

JANUARY 2025

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Everything you need to know to navigate your District Leadership Conference
- Hear tips from across the state to make the most of your experience
- Learn what Colorado FBLA members have been doing!

## EDITOR'S NOTE

FROM YOUR VP OF EDUCATION

Happy New Year Colorado FBLA! I am excited to come into this new year with passion, dedication, and having the chance to connect with members at our upcoming conferences!

In the coming months, we have a range of local and state level events. Our district state officers have been hard at work curating a conference that offers you competition, networking, and plenty of fun along the way! Make sure to give them a shoutout if you see them!

Our team has been hard at work making sure that members and advisers are getting the most of this new year, keep your eyes peeled for everything to come!

See you all soon!

*Annabelle Russo*

## DISTRICT WEBSITES

Each district in Colorado FBLA has a website linked on our state page! Find updates, info, and more! Find it in the link below or under the "conferences" section of our homepage!

[Visit Here](#)

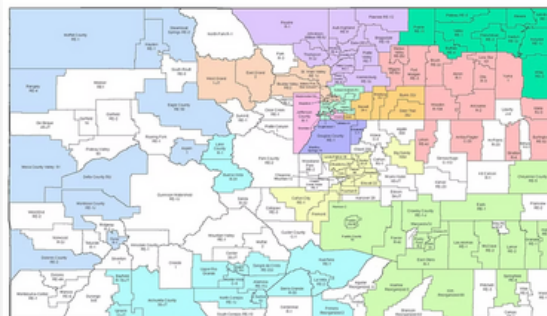


## NEW ZONE REMINDER

Advisers, remember that some districts are changed as of this year! Use the map below, or on our website to double check any changes!

FBLA District

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
None				



# DECEMBER IN REVIEW



## TIS THE SEASON

Chapters across the state worked to give back to people and communities in honor of the holidays!

## FUNDRAISERS GALORE

Many chapters used December for fundraising

## DLCS ARE COMING TO TOWN

Members have been busy preparing for the district conferences coming in January!



RJHS FBLA WROTE CARDS FOR SENIORS AND COLLECTED CANNED FOOD FOR THE HOLIDAYS



FLAGLER FBLA GAVE COOKIES TO LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS



CHATFIELD FBLA IS IN PREP MODE!



YOUR STATE OFFICER TEAM WAS HARD AT WORK MEETING IN DENVER

# WHAT'S YOUR *Favorite DLC Memory?*

“My favorite would either be winning 1st in my event last year or two districts ago playing headbands and socializing with everyone! Since it was the first time it was super exciting” -Josephine Langdon



“My favorite would probably be the night before districts, talking in our hotel room with our district officer team”  
-Addison Hoozee



“My favorite would probably be either going out for lunch with my chapter after or attending all the different workshops!”  
-Lyndi Huelskamp



“My favorite memory from districts would be talking with people from other chapters, talking with people in my chapter after their event, and helping members prep”  
-Mahi Jasty



# STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

*at a glance*

By: Tony Bermudez

Another exciting year is around the corner with the **State Leadership Conference (SLC)** coming up! It's another chance for all of the members of Colorado FBLA who've worked hard throughout the year to connect, learn, and to advance the levels of leadership that you already have.

Before SLC, take time to understand the guidelines for your respective events better. Whether it be public speaking, business, or even digital design, **every event is crucial in this competitive space**. Spend extra time with chapter resources that include mock competitions and workshops to focus on your performance. Never shy away from acquiring feedback regarding your practice from advisers and teammates.

The event is not just about aiming to win, it's about creating connections. Interact with members of different chapters. Who knows? They may have suggestions that can benefit you later on and help throughout the conference. Moreover, **these bonds that you will create will last you a lifetime**. Who said conferences don't leave you with new friends?

Focus on managing your deadlines and schedule. Stay alert to any new information and have everything that you need ready. It's all about the details when it comes to satisfying your audience; be it your project or your speech.

Have fun with fellow colleagues but don't forget to take care of yourself as well.

Find a healthy balance **between rest and practice** so you are ready.



April 21-23, 2025  
Gaylord Rockies  
Resort  
Aurora, CO



January 31st: NLC & SLC T-Shirt  
and NLC Pin Design Contests  
Deadline

February 21st: SLC School Based  
Enterprise Competition Deadline

March 3rd: SLC Student  
Ambassador Application

March 3rd: SLC Scholarship  
Application

March 7th: CBAM Student  
Scholarship

March 14th: Selection Committee  
Application

March 17th: Peak Awards  
Submission

# DISTRICT *spotlight* OFFICER



## Anabel Martinez

### Name and district?

Anabel Martinez District 4

### How many years have you been a district officer?

This is my first year as a District Officer

### What's your favorite memory as a district officer?

Planning my service project for DLC

### What do members have in store for your district conference?

I can't wait to talk to all the members and let them see how hardworking our team has been putting DLC together!

### What's a fun fact about yourself?

I am a first generation Latina student and I speak English and Spanish fluently!



## Alberto Valles

### Name and district?

Alberto Valles District 1

### How many years have you been a district officer?

Going into my 2nd year as a District officer

### What's your favorite memory as a district officer?

My favorite memory as a district officer was getting to meet everyone at last year's District Leadership Conference by running the community service project where we made Valentines cards for senior citizens.

