educators, and guests from across the nation. This gathering provided a valuable platform for attendees to expand their leadership skills, sharpen their talents, explore career pathways, and listen to inspiring speakers.

At the heart of the conference were the highly anticipated Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) Events. Over 4,300 FCCLA members competed in these events, where they were recognized for their proficiency and achievement in chapter and individual projects, leadership skills, and career preparation. The collaboration between youth and adults in managing the events and evaluating participants allowed students to develop real-world skills and gain valuable insights.

STAR Events play a pivotal role in supporting student development by enhancing their classroom experience and guiding them towards successful career pathways. With more than 30 events to choose from, participants have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and abilities by actively addressing important issues concerning families, careers, or communities. By researching the topic and implementing projects to advocate for positive change, students acquire valuable skills and industry insights needed to thrive in the 21st century.

We are thrilled to share that 30 Florida FCCLA chapters and nearly 200 students proudly represented the state of Florida at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Denver, CO. They competed in Baking and Pastry, Culinary Arts, Entrepreneurship, Public Policy Advocate, Fashion Design, Early Childhood Education, and Teach and Train to name a few STAR Event competitions and achieved a remarkable 14 Gold medals, 67 Silver medals, and 55 Bronze certifications.

The following students placed in the top 10 nationally in their respective events and should be recognized for their exceptional work: Chapter in Review, Brice Glenn, Progress Village Middle School, 9th Place; Chapter Service Project Display, Georgi Churchwell and Halinah Taylor, Ponce de Leon Senior HS, 5th Place; Chapter Service Project Portfolio, Tess Lippincott, Andrea Mondragon, and Sydney Nolin, 5th Place; Culinary Arts, Cristian Gallego, Leto HS, 9th Place; Public Policy Advocate, Kylie Moo-Paw, Hill MS, 7th Place; Public Policy Advocate, Brooke Harris, Lake Gibson HS, 8th Place; and Repurpose and Redesign, Hunter Weimorts, Ponce de Leon Senior HS, 7th Place.

These students' project exemplifies their dedication, creativity, and commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of others. Their accomplishment at the national level is a testament to their hard work, teamwork, and unwavering passion.

Honored with the Spirit of Advising Award at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference is Zulma Cintron from Orange Technical College, South Campus. Mrs. Cintron supports and works with her students to ensure their success, encourages positive character development of her students and her colleagues, dedicates her time and energy to nurture her student leaders, and believes in the mission of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.

Completing his leadership role at the National Leadership Conference as the FCCLA National Executive Council Vice President – Finance, Jorge Sanchez, 2023 graduate of Jefferson HS, will remain on the National Board of Directors in a consultant role.

About FCCLA

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a dynamic and effective student-led nation-based organization supporting youth on their journey to become the leaders of tomorrow and helping them address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through Family and Consumer Sciences education. FCCLA has over 237,000 members and more than 5,100 chapters across the nation.

FCCLA: The Ultimate Leadership Experience is unique among youth organizations because its programs are planned and run by members. It is the only career and technical intracurricular student organization with a central focus on careers that support families. Participation in national FCCLA programs and chapter activities aids members in becoming strong leaders in their families, careers, and communities.

For more information on FCCLA, please visit the state website www.flfccla.org.

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