

# NEW DIRECTIONS

CONNECTING NEW JERSEY - ONE CHAPTER AT A TIME

WINTER 2012

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS:

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and cherished the time you were able to spend with loved ones. Family and the spirit of giving are important for FCCLA members! This New Year is going to bring about many opportunities and exciting things! This is the perfect time to make New Year's resolutions for your chapter! We encourage all members to actively take on a role in New Jersey FCCLA's success. We have several FCCLA events coming up that we want to emphasize as a state. FCCLA week is February 12-18th, 2012 and it is an important week for advocacy. Your chapter should plan an event to give service, educate and promote your peers about FCCLA, and celebrate our organization each day of the week. Explore new and innovative ideas for participation from your chapter. For more information about getting involved, visit the state website [www.njfccla.org](http://www.njfccla.org). This is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness within your school and community and highlight what FCCLA is all about!

The State Office is booming in preparation for a conference that we know will be worthy to match this year's amazing Fall Leadership Connection. We will be having our annual State Leadership Conference at the Crowne Plaza in Cherry Hill, New Jersey in March. This conference gives members the chance to participate in competitive and STAR Events for state and national recognition. The Events section on the state website has been updated and we are excited for participants to compete in these events. We are also introducing a new event; FCCLA Speaks, which will allow members to showcase their public speaking skills and present an impromptu speech on a topic given on site.

The state association is also strongly promoting the community service opportunities for members at the State Leadership Conference. We are continuing our non-perishable food drive for the Food Bank of South Jersey, the Pull Tab collection for Ronald McDonald House, and we are asking that every chapter bring at least \$100 dollar donation for Share Our Strength. I hope you are as excited as the State Executive Council. Plan to finish the FCCLA year strong and Raise the Bar in our families, communities and careers by contributing to the statewide service project. See you all at the 2012 NJ FCCLA State Leadership Conference!

Sincerely,  
Kamaria Guity  
NJ FCCLA State President

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## 2011 FLC RECAP

*By David Shah, First Vice President*

The Pines Manor was definitely the place to be if you are a fashionista, environmentalist, community leader or simply someone with a sweet tooth. On November 21, 2011, 580 people from across the Garden State came together to join NJ FCCLA as it conducted its annual Fall Leadership Connection. With a 45% increase in participation over last year's conference, the state officers and advisers were especially excited. The day-long conference began with a keynote presentation by Latrell Armstrong, who stressed the need to help others in a dynamic and inspiring manner. The members were then split into groups to attend special leadership training sessions, round table presentations, post-secondary school presentations and a special interactive demonstration by Mr. Armstrong. In addition to these events, NJ FCCLA presented a brand new community service event, The Cupcake Challenge. This event was designed to benefit our National Outreach Project, Share Our Strength, whose goal is to eradicate childhood hunger by 2015. Competitors were expected to present homemade cupcakes from an original recipe that featured either a fruit or vegetable, and create a dynamic display. The Cupcake Challenge turned out to be a huge hit, with 27 entries and over 1,620 cupcakes. With the collaborative effort of virtually every member, all 1,620 cupcakes were purchased and \$1,603 was donated to Share Our Strength. In addition to the monetary donation, two other community service projects took place concurrently: the collection of 27 exit baskets to aid Amandla Crossing, a homeless shelter for women and their children and 67 pounds of pull tab donations for the New Brunswick Ronald McDonald House. With the hard work of the NJ State Adviser, alumni, state officers, staff of the Pines Manor and of course the respectful and receptive members of our state organization, the 2011 Fall Leadership Conference was undoubtedly a success.

## NATIONAL NEWS

*By Carl Archut, Jr., VP of Membership*

FCCLA Chapters come in all shapes and sizes. So how would you like to be recognized for your recruitment success? Your chapter can receive recognition for having 100% of its members enrolled in their advisers FACS class. Chapter members can also receive recognition for recruiting three new members who affiliate at the state and national level. Both of these membership recognition awards must be sent in by April 12th, 2012. Don't let these opportunities slip away! Good luck with membership recruitment!

