

Focus on FCCLA

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Articles & Letters Welcome for Publication

The policy of the Michigan Association of Family, Career & Community Leaders of America is that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program or activity or in employment.



Michigan FCCLA Idol

Chelsey Roath, State President

Thousands of people line up outside the stadium waiting eagerly to get in to what they see as a road of hope. What lies behind those doors is an opportunity that only comes once in a lifetime. For days they have been sleeping on the concrete with strangers all around them. They've left their homes and their families in order to pursue their dreams. This is their chance to become America's next American Idol.

The question is, "Is their talent enough to get them the golden ticket to Hollywood?" Sure, maybe they sound good in the shower; but is it what America wants? Funny isn't it? To realize that having talent isn't worth anything unless you know how to use it. Kind of like leadership; it's not enough to be able to lead, but it's how you lead that determines whether you're successful or not.

To be an American Idol does not only mean you can sing. It means you have style, poise, and the ability to captivate your audience. The power one's voice has borders on the infinite. It is the singer who gives the song life and feeling. A leader can do the same with their voice. When leading a crowd, the leader has to believe in what they are leading. They are the source of excitement.

American Idol hopefuls pray for the day when they can stand on a stage in front of Randy, Simon, and Paula with a microphone in their hand. To them they are the critics. Which is true, that's what they are there for; to point out where the singers fail. Every leader has a critic. Like (or sometimes unlike) the American Idols, leaders should take the criticism with an open mind. Unlike American Idol though, leaders seek out this critique – they're always looking for ways to grow. None of us are perfect. The best way to succeed is to improve where you fail.

Although Randy, Simon, and Paula may run the show, it is the singers' fans that make them successful. The fans are the ones casting their votes. A leader's followers will be with them to the very end.

So do you have what it takes? Are you determined to reach your highest goals and become the best version of yourself? Are you ready to take your chapter farther than it's ever gone before? Are you up for the challenge to be the next Michigan FCCLA Idol? It's time to raise your voice.



New STAR Events!

Financial Planning is an individual event offered in the Junior, Senior and Occupational Categories designed to let members demonstrate their financial skills.

Fashion Design is an individual event offered in the Senior and Occupational Categories. Members can choose to participate in either Fashion Construction or Flat Pattern Design.

Interior Design is an individual or team event offered in the Senior and Occupational Categories that will put members' design skills to the test.

Recycle & Redesign is an individual event offered in the Junior Category. Members will take used clothing and design something new using it.

Download the NEW, FREE STAR Events Manual at fcclainc.org



Membership Recruitment

Dhanashree Patel, Vice President of Membership

Congratulations Michigan FCCLA! Thanks to all your hard work and dedication, Michigan had the biggest membership increase in the Central Region last year. Jill Borman, our 2006-2007 State President, accepted the award on Michigan's behalf at the 2007 National Leadership Meeting in Anaheim, California this past summer. We all owe a debt of gratitude to last year's State Executive Council as a whole, and especially to Samantha Magdaleno who headed up our membership efforts last year as Vice President of Membership, but was unable to attend the National Meeting to accept the award. Let us work to earn this award again next year at the 2008 National Leadership Meeting in Orlando, Florida by boosting our membership again this year!



As the start of school approaches, there are many things that everyone can do to help recruit new members. If you haven't yet, it's important to get your chapter's executive council together to discuss plans and goals for the year. Remember to make your goal possible to achieve, but still challenging. Also make your goal measurable, so your chapter knows when they have reached their goal. One of your goals may be to get five new members to join your local chapter, to receive the Gimme 5! award at the Michigan State Leadership Meeting next April.

If your school has a student organization day, talk to your administrator about the possibility of setting up a booth or sign up table to get incoming freshman interested in FCCLA. At the booth/table, you could display past projects that people have showcased before or pictures of some of the events that your chapter participates in. You could even make a brochure or flyer to hand out to people, so that if a friend of theirs sees it, they may be interested too! There's even

a sample that you can use on the Michigan FCCLA website at www.mifccla.org. Click on "Recruitment" under the "Membership" menu. Maybe you could allow members to recruit a friend and receive \$5.00 off their dues!

It's also important to plan a fun activity for everyone to get know each other such as a breakfast party before school or a tailgate before a football game. Hang posters up or make announcements so everyone knows about your fun activity. You could play one of the many ice-breaker games that you have learned to get people talking to each other, as many of the new freshman may be shy in an event where everyone already seems like a close family. Make sure everyone knows about the opportunities FCCLA can bring, such as the chance to help your community, travel across the state and country, learn more about yourself and potential careers, connect closer with your family, and of course, meet some amazing new people.

