



News Release

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LOCAL STUDENTS ATTEND STATE LEADERSHIP MEETING

(Columbus, GA) –Youth from the Shaw and Northside High School chapters of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) recently participated in a weekend leadership conference held April 17-19 at the Classic Center in Athens. Attendees participated in a weekend of workshops and sessions that challenged, informed and motivated members and their advisers with the theme, "Leadership: An Enchanting Experience!" Along with over 1,150 other advisers and members from across the state, FCCLA Chapter Advisers, Shirley Cook and Lisa Byrd accompanied five members to the meeting.

On Thursday members were brought together in the beautiful Classic Center Theatre for the Opening Session. The Session highlighted the Helping Hands Community Service Effort during which chapters made contributions to the Feed the Children Organization. Members have donated more than \$6,000 to the organization this year. Next, the nationally well-known Power Team member, Joel Caldwell motivated and challenged members to overcome obstacles in their life and make a difference. Regional meetings were held that evening and featured speeches by the candidates for State Office and recognition of chapters and members. The evening ended with the opportunity to get in shape for a worthy cause as members participated in the Student Body Dance-A-Thon, dancing to raise money for the FCCLA New Horizons Fund.

Friday began early as over 500 members participated in the State STAR Events Competition in twenty areas showcasing the proficiency and achievements of members from across the state. Shaw students Candace Hill and Rose Broach placed second in Chapter Service Project Manual, Anna Statler placed second in Applied Technology. Others attending were Sarah Mitchell and Catherine Wade, former state officer. Members also had opportunities to meet with exhibitors and attend several youth sessions geared toward them and their chapter. On Friday night the Recognition Session welcomed many guests, parents

and alumni members to experience the recognition of Honorary Members, Scholarship recipients, Mentor Adviser recipients, Master Adviser recipients and Spirit of Advising recipient. The Keynote speaker was the National First Vice President Jarrod Salaiz from Texas. The meeting concluded with the announcement of the 2008-2009 State Officers.

On Saturday the State Meeting concluded with the Closing and STAR Event Recognition Session. The meeting highlighted chapter awards and announcement of the STAR Event winners were recognized. Shaw High FCCLA Chapter received the highest state award of Honor Roll with Distinction and ten chapter awards including Chapter Service Project, Career Connection, Community Service, F.A.C.T.S., Families First, Financial Fitness, STOP the Violence, Student Body, Scholarship Funds, and Step One. Shirley Cook received the Mentor Adviser Award for Georgia.

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. The organization has nearly 230,000 members from 53 state associations, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Since its founding in 1945, FCCLA has involved more than nine million youth.

FCCLA is unique among youth organizations because its programs are planned and run by members. It is the only in-school organization with the family as its central focus. Participation in national programs and chapter activities helps members become strong leaders in their families, careers and communities.