## NEW JERSEY FCCLA

## CONTINUALLY RAISES

## THE BAR!



*By Ryan Szemple,  
VP of Parliamentary Law*

On November 10th, eight members, two advisers and three alumni members of the New Jersey Family, Career and Community Leaders of America left New Jersey for the National Cluster Meeting in Denver, Colorado. Once they arrived in Denver, they visited the many attractions of the Mile High City. These attractions included; the Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre, the Sports Authority Field, the 16th Street Mall, Hammond's Candies, and the Colorado State Capital. The theme of this year's Cluster Meeting was Raising the Bar, and New Jersey did just that. The Cluster Meeting was a dynamic conference with interesting speakers, workshops and contests. The keynote speakers included John Beede, also known as "The Climber Guy", for the Opening General Session and Gerald Jones for the Closing General Session. Workshops were presented by past National Officers, Children's Miracle Network Staff, March of Dimes representatives, along with several others.

The debut of the new competitions, Impromptu Speaking and Culinary Skills, made the conference exciting. However, the highlight of the meeting was when New Jersey's team competed in the FACS Knowledge Bowl competition. After participating in an online test in October in order to qualify, John P. Stevens FCCLA members, Maxie LeSaux, Ruby Kaur, Amrit Iyer, David Shah, and Ryan Szemple, continued the competition by competing in levels 2 and 3 at the Cluster Meeting. Level 2 consisted of a 50-question multiple choice test, in which New Jersey's team scored high and was seeded 3rd out of 11 teams. The seeding determined who would play head to head in Level 3 of the competition. Through fierce competition, the John P. Stevens team landed in the top 5 and will advance in the competition to represent our state at the National Leadership Conference. If you want to see New Jersey's team compete in the final Level of the Knowledge Bowl Competition, plan to attend the National Leadership Conference in July in Orlando, Florida.



## POWER OF ONE

*By: Ryan Szemple, VP of Parliamentary Law*

Power of One is one of the eight National Programs and the only one that focuses personal achievement. Power of One is designed so that you can set reasonable goals for yourself, create a plan of action to achieve this goal, and ultimately complete it. Power of One has five units and each unit addresses a different aspect of one's life. The five units are A Better You, Family Ties, Working on Working, Take the Lead, and Speak out for FCCLA. The first unit is A Better You, which focuses on improving personal traits and habits. The second unit is Family Ties, and it concentrates on strengthening the bonds and relationships that you have with your family. Working on Working, the third unit, focuses on exploring job possibilities and career interests. The fourth unit is Take the Lead and it deals with developing leadership habits and skills. Speak out for FCCLA is the fifth unit and it addresses the need for increasing FCCLA's public relations. To complete Power of One, a member must complete all goals set for each unit by the deadline of March 1, 2012 in order to be recognized at the State Leadership Conference in March. Power of One is a very valuable National Program to complete, and its purpose is to create a habit of setting personal goals and completing them.

## "RAISING THE BAR" ON SERVICE

*Cori Falco, VP of Community Service*

New Jersey FCCLA has a long tradition of community service. At the 2011 Fall Leadership Connection, members collected 66 pounds of pull-tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, 31 "Exit Baskets" for Amandla Crossing, and 514 pounds of food for the Food Bank of Middlesex County. After these successful community service initiatives, New Jersey FCCLA cannot wait for the State Leadership Conference! We are planning to take on hunger in our communities with the Anti-Hunger Initiative. This year's service initiative will include a food drive for the food bank of South Jersey that requires the support of every chapter. Please be generous; we have elevated our goal and encourage members to do the same. Instead of collecting one can per member, please strive for as many non-perishable food items as possible!