These are just a few ideas on how to recruit more members to Michigan FCCLA. Just remember, FCCLA is one of the greatest student-led organizations around today. After hearing all about FCCLA and the wonderful opportunities it can bring, people will want to join and help make Michigan FCCLA stronger than ever. We are Michigan FCCLA, and together we can increase our membership for another successful year! For more recruitment ideas, feel free to visit our website at www.mifccla.org, or email me at dpatel@mifccla.org!

Michigan FCCLA is challenging each chapter to recruit just five more members than last year...a challenge that we need each chapter to accept. Membership growth is an important goal that will ultimately will positively affect each and every chapter in the state.

Five more members...what does that mean for your chapter?

- A beautiful plaque to proudly display in your classroom
- Recognition on stage at the State Leadership Meeting
- Recognition online
- A press release sent to your local newspaper

But most importantly, more members for your chapter means more opportunities to work together to learn and achieve greatness.

Check out www.mifccla.org for membership recruitment ideas, and for YOUR chapter's goal!

Are you from a new chapter? No problem! You can be recognized too! The minimum number of members to form a chapter is nine...so you just need five more than that for a total of fourteen.

Are all of the students in your classes already members? No problem! Just fill out the form for 100% membership, and you're all set!



Raise Your Voice! Free PR!

Joseph Morrow, Vice President of Public Relations

Summer has been great, but we need to get back to business and become integrated with our fast paced world and Promote FCCLA!

cover the "who," "what," "where," "when," and "why" of your story. Make it interesting for people outside of FCCLA to read, and be sure to include a picture!

The easiest way to promote FCCLA to your community is through a press release. A press release is just the beginning of an article in your local newspaper or on the TV news. Press releases are free!!

Another way to promote FCCLA is by word of mouth, which is usually most effective in school. Tell your friends and recruit them to become members, and have them tell their friends, etc. This helps a lot - you're much more likely to listen to a friend who's excited about something than you are to listen to a newspaper article or even an announcement over the PA system. Don't forget to let everyone know that "FCCLA is The Ultimate Leadership Experience."



- A press release is to tell the community of an event your chapter is hosting, recognition your chapter (or a member) has earned, or anything else that would be interesting for other people to know.
- Michigan FCCLA has resources on our website to help you prepare your press release. Visit us at www.mifccla.org, and choose "Public Relations" from the Students menu.

As you're working to get publicity for your chapter, feel free to contact me for advice at jmorrow@mifccla.org, and to check out the resources and sample press releases at our website at www.mifccla.org. FCCLA Members, Raise Your Voice!

When you write your press release, be sure to

Congratulations to the 2006-2007 Gimme 5 Winners!

Alma High School	Iosco RESA
Ann Arbor Pioneer H.S.	Kingsford High School
Bedford High School	Lenawee Vo-Tech Center
Belleville High School	Livonia Stevenson H.S.
Byron Area High School	Parcells Middle School
Delta-Schoolcraft ISD	Petoskey High School
Durand Area High School	Saline High School
East Kentwood H.S.	TBA Career Tech Center
Howell High School	

Check out your 07-08 goal at www.mifccla.org!



Who Cares About National Programs?

Andrew Schantz, Vice President of Programs

Well for starters, you should! FCCLA's National Programs serve as the

backbone for our organization and really showcase the values and purposes that FCCLA promotes. As a member of FCCLA, we have an extraordinary opportunity to take action and complete a project for one of the twelve National Programs that FCCLA has to offer. You'll be surprised at how quickly you'll begin to reap in the benefits that they can provide. By completing a National Program, you will not only learn a multitude of lessons regarding time management, planning, and organization, but you will also gain a strong feeling of personal satisfaction knowing that your project helped somebody somewhere. Your chapter can also gain national recognition at the 2008 National Leadership Meeting in Orlando as well! Below are some tips to help guide you along the way to National Program success.



www.mifccla.org under the Student menu for information about each of the National Programs. There's no doubt that you'll be able to find a program to fit your needs.

Once you have a concern identified and a National Program to complete, you need to set some goals. Make sure your goals are SMART goals, which means that they are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely. By setting SMART goals, the task of completing any project will be a lot easier. After setting goals, form a plan and figure out all of the nitty-gritty details necessary to successfully implement your project. Next, act out on your goals and complete your project. Once you have successfully completed your goals, it's time to follow-up and evaluate your entire process. It's also time to register for recognition! Award applications for all National Programs are due March 1, 2008, so make sure to have your projects completed by then. There will be plenty more reminders for you to turn in the applications, but write down the date now so you don't forget! Applications are always available online at www.fccla-inc.org.



