

the express



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Eddie Rose

Eddie Rose, a Little Falls FBLA alumni was not only a part of the High School level of FBLA, but also the Middle School level. I asked Eddie the following questions.

Q:When did you join FBLA?

A:6th grade

Q:What were some of your best experiences in FBLA?

A: My best experience was probably when NHS teamed up with FBLA and we put on the Zombie Run for the WWP. It was a lot of fun to do and was for such a good cause.

Q:What did FBLA teach you?

A:FBLA taught me to always put my best foot forward if I want to succeed.

Q:What did FBLA do for you while in high school?

A:FBLA provided many service opportunities for me in high school.

Q:What did FBLA do for you after high school?

A:FBLA gave me leadership skills in the years following high school.

Q: Would you say that FBLA made your high school experience better?

A:Yes, it provided more opportunities.

Q:What is something you'll always remember about FBLA?

A:The Zombie Run

Q:Was FBLA a good high school experience?

A:Yes



Written by Isiah Ord
Little Falls High School

Christine Peterson

Interviewed by Emily Johnson, SVP 13

How many years were you involved in FBLA? 4 Years

Did you serve in any chapter office positions, if so which positions? Vice President - 2 Years

Did FBLA help you decide what career path you wanted to take, if so, how? Yes, FBLA showed me that a career in business was the right path for me. I loved all the knowledge I gained about the business world through FBLA...I didn't necessarily know which field of business I wanted to be in but I did know that I wanted to be in business. Now I am a successful HR Manager and I owe a lot of that to my involvement in FBLA.

What is your main goal as you work with the current Falconer FBLA members? To continue to help them develop their interview and public speaking skills. Developing them for their futures in whatever field they decide to go into.

What is your favorite of the FBLA-PBL Goals? "Strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and their work."



Joe Baron

Interviewed by Marigrace Gerhardt, SVP 4

1.) What was your favorite part of FBLA?

Answer: Getting to work and travel with my high school friends and building experiences with something I enjoy talking and learning about with people who share my passion. Also, the dances at states were fun.

2.) Out of all that you learned through FBLA what do you believe is the most important?

Answer: Looks do matter and preparation is key in the business world. If you do not prepare you fail.

3.) How has what you learned in FBLA helped you in college?

Answer: it gave me the confidence to speak in front of people I don't know very well. It gives you that edge of confidence when presenting and talking to higher educated people.

4.) How has your experience influenced your future career?

Answer: It made me realize that I wanted to do something with people and interact with them on the business level.

5.) Why did you join FBLA?

Answer: I went to a fish fry that they were hosting at a community event and remember seeing all the high schoolers doing it and I thought "That's what all the cool kids do." So I joined.

6.) What is your advice for people thinking about joining FBLA?

Answer: Be ready to Commit. Don't just join because your friends are. It's a great club and organization and if you put in the time and commitment into it you will go places.

7.) Would you consider becoming a professional division member?

Answer: Possibly, I'm always open to coming back to help out and experience new things.

Aniruddha Nrusimha

FBLA and Beyond

By Stephanie Terhaar

Williamsville East High School

FBLA is not just a club; it's an experience that endlessly gives back to its members. As the 2015-2016 New York State Secretary and a Co-President of the Williamsville East Chapter in the 2016-2017 school year, Aniruddha Nrusimha was positively impacted by the time and effort he put into being an FBLA member. Aniruddha is now a freshman at UC Berkeley, and would like to share how FBLA has influenced his life:

"Leadership is not something that can be taught. This is the sole true conclusion I have come to about leadership in the many hours I have spent filling out forms, organizing fundraisers, and helping and persuading people all for the same goal. Individually, each of these skills is not leadership, but together they magically become it.

It is the ability to manage and deal with wildly different problems that I think of when I think of leadership, and my ability to do that comes in large part due to the time I spent in FBLA. When I think of the time I spent in FBLA, I don't think of just one experience. Everything put together, from studying for competitions and other straightforward tasks that were central to all of my years of FBLA, to the hectic but incredibly rewarding experience of being a state officer, created different leadership qualities which tied together to improve me.

What FBLA really prepared me for, just as much as leadership, was dealing with the realities of life outside of a suburban high school. No one ever teaches you how to be an adult, but many of the skills that you can learn in FBLA under the banner of leadership are incredibly useful. Skills such as public speaking, applying for internships and jobs, and filling out paperwork aren't just for stressed out Chapter Presidents struggling to hit deadlines for SLC; they are realities of college and the life beyond."

Take advantage of the amazing opportunities that FBLA has to offer. Even if you are not planning on pursuing business in the future, there is so much more to FBLA than just business. There are friendships to be made, skills to acquire, and memories to be cherished. Eventually, we will all graduate and move beyond our lives in high school. The lessons that you will be taught as an FBLA member will last a lifetime. So get involved in FBLA; you won't regret it.