The second part of our initiative will involve chapter's raising funds for Share Our Strength. Our goal is to raise \$100 per chapter. Together, members will "raise the bar" by reaching an even greater donation to connect children all over New Jersey to meal plans. Good luck to all chapters and remember to keep the inspiring message from the Fall Leadership Connection in mind - "do more." For more information on New Jersey FCCLA's Anti-Hunger Initiative and to get ideas for raising funds, visit [fcclanj.org/antihunger.html](http://fcclanj.org/antihunger.html).

## THE ULTIMATE BATTLE: THE CUPCAKE CHALLENGE!

*By Cori Falco, VP of Community Service*

"Cupcakes - Get your cupcakes here!" Congratulations to all members who contributed to the first annual New Jersey Cupcake Challenge at the Fall Leadership Connection! With delicious cupcakes and beautiful displays, the event was a huge success. Without FCCLA's dedicated (and hungry) members, the organization could not have reached our amazing grand total of \$1,603.

All of the proceeds from this new community service initiative went to Share Our Strength, whose mission is to end childhood hunger in America. In fact, Share Our Strength's corporate sponsors matched our donations in spirit of the holiday season. Share Our Strength work with partners like FCCLA to connect millions of children across the country to free or discounted meals that are available to them. If one dollar can connect one child to 10 meals, imagine what \$3,206 will do! Once again, thank you for an outstanding effort!



# TIME TO START PREPARING!

*By Katelyn Palombo, VP of Leadership*

One of the best aspects about being an FCCLA member is that you have the opportunity to explore numerous types of skills and careers associated with Family and Consumer Sciences. Whether you know what kind of career you want or are trying to discover one, NJ FCCLA's State Leadership Conference is where you can explore those skills and careers with NJ FCCLA State Events and FCCLA STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) Events.

Now is the time to start looking into both the State and STAR Events to see if one might interest you or any members in your chapter. Many members look forward to the events at the SLC, like Cake Decorating, where members decorate a cake during the conference, or Fashion Runway, where members construct a garment for themselves and model it during the annual fashion show. This year, a new event has been added to the State Events. FCCLA Speaks will improve your public speaking skills with an event focusing on impromptu speaking and your knowledge of FCCLA, National Programs and Family and Consumer Sciences. Between the fourteen NJ FCCLA State Events, and the twenty-six STAR Events offered at the SLC, there is bound to be an event that is perfect for you. All State and STAR Event descriptions, rules, guidelines, and rating sheets can be found at [www.fcclanj.org](http://www.fcclanj.org).

The SLC is not only about competitive events, it is also about developing your leadership skills, exploring Family and Consumer Sciences, meeting members from all over New Jersey, and participating in our state-wide community service projects. The State Executive Council looks forward to seeing everyone in Cherry Hill this spring!

# AN OPPORTUNITY AWAITS YOU!

*By Kamaria Guity, State President*

Are you always looking towards new horizons? Would you like to create a maximum impact on others? Have you tried to make a wave in your family, school or community? Do you want to be the ultimate leader? You can raise the bar by applying to be a New Jersey State Officer for the 2012-2013 school year.

New Jersey FCCLA invites you to strive to achieve your ultimate leadership capacity! The State Association's yearly election process for State Officers will open soon. Being a State Officer is a learning process that is both rewarding and memorable. As a State Officer, you will have the opportunity to train with the association's most qualified alumni to learn the "in's and out's" of the organization as well the skills needed to be a New Jersey State Officer!

The leadership skills you obtain through your training are put into action at the many conferences you have the privilege to attend and run! As a State Officer, you have the opportunity to attend three national conferences; the National Leadership Conference, Capitol Leadership, and the National Cluster Meeting! You will also have the amazing experience of running our two annual state conferences. Your State Executive Council will plan and run these conferences for the state delegation. The decisions you make will affect the lives and world of NJ FCCLA members. The State Executive Council makes decisions regarding competitive events, budgets, community service initiatives, conferences and much more! In addition, you will have the opportunity to network and connect with over 5,000 members from our state, and many more from around the country! Through peer mentoring, presenting workshops and roundtables, and creating new opportunities for our members, you can be an inspiration!