So when your chapter completes a National Program and you've applied for recognition, what happens next? Michigan FCCLA will recognize all participating chapters at the State Leadership Meeting in April, and best of all, National FCCLA offers recognition at the 2008 National Leadership Meeting in Orlando!

do! Chapters with winning projects for each program can even win cash rewards, and recognition in Teen Times magazine, Focus on FCCLA, and on the Michigan FCCLA website! It would be AMAZING if a chapter from Michigan won this sort of national recognition, or simply even completed a National Program this year!

My goal for every chapter in Michigan is to complete a project for a National Program this year. This goal will be extremely easy to achieve if you also participate in our State Community Service Project: "Rock Your Community!" because many of the projects are very similar. So what are you waiting for? Head on over to www.mifccla.org and click on the "Programs" link under the "Student" menu! Get familiar with FCCLA's National Programs and form a plan to carry one out this year! I'll be sure to do my part and keep you updated on all National Program news this year and give you some tips and project ideas along the way. Be sure to email me at aschantz@mifccla.org if you're having any trouble, or you'd like to learn more about National Programs. Remember to be positive, open to learning, honest, helpful, and in the words of Mahatma Gandhi, **"You must be the change you want to see in the world."** This is going to be a great year for Michigan FCCLA and I can't wait to get started!



Before you begin work on your project, you and your chapter need to identify a concern in your community that you are passionate about. If you don't care about what you're doing, what's the point in doing it? Once you have a concern identified, it's time to find a program to go with it. Check out the Michigan FCCLA website at



Go Platinum and Rock Your Community!

Cassandra Rader, Vice President of Community Service

It's that time of year again, when members are starting to consider the types of projects that they will do this year. As members there are many different areas that you may wish to compete in. One that you should definitely consider is this year's state community service project called "Rock Your Community". I'm going to challenge chapters this year to complete one project that has to do with the state community service project. This year's state community service project addresses issues in both school and your community. We chose two issues in the school and the community that we wanted to focus on, and encourage you to address by educating, challenging and doing.

School
School Violence
Teen Issues

Community
Elderly Concerns
Internet Safety

To achieve the bronze level, we're challenging you to educate people about one of these issues. This could be as simple as putting flyers up around the community or your school, making announcements over the PA, or even as involved as visiting classes to talk about it, hosting an assembly, or taking part in a community event as a presenter. To achieve the silver level, we're challenging you to both educate and challenge your other people to participate in your

project - hosting a contest, doing some sort of a drive where people contribute money or supplies, etc...really challenging them to do something to make change, not just filing it away in their heads for future reference. We're challenging you to go just one step further to achieve the Gold level - educate, challenge, and do a project. That is, not only having other people respond to the challenge you issue for the silver level, but your chapter members as well. Last but not least, we're offering a Platinum level of recognition. For the platinum, we're asking you to take your project just one step further and fill out a recognition form for a National Program and submit it to National FCCLA for recognition.

I know this can be confusing, but hopefully the examples will help you get started. Use your imagination, be creative, and most of all, have fun! Feel free to email me at krader@mifccla.org with any questions, and be sure to check out the website for more ideas at www.mifccla.org!

Project Examples

- Topic Area:** Internet Safety
 - Bronze:** Make a flyer/brochure about making sure that your MySpace or Facebook page doesn't include too much personal information.
 - Silver:** Sponsor a contest for the best MySpace page in your school - including the suggestions you made.
 - Gold:** Make sure all of your chapter members participate in the contest.
 - Platinum:** Submit the project for the National Stop the Violence Award.
-
- Topic Area:** Teen Issues
 - Bronze:** Launch a campaign to inform peers about the importance of getting enough sleep with flyers & posters that list some negative consequences of not getting enough sleep & tips on finding more time for sleep.
 - Silver:** Declare a "Fight Fatigue" week, challenging students to commit to getting eight hours of sleep per night for the week. Collect reports about how this affected students' abilities to stay alert, maintain energy, & get more done.
 - Gold:** Submit some of the testimonials from your chapter members to be published in the school newspaper.
 - Platinum:** Submit your project for the National Student Body Award.





Are YOU the Next FCCLA Idol?