### What do members have in store for your district conference?

This year's officers have lots of ideas in mind this year for the District One Leadership Conference. Expect great speakers and lots of prizes!

### What's a fun fact about yourself?

I'm learning Portuguese to become trilingual!



# HOW TO NAVIGATE *your first* DISTRICT CONFERENCE

By: Lyndi Huelskamp

Navigating your first conference **can often feel overwhelming**, like you're behind the wheel of a ship rocking back and forth through rough waters, not knowing where to go next. Before my first DLC, I was stressed about my competition, wondering if I'd be able to find everything and overall fretting about how the day would go but was able to grab ahold of the wheel and successfully navigate the conference.

District conferences present members with so many opportunities and it is important to take advantage of those experiences to make sure your conference is one to remember. Senior from Fort Morgan High School, Leia Frasco, said her biggest tip for those heading into their first DLC is to **"engage in the workshops and meet new people."** Depending on the conference, district officers, state officers, college representatives or other professionals will hold workshops that provide valuable time to network and learn about various business topics, eventually preparing you for other conferences, college and the workforce. Look for workshops that match your interests and don't be afraid to separate from your friends. Get out of your comfort zone and find something that best suits you—remember that a big part of FBLA is personal development.

If you are competing at DLC, make sure to prepare yourself for competition before the conference. Preparation will allow you to be less stressed and feel more confident giving you a better end result and allowing you to more fully enjoy your time at DLC. Make sure you get to your event location early and are in FBLA dress code to avoid any penalties and to shake off those last minute nerves. Doing well in your event may also qualify you to attend the State Leadership Conference in the spring.

Additionally, always remember that you are not on the journey alone. At DLC, district officers, state officers and advisers are all happy to talk with you so don't be afraid to ask them for help.



Lyndi and her chapter at her first DLC!



Lyndi and her partner after her 2024 DLC!

# MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR CONFERENCE

## Networking

BY: JOSEPHINE  
LANGDON



Districts are packed with amazing opportunities—workshops, keynote speakers, competitions, and much more. There's always something to do, something to learn, and something to experience. But what happens if you find yourself with some free time or feeling like there's nothing to do? Don't stress! I'm going to share the perfect solution: **networking!**

Networking might not always be the first thing that comes to mind when you think about making the most of your time at a conference. You might be thinking, "What's the point of talking to people I don't know?" or "I'm not sure how to start a conversation." But here's the thing: Networking is one of the **most rewarding and beneficial ways to spend your time**. And it doesn't matter whether you're outgoing or a little shy—networking can be for everyone.

At first, it may feel intimidating. Walking up to someone you don't know can seem awkward or uncomfortable. You just have to remember that everyone at Districts is in the same boat. You're surrounded by people who are roughly the same age, share similar interests, and are attending the conference for similar reasons. That common ground makes starting a conversation easier than you might think.

The beauty of networking is that it doesn't have to be about making the perfect connection or having a deep conversation right away. In fact, some of the best conversations are casual and lighthearted. You might talk about your favorite speaker or workshop, ask someone what they thought of their competition, or even share some funny moments from the event. Even these small interactions can spark new friendships, collaborations, and ideas. You never know what could come out of a simple conversation! Plus, networking isn't just about talking to people your age. As you become more comfortable connecting with people and your peers, you'll find it easier to network with others—adults, mentors, and even keynote speakers. **These conversations can open doors to amazing opportunities, whether it's advice on your future goals, potential internships, or just new ways of thinking about your work.**

It's also important to remember that networking is an ongoing process. The relationships you build at districts don't have to end when the conference is over. Follow up with people you meet, whether it's through social media, email, or even a quick message saying, "It was great meeting you!" Maintaining those connections can lead to future opportunities that can help you both personally and professionally. So, the next time you find yourself with a few minutes of free time, don't hesitate to reach out and start a conversation. **You never know what opportunities and connections are waiting for you.** Networking isn't just a way to pass the time—it's one of the best ways to grow, learn, and truly make the most of your experience at districts.

# DRESS TO IMPRESS

## Districts Edition

BY: MAHATHI JASTY

First impressions dictate a person's perception of you in a good or bad way. If you show up to work in sweatpants and sweatshirts, people may judge you as lazy and not willing to put in the work. That sends the wrong message to your boss, coworkers, and others. On the other hand, if you come to work or an interview in a business professional outfit like a suit, you demonstrate a positive message. You display your confidence, preparation, and more to bosses, coworkers, and others that you are the right person for the job. The same rules apply to FBLA competitive events.

We follow the same guidelines of dressing to impress. Your judge starts grading you before you even get to your table at DLC, SLC, and most importantly at NLC. They want to see you embody confidence and expertise in your event. The first step to displaying that message is dressing the part. Wearing a suit and shoes show that you are willing to cooperate in a business environment. Even though the outfit may be uncomfortable, or the heels give you blisters, for your ten to twenty minute presentation, it tells the judges the right message. The suit also gives you internal confidence. It makes you believe that you are acting the part and belong in that setting. A part of FBLA is acting like you know what you are talking about and that starts with dressing the part.

You may think that your attire is not as important as the content, but your attire is the first thing a person sees like judges, interviewers, coworkers, even your boss. Dressing to impress is the first and most important step in demonstrating your ability and knowledge in any setting. You are showing that you are the Future Business Leaders of America.

