

Tuning in to Leadership with Montana FCCLA
By: Megan Vincent, Montana FCCLA State Adviser

Over 740 students, advisors and chaperones gathered in Billings, Montana March 24 – 26 at the 66th annual Montana Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) State Leadership Conference to help students ‘tune in for leadership.’

During the opening session, Montana FCCLA awarded a donation of \$17,056.48 for our State Outreach Project, Make-A-Wish Montana, to Heather Ohs (Make-A-Wish Montana’s State Manager), and Terra (a Montana wish recipient) along with her family and wish granting volunteers. Delegates then listened to the dynamic motivational speaker Laymon Hicks, who shared his “Get Up, Get Out, Go Get It” message with the delegation.

On Monday, FCCLA members had the chance to participate in leadership training led by Parallel 49 Strategies, explore career options in Construction/Design, Culinary Arts, and Early Childhood Education by touring local businesses and compete in National STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) and State Proficiency Events. Medals awarded included 162 gold medals, 119 silver medals, 130 bronze medals and 48 certificates of participation. The top winner of each STAR Event is eligible to compete at the 2013 National Leadership Conference July 7 – 11 in Nashville, TN. (For a complete listing of event winners, please read the latest Montana FCCLA Talk of the State newsletter available at www.mtfccla.org.) Members also chose from a wide variety of workshops and awareness sessions to learn about leadership, creating a game plan, leadership & autism, Fuel Up to Play 60, suicide prevention, drinking & driving prevention, music from around the world, and self-defense techniques.

Penny Linhart, Grass Range FCCLA, received the Spirit of Advising Award. The Montana FCCLA Scholarship was awarded to Kaylee Knoche of Forsyth for \$500 and Lindsay Stickel of Terry for \$250. Fourteen members received scholarships from Johnson & Wales University for their scores in the Applied Technology, Culinary Arts and Job Interview STAR Events. Three Forks FCCLA was recognized as the largest affiliated chapter in the state; Grass Range FCCLA was recognized for the ‘Early Bird’ affiliation award; Choteau FCCLA was recognized for the largest percentage membership increase.

The 2013-2014 State Executive Council was installed during the conference which includes:

- President: Calli Dixon, Fergus HS
- Vice President: Hayden Denman, Bozeman HS
- Secretary/Treasurer: Rachel Juel, Scobey HS
- Community Service: Kerri Huso, Jefferson HS
- Competitive Events: Ellen Guyer, Carter County HS
- Development: Courtney Martinez, Columbus HS
- Membership: Mason Kearns, Sunburst HS
- Parliamentary Law: Shannon Herring, Havre HS
- Programs: Sadee Miller, Hot Springs HS
- Public Relations: Dylan Woods, Shepherd HS
- State Chapter Parent: Mardee Guyer, Ekalaka

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