Anna VanAuken, Vice President of Competitive Events

Hey FCCLA! Are you ready for this year's FCCLA Idol? I know I am! I'm so glad I had a chance to see all of your awesome and "wild" projects and ideas from last year, and I can't wait to see what you have planned for this year! After all, YOU are the star of the show.

Speaking of this year, did you hear Michigan FCCLA is holding auditions to see who's going to be this year's FCCLA Idols?! And guess what else?! Anyone can try-out! That's right...ANY-ONE!

Michigan FCCLA, I challenge you to show your talent at the 2007-2008 State Leadership Meeting. You can apply yourself by doing the state Community Service project, a STAR Event, and even by doing Power of One or any other National Program. FCCLA offers a wide variety of Programs to choose from. Whatever your talent may be, it's never too early to get started on any of your projects. We even have *four* new STAR

Events to choose from this year! The earlier you start and the more preparation you put in, the better your performance will be.

"Getting anywhere means starting somewhere"

- Jo Ryan

So Start now! That way you can get a huge head start on successfully completing your goals for this year.

Are you out of ideas? You are more than welcome to join other members of FCCLA at the Fall Leadership Workshops where there will be a ton of ideas for you to take back and use this year. Members from all over your area of the

state will be able to hear all of your talented ideas for projects, and you can hear theirs too! The Fall Leadership Workshop is the perfect place to meet new people and create new friendships. Oh, and did I mention it's going to be FUN?!?! I can't wait to hear all of Michigan's ideas at the Fall Leadership Workshops. Join us if your ready for a blast!

Are you ready to ROCK OUT MICHIGAN?! I am so totally pumped for this year's 2007-2008 Michigan "FCCLA Idol." I hope you are all as excited as I am to take on a challenge to help out in the community. Whatever it is that you choose to do, make sure you start early enough. Trust me, the judges will be able to tell how prepared you were for your presentation if you choose to compete. Also, don't forget to join us at the Fall Leadership Workshops where you can meet new people, hear new ideas, and have a great time. Until then, be creative and have fun! Because you never know if YOU might be the next Michigan "FCCLA Idol!"

Check out our NEW Website at [www.mifccla.org!](http://www.mifccla.org)

All New Features including: Podcasts, Project ideas, State Officer Blog, special Student Section, and MORE!

Meet Your State Executive Council



Chelsey Roath
State President
Kingsford High School
croath@mifccla.org

Three Random Facts:

"1. I wish I could dress punk, emo, and prep and still be accepted. It would be amazing to change your look daily. 2. My favorite treat is popcorn dipped in nacho cheese. 3. I wish my life had a sound track."

Chelsey's Hero:

"Mrs. Harrison. She's basically me 10 years from now. She has the utmost faith in me and shares her empathy with me. She reminds me that for every one wrong thing I do, I'll do three right ones."



Dhanashree Patel
Vice President of Membership
Saline High School
dpatel@mifccla.org

Three Random Facts:

"1. I'm from England. 2. I hate pickles. 3. I am afraid of the dark."

Dhanashree's Hero:

"Neil Armstrong because he went to the moon."



Andrew Schantz
Vice President of Programs
Saline High School
aschantz@mifccla.org

Three Random Facts:

"1. I want to be president of the United States. 2. My favorite TV channel is the Food Network. 3. My middle name Cameron, was given to me because my parents had just seen Ferris Bueller's Day Off before I was born."

Andrew's Hero:

"My hero is Ronald Reagan because he was the best president this great country could ever have."



Joseph Morrow
Vice President of Public Relations
Pickford High School
jmorrow@mifccla.org

Three Random Facts:

"1. I have double-jointed thumbs. 2. I have cleaned a ladies' rest room. 3. I have eight brothers and sisters."

Joseph's Hero:

"My dad. He has gone through a lot in life and has risen above so many factors that could hold him back."



Kassandra Rader
Vice President of Community Service
Pickford High School
krader@mifccla.org

Three Random Facts:

"1. I can change my own car oil. 2. I eat almost everything with ketchup. 3. My favorite M&M color is blue."

Kassandra's Hero:

"My mom. She does so much for us! She is going back to school and she is still able to go to school, be at home, and work."



Anna VanAuken
Vice President of Competitive Events
Brethren High School
avanauken@mifccla.org

Three Random Facts:

"1. I'm left handed. 2. I can burp on command. 3. I can make my tongue look like a clover."

Anna's Hero:

"Lance Armstrong, because he has had many setbacks in his life yet he is so persistent in reaching his goals."