One of the highlights of being a State Officer is the bond you will create with your officer team! With your fellow officers you will laugh, accomplish great feats, and build friendships that will last a lifetime. Together, you will assist each other to make dreams come true. The State Executive Council encourage all members interested in a State Officer position to talk to your advisers and challenge yourself to embark on a journey you will never forget!



**YOUR FACE  
HERE!**

## FCCLA WEEK

*By Pamela Pangaro, VP of Communications*

Wish you could get FCCLA more involved with your school; want to throw a big fundraiser but not sure when? FCCLA is a great time to launch a large enterprise. From February 12 to February 18, FCCLA gets its own week to make a difference in our schools and communities. This week is an opportunity for FCCLA to leave a mark on the 2011-2012 school year. Here are some notable ideas your chapter might consider:

- Sponsor a "Slipper Day." Every person who brings in a new or gently worn pair of shoes for Soles4Souls will be granted the privilege of wearing slippers all day. Go through your school day in comfort and style (pink bunnies!).
- Have a canned-food-drive, but give it a twist. Let it be a race between homerooms or grade levels. At the end of the week, whoever has the most cans receives a pizza party!
- Reach out and talk to department supervisors, principals, mayors, or any government official you can get to and speak out about FCCLA. Tell them your goals and make yourselves known.
- Have your chapter work with local restaurants to fundraise for Share Our Strength. Many restaurants (including Friendly's, McDonalds, Applebees, Chili's and more) offer a family and friends rebate.

These are just a few ideas to get your chapter started on planning an amazing week. Make sure you talk to your principals, school administrators, and advisors before planning big events. Have fun with this week and make a difference!

## REACH FOR RECOGNITION

*By Pamela Pangaro, VP of Communication*

Any organization, such as a good sports team, an FCCLA chapter or other club, will always start with good leaders. One attribute of a good leader is remembering to encourage the heart of their participants. FCCLA is the "Ultimate Leadership Experience" because recognition is a strong part of our program of work. As leaders, we must remember to appreciate all that our members do. Here are some hints to recognize chapter members:

- Have a "member of the month." Recognize your most outgoing or dedicated member every month.
- Hand out 'FCCLA Money' every time a member does something great. At the end of the year, total them all up and have a prize for whoever has the most.
- Send out personal notes of praise telling chapter members what a great job they are doing and how thankful you are for them.
- Keep a jar so all members can write praises to one another anonymously, and once a month read them out loud at a chapter meeting.

Encouraging your members and recognizing them for their dedication doesn't have to be something pricy and time-draining. Make it small and personal, not something big and outlandish. The more sincere and personal your praises are the more meaningful they will feel. Even if the recognition is a simple email sent out to your chapter spotlighting one member, it still can make a difference. Reaching out and recognizing your outstanding members can really change the mood of a chapter and lift the spirits of those involved.

## LEADERSHIP BOOT CAMP IS BACK!

*By Katelyn Palombo, VP of Leadership*

"Left, Left, Left, Right, Left" is the phrase most members first thought when they heard of NJ FCCLA's third annual Leadership Boot Camp. Held on January 7, 2012, members from all over the state gathered at John P. Stevens High School in Edison. New Jersey FCCLA members received specialized leadership training, where synchronized marching was not on the agenda. Boot Camp started early in the morning with breakfast and the distribution of limited edition t-shirts for everyone to wear for the rest of the day. As breakfast went on, members from different schools, advisers, and state officers networked and got to know each other.

Ice breakers kicked off the conference and had all the members excited and ready for the training to begin. Everyone was split up into two different training levels after the ice breakers and introductions. During the training sessions, members were introduced to public speaking techniques, networking, and information they can use to understand themselves and others; this is an important quality for young leaders. Members were also taught etiquette and were put to the test during lunch where everyone tried to abide by table manners. Lunch was delicious, everyone had fun being together, talking, and laughing. These things did not end until the closing of the conference. NJ FCCLA's Leadership Boot Camp was a success, and members went away with more knowledge and strategies about how they can improve their leadership skills, their family, and their community.