Shubhangi Mehra

Alumni Interview by Karthik Kannappan
Williamsville East High School

I interviewed Williamsville East Alumni Shubhangi Mehra, Class of 2016. During this interview she shared her experiences of FBLA and her advice to prospective FBLA members.

Karthik: When were you a part of FBLA?

Shubhangi: I was part of the club all four years of high school, from 2012-2016.

K: Did you hold any Officer positions during your time in the club?

S: Yes I held a variety of positions- during my sophomore year, 2013-2014, I was my Chapter Parliamentarian. During my junior year, 2014-2015, I was Program of Work Chairperson and State Parliamentarian. Finally in my senior year, 2015-2016, I was my Chapter President and State Parliamentarian.

K: What knowledge did you gain during your time as an officer?

S: I definitely gained the ability to communicate well and effectively. As a state officer and the president of the chapter, I had to learn how to communicate to my fellow officers. I also gained knowledge of how to delegate tasks to the right people. During my time as Program of Work Chairperson, I had to delegate the tasks that had to be done to the right people.

K: After FBLA and high school what did you proceed to do and study in?

S: I am currently a sophomore at Rice University in Texas, where I am majoring in Cell Biology and Biochemistry.

K: How did your experience in FBLA affect who you will be in the future?

S: The lessons I learned from FBLA will forever be with me. The skills I learned and developed during my time in the club, such as the skill to lead and communicate, will affect me in the future, when I must communicate with my fellow workers, and lead them successfully.

K: Finally, what advice do you have for prospective members of FBLA, for members who are unsure of joining?

S: FBLA is a great club, and it is filled with enriching opportunities to help you in the future. You will learn a great amount of skills that will help you in the future, no matter what career field you choose. You will truly learn a lot, whether it be competing, running for an officer position or by attending workshops. So you should join FBLA, because it will definitely help you in the long run.

K: Thank you.

Kayla Butler

Interviewed by Anna Hendrickson

Tri-Valley High School

Anna: "How many years were you in FBLA?"

Kayla: "Okay so I was in it all four years of high school,"

Anna: "What officer positions did you hold?"

Kayla: "Sophomore year I was the chapter reporter and junior and senior year I was president,"

Anna: "Who were your advisors and what's your favorite memory you have of them?"

Kayla: "My advisors were Mrs. Swarthout, Mrs. Peters, and Ms. Hay. I loved going to Dinosaur barbecue with them every year at states. They made every trip so great,"

Anna: "What was your favorite trip that you went on with FBLA and what made it your favorite?"

Kayla: "That's so hard. I don't think I can pick a favorite. I'd probably say Chicago because the city was just so beautiful. Cleveland was great too though because we did so much sight seeing. And California was my first ever. But those are my top 3 favorites. Every trip was special in its own way. I can't pick a favorite,"

Anna: "What events did you compete in?"

Kayla: "Parli pro and community service project at the national level"

Anna: "What did FBLA help to teach you? What did you learn from your experience in the club?"

Kayla: "It taught me mainly how to communicate in social settings, network, and be a leader. It helped me learn that anyone can make a difference,"

Anna: "What is one of your favorite memories from an FBLA event?"

Kayla: "Bursting into song when Bohemian Rhapsody came on in the rock and roll hall of fame in Cleveland,"

Anna: "Did FBLA help prepare you for your future? If yes, how so?"

Kayla: "Yes definitely. It taught me how to organize and face a challenge head on. I learned how to network and speak in public. All things that are helping me in nursing school,"

Anna: "Thank you so much for letting me interview you."

Devika Naik

Devika Naik is a freshman at Bentley University who was a member and chapter officer of Monroe Woodbury High School FBLA throughout her years in high school.

Q: What significant changes has FBLA made in your life?

A: Being in FBLA has enhanced my interest in business because of the hands-on experience you get through competitions and conferences, which you don't really get that much in high school. The opportunity to experiment in the business field first-hand with conferences, and dressing in business attire, was just a very eye-opening and maturing experience. The club has also given me an avenue to increase my leadership skills in the high school environment, later translating to college, and has given me the opportunity to meet new people and learn how to network effectively.

Q: Did your experience in FBLA influence which college you decided to attend?

A: No, it didn't impact my choice, but it helped me decide my career. Getting to experience the business world made me more sure of my career path, and gave me more stability going into college.

Q: Did your experience in FBLA influence your career choice?

A: I joined FBLA knowing I wanted to have a career in something business related, and by participating in various competitions and networking with others I was able to narrow down which paths I wanted to pursue. Different leadership workshops and conferences also further enhanced my career interest in the business field and helped me realize that this is what I want to do.

