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Dear Kiwanis Members:

Last Friday, six students from the Business Administration & Technology (BAT) Career and Technical Education program at Canaan Memorial High School traveled to Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont to compete in the annual Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference. With more than 300 students and advisors in attendance, the conference provides high school students an opportunity to develop leadership skills, explore careers in business, and compete in rigorous academic events.

I am proud to share that all six students qualified to advance to the FBLA National Leadership Conference by placing in the top three of their competitive events. In addition, our students tied for first place in the Local Chapter Annual Report, which is a significant accomplishment given that Canaan Memorial High School represents the smallest FBLA chapter in the state of Vermont. Although we ultimately placed second following a tiebreaker, we are extremely proud of this achievement. The large second-place trophy is proudly displayed in our business classroom and will be engraved with Canaan Memorial High School – 2026, where it will remain until next year's competition.

The students' accomplishments include:

FIRST PLACE:

Sales Presentation – Sienna Grondin and Rylie Lynch
Visual Design – Aislinn McCarthy and Liah Thibault

SECOND PLACE:

Local Annual Chapter Business Report – Sienna Grondin, Rylie Lynch, and Liah Thibault

THIRD PLACE:

Intro to Business Presentation – Owen Croteau and Christian Ericksen-Degray

These students have spent months preparing for their competitive events, and their dedication paid off with each of them earning the opportunity to compete at the national level.

The FBLA National Leadership Conference will take place in San Antonio, Texas from June 29 – July 2, with our group traveling from June 28 – July 3. This event will bring together more than 16,000 students from across the United States and several other countries. During the conference, students will compete in national events, attend leadership and business workshops, and connect with peers who share similar career interests.

Beyond the competition itself, the conference provides an invaluable opportunity for students to strengthen their communication, collaboration, and leadership skills while representing their school, community, and the state of Vermont on the national stage. Our students come from a small rural community, and many have had limited opportunities to travel. For some, this trip will even be their first time flying on an airplane. Experiencing

a national conference of this magnitude, exploring a new city, and interacting with students from across the country will leave a lasting impact on their personal and professional growth.

The total estimated cost of the trip is \$24,178, which includes conference registration, airfare, lodging, meals, and transportation.

BUDGET SUMMARY:

- Conference Registration: \$1,530 (6 students and 2 staff members)
- Airfare: \$6,628 (flying out of Burlington via Delta)
- Baggage: \$630
- Parking at Burlington Airport: \$170
- Hotel: \$3,944 (4 rooms for 6 nights at the Courtyard by Marriott Airport)
- Transportation in San Antonio: \$1,300
- Meals/Food: \$4,320
- FBLA Night: \$620
- Business/Conference Attire: \$600 (\$100 per student)
- Trip to Aquatica: \$1,264
- Local Tourist Attractions & Sightseeing Activities: \$2,192
- Misc (tips, souvenirs, and other misc. expenses): \$980

TOTAL COST FOR THE TRIP: \$24,178

Our students have worked incredibly hard to make this opportunity possible. Through community fundraising events—including a Father/Daughter Dance, a Flag Sign Raffle, homemade fudge sales, a Christmas Chaos event at school, and seasonal treat sales—they have already raised **\$5,200**. Current and upcoming efforts, including NCAA basketball squares, a car wash, a Pasta for Purpose dinner, and a raffle, are expected to raise approximately **\$2,500 more**. After all of these fundraising events, we anticipate a remaining balance of approximately **\$16,478**.

Your support would make a meaningful difference in helping these hardworking students attend the FBLA National Leadership Conference. A contribution from your foundation would directly support travel, lodging, and conference participation, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent these students from experiencing this once-in-a-lifetime educational opportunity.

By supporting these students, you are not only helping them attend a conference—you are investing in the future leaders, entrepreneurs, and professionals of our community. The skills, confidence, and connections they gain from this experience will benefit them for years to come.

Thank you for considering this request and for your continued support of educational opportunities that inspire and empower students. If you have any questions or would like additional information, I would be happy to discuss this opportunity further.

Denise E. Wood

Denise E. Wood, M.Ed.
Business Teacher

Here are some pictures taken at this month's FBLA State Leadership Conference:



Here are some pictures taken at the FBLA National Leadership Conference last summer in Anaheim, CA:

