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KENTUCKY STUDENTS WIN AWARDS AT FAMILY, CAREER AND COMMUNITY LEADERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Nearly 200 Kentucky students and advisers traveled to Atlanta this summer to participate in the annual Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Leadership Conference and came home winners in several ways.

The conference provided Kentucky students the opportunity to come together to listen to inspiring speakers, expand their leadership skills, sharpen their talents and explore career pathways. The theme of this year's conference was "Inspired by FCCLA," which encouraged attendees to make the right choices and commit themselves to make a positive impact within their families, schools, FCCLA and communities.

"Our national leadership conference was a great success this year, with a record-setting attendance of more than 7,500 members, advisers, partners and guests," said Sandy Spavone, executive director of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. "We've watched thousands of students come together and realize their full potential through competition, career training and workshops. The relationships developed and training experienced during this conference have empowered students to go into their schools and communities and make a difference, bringing with them the values and passions FCCLA brings to our members."

Students from across Kentucky participated in one of 30 Family and Consumer Sciences competitive events, including STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) Events and the FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl. These events support foundational, leadership and workplace skills in areas such as advocacy, culinary arts and entrepreneurship. Competing with more than 4,500 STAR Event participants in Atlanta, Kentucky's 90 participating students won 48 Gold, 34 Silver and 12 Bronze awards.

Kentucky teachers also won accolades. The Family, Career and Community Leaders of America's Adviser Recognition Program rewards outstanding local Family and Consumer Sciences teachers who make significant contributions to the organization.

"We are proud to honor the recipients of the Master Adviser program as outstanding leaders in their communities, schools and states. Adviser recognition plays an important role in highlighting the accomplishments and efforts of FCCLA's educator population," Spavone said.

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The Master Adviser program recognizes advisers who have successfully led an FCCLA chapter for at least three years. These advisers promote the organization, operate an integrated chapter with a balanced program of work and facilitate youth-centered activities while keeping abreast of the issues in their field. Shannon Roberts from Mason County and Lauren Williams from McCracken County were recognized this year as Master Advisers.

Adviser Laura Spiegelhalter, from DuPont Manual High School (Jefferson Co.), received the 2018 Spirit of Advising Award for demonstrating excellence in modeling FCCLA character in helping students achieve success. The award goes to chapter advisers whose patience, good humor, flexibility and skill form the foundation of FCCLA at the local and state levels, who are constantly faithful and often quietly working behind the scenes to ensure the success of their students. This honor is bestowed on only one FCCLA chapter adviser from each state.

Kentucky Family and Consumer Sciences State Supervisor Kayla Godbey received the Distinguished Service award for her efforts in providing outstanding service to the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Organization at the local, region, state and national levels. Godbey developed a program to highlight students who have “Said Yes to FCS” (Family and Consumer Sciences), which encouraged more students to major in Family and Consumer Sciences Education.

Kentucky State Adviser Reeca Carver also was recognized for her 15 years of service and for assisting with the National Competitive Events Team as past lead consultant. Carver was in charge of making sure the competitions for more than 4,200 STAR Event participants in 30 different events went smoothly.

Throughout the year, FCCLA members tackle issues such as teen violence prevention, traffic safety, family issues, and career exploration. FCCLA programs and competitions support students’ development of knowledge and skills by enhancing the classroom experience and career pathway initiatives while participating in work-based learning and developing college and career-ready skills.

FCCLA offers national recognition to chapters that complete projects involving the student body at their school. This year, McCracken County High School received the High School National Student Body Program Award with their project “Tooth Fairy on Tour.” The chapter received a \$1,000 cash award and special recognition at the National Leadership Conference, online, and in *Teen Times* magazine. They also were recognized by America’s Tooth Fairy Association and presented with an additional check of \$1,000 and a trophy.

A [list of Kentucky individual student winners](#) is available online.

About FCCLA

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a dynamic and effective national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work and societal issues through Family and Consumer Sciences education. FCCLA has more than 160,000 members and more than 5,300 chapters from 49 state associations, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

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FCCLA: The Ultimate Leadership Experience is unique among youth organizations because its programs are planned and run by members, and it's the only career and technical in-school student organization with a central focus on family. Participation in national programs and chapter activities helps members become strong leaders in families, careers and communities.

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