Q: What advantages have your experiences in FBLA provided you in college?

A: There have been several advantages, I've had increased leadership skills in the classroom setting and with my friends, my public speaking skills have improved and I've become more comfortable with speaking in front of large audiences. And I've learned how to seize an opportunity and make the best of it, because you never know where it'll take you.

Q: Is there a PBL chapter in your college?

A: Yes, there is a chapter, but I haven't gotten the chance to attend any meetings yet.

Q: Have you met any other FBLA alumni in college?

A: Yes actually, I've met some friends who were in FBLA in the past.

Q: What is your favorite memory of FBLA?

A: NFLC last year in Florida! We got to visit Disney World, and the conference was huge there were so many students from all over the East Coast! I got to network and form friendships with people that I never would have met otherwise, some that I still keep in touch with.

Q: What advice would you give to current FBLA members?

A: Definitely to get as involved in the club as possible because the more involved you are, whether it be an officer position, or competing in events, the more rewarding the club is! And sign up for volunteering opportunities, prepare for and research competitions and use them as avenues to explore what you're interested in!

Daniel Willis

This month, I had the pleasure to meet with and speak with a New York State FBLA alumni.

Daniel Willis is a former State Secretary and State President who graduated high school in 2017, after spending all four years as a member of The Future Business Leaders of America. He now attends Johnson & Wales University, a college located in Providence, Rhode Island, where he studies Business Administration. Mr. Willis stays very active on campus as he plays rugby and is the Vice President of his residence hall. He is also in the Army ROTC program that is offered at Johnson & Wales, and plans to work for the United States in the military upon graduation.

Question: What has FBLA done for you regarding long term?

Daniel's Answer: FBLA gives you the tools to be successful.

Question: What would you tell a group of freshman just joining FBLA?

Daniel's Answer: Joining a business "club" is all about taking risks. Apply that mindset to every decision you make in FBLA. Participate in competitions that you know you might fail in. Go for a leadership position if you enjoy your time in FBLA. Take as many risks in this organization as you can, you never know what you could gain from it.

Question: What have you gained from your experience in leadership positions?

Daniel's Answer: I have learned the importance of diversity within a group that is working together. Diversity in knowledge, skills and ability. Utilizing each team members' unique ability makes any team stronger. Acknowledging diversity in various aspects aids in my ability to lead a team to success.

Question: What is your favorite memory from FBLA?

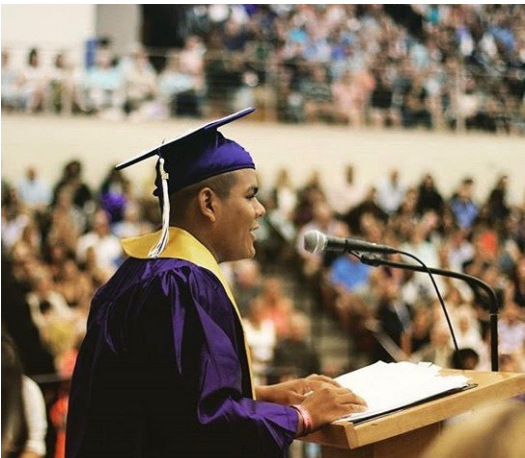
Daniel's Answer: The reason I joined was not the reason I stayed. I stayed because of the people I met along the way. Whether it be the people in my chapter, the members I met through each conference or the State Officers I served with, it's the people that made FBLA so memorable for me.

Question: Do you have any advice for FBLA Seniors going into college?

Daniel's Answer: Enjoy time spent with friends and family prior to your departure into college.

Always take your job, your responsibilities and school-work seriously. However, don't take yourself too seriously. Keep a fun outlook on life and remember when it's time to relax and focus on what is important.

"The people make the organization, and the organization makes the people." - Daniel Willis



Nicolena Vega, EVP
Monroe Woodbury
High School

Lauren Pogostin

We interviewed Lauren Pogostin, one of our chapter's co-presidents last year.

Lauren said "

FBLA was very important to me throughout my high school years and still continues to be. The organization is responsible for introducing me to the business world and getting me hooked on the idea of furthering my passion for business. Now as a college student in an undergraduate business program, I find that the skills I learned during my time in FBLA have been very beneficial. I am not only grateful for the skills I learned, but the friends and memories I made. I became very close with the members in my chapter and got to travel the country with them. FBLA provided me with incredible experiences that I will forever be grateful for."

It is very important to stay in touch with FBLA alumni because they can provide important information about how a current FBLA student can pursue business on the collegiate level, or as a mentor in figuring out what business is like beyond high school.



Written by Phoebe and Chloe Weiser
Mamaroneck High School

the express

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