# STEPS TO FINANCING YOUR COLLEGE EDUCATION

*By Amrit Iyer, VP of Finance*

Attention high school seniors: Congratulations! You have made it through half of your final year of high school. By now, you've settled into your classes, kept your grades up, and are already looking forward to graduation. It is time to learn how to finance college. For those who are juniors, it's never too early to start thinking about college.

## **Step 1: Identify the best college for you.**

Choosing a college is more than picking a name out of a hat; it is identifying the college and program that is right for you. Be it fashion design, marketing, or law, post-secondary institutions across the nation encompass a wide range of majors and concentrations to pick from. It is a good idea to make a list of five to ten colleges in which you are interested and visit each one.

## **Step 2: Assess Tuition rates.**

Each college has its own tuition rates, which include housing, books, and education fees. An affordable option is to attend a community college. Also, you might consider the option to live at home and commute to college, which negates housing fees. Another factor to keep in mind is that in-state public schools, like Rutgers, are generally more affordable, as opposed to private schools like Princeton. Talk to your parents about choosing schools that are the right fit for your financial situation. Point your browser to [www.cgi.money.cnn.com/tools/collegecost/collegecost.html](http://www.cgi.money.cnn.com/tools/collegecost/collegecost.html) for a helpful site to determine the cost of a college.

## **Step 3: Fill out the Fafsa Form.**

After you have submitted all of your applications, you should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form, found at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Federal Student Aid provides money for education beyond high school. By filling out this free form, the U.S. Department of Education will assist you in paying for college.

## **Step 4: Apply for scholarships.**

Scholarships are a great way to raise funds for college. Your high school guidance office should have a list of scholarship opportunities for students to apply for, ranging from sports scholarships to academic. You can receive anywhere from a few hundred dollars to thousands of dollars, based on your achievements during your high school career. NJ FCCLA also has scholarship opportunities available for you, check out the state website!

Follow these 4 easy steps and you will be well on your way to financing the next (and very large!) step in your life, College!

# FCCLA CAPITOL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

*By Amrit Iyer, VP of Finance*

This past October, nine FCCLA State Officers from New Jersey's State Executive Council attended Capitol Leadership Training in Washington, D.C. The train ride provided time well-shared among the officer team. Many of the council members had never been to the Nation's Capitol and the arrival at Union Station in D.C. was filled with excitement. The marble monuments, the federal buildings, tall graceful spires and huge domes stir a sense of amazement in the most seasoned visitor.

The following days were a flurry of workshops and activities, all designed to strengthen leadership qualities in FCCLA Officers. The Leadership Training Team, composed of past national and state officers, in conjunction with the National Executive Council, delivered a comprehensive and challenging schedule that took the two hundred State Officers present through numerous social, economic and political issues. While the mornings were early and the nights often late, it was nothing short of exhilarating to participate in the icebreakers (involving dancing, toilet paper, and playing card towers) and leadership activities to improve chapters through social media, public speaking, and state association development.

The focus of our training was the visit to Capitol Hill. The weeks beforehand, appointments were made with Congressmen from our respective districts, as well as Senator Menendez and Lautenberg from New Jersey. It was a culmination of our combined efforts; the countless hours spent researching public policy and developing a state advocacy plan for New Jersey FCCLA. We targeted the issue of Perkins Funding for Career and Technical education that was due for reconsideration by Congress. It was nerve-racking, but the State Officers were more than prepared. With speeches in hand, we delivered our ideas to staffers, Congressmen and Senators. Armed with leadership tactics and strategies to improve FCCLA at the state and local level, we left Washington, D.C. with high hopes of bright future.

