



# Why should I join?

## From one student to another:

Future Business Leaders of America is an organization that prepares students for careers in business. Okay, so that's the textbook definition. FBLA is an experience that will change your life, and here's my reasons why you should join.

**MEMORIES.** Personally, I have met some of my best friends through FBLA. Trust me when I say this, FBLA is the perfect way to meet amazing people and make strong connections. Whether it is winning region competition, rooming with your best friends for 3 nights at state, or traveling to California, Chicago, San Antonio, Salt Lake City, Nashville, Baltimore, Orlando, or Atlanta for Nationals...some of my greatest memories from high school are wrapped up in 4 letters...FBLA.

**PREPARE.** Everyone wants to be successful, right? One of the main goals of FBLA is to prepare members for their careers. FBLA is different than other clubs. No offense, but FBLA is way more relevant to your future! In FBLA, you get *real-world experience*. The skills you learn in this organization will help make you a leader and help you secure that dream job!

**BE CONFIDENT.** I remember how I was before FBLA. My first presentation...let's just say it was a mess. But, participating in FBLA, and being an officer for my chapter, has helped me become a confident leader. I am now an experienced public speaker and my presentations are no longer a mess! If you're one of those people who hates presenting and public speaking, FBLA will change that.

**SHOW OFF.** Do you have a parent that's always wanting you to "get involved" at school? I know I do. FBLA looks great on a resume and it's a fun way to get involved. The experiences you have in FBLA are a really good way to tell people that you're a go-getter! I even wrote one of my college essays about my experience in FBLA. I'm not saying that's what got me accepted, but I bet it helped!

**ATTEND CONFERENCES.** Okay, hands down, the conferences are the best part of FBLA. You go to workshops, hear awesome speakers, compete in events, and *you get to miss school!* Shouldn't that be enough motivation to go? But seriously, these conferences are amazingly fun. If you're a competitive person, these conferences are a great opportunity to excel. I had the privilege of attending 3 different National Leadership Conferences and winning multiple times. Traveling with Mr. Haskin, all around the nation, encompasses my best memories from high school. The advisers will push you not to just become great competitors, but great young men and women who are prepared to meet challenges.

**SUCCESS.** True, no club can guarantee success in life, but the notable feats of alumni prove that TCCHS FBLA helps students achieve success beyond high school. Just a sampling of colleges our alumni have attended include: Georgia Tech, UGA, Clemson, Florida State University, Georgia Southern, Berry College, Mercer, Washington University, Valdosta State University, Air Force Academy, US Naval Academy, and Yale University. Many of our alumni have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, pharmacists, teachers, Officers in the Armed Forces, pilots, and many become entrepreneurs running their own businesses throughout the United States. So, while no one can guarantee success, FBLA can definitely help launch you in the direction of your dreams.

—Former TCCHS FBLA Presidents



# From your TCCHS Head Adviser, Mr. Haskin:

"I wish I would have joined sooner!" are the toughest words I hear from my graduating FBLA seniors each year.

My name is Mr. Haskin and I have been working with TCCHS FBLA for nearly 16 years now. I have the privilege of being joined by Ms. Miranda, Ms. Pierce, and Mr. Thompson who are amazing advisers and the backbone of this award winning chapter...yes, award winning! Our FBLA chapter is possibly the most decorated team/organization at TCCHS winning the RLC Sweepstakes (Region) 9 years in a row (since its inception), over one hundred state medalists and champions, and multiple National/International medalists in numerous events.

Our officer team is challenged each year to make TCCHS FBLA a place where every student feels accepted, challenged, and part of the family. The thing I am probably most proud of with our chapter is the diversity of our members. From the quarterback of the football team, to band members, to valedictorians and salutatorians, to the starting goalkeeper of the soccer team, to drama/stage stars, to some of the most creative kids in the school...TCCHS FBLA brings together kids from all walks of life under one banner. You do not have to be the smartest kid in the school to succeed in FBLA, you just have to be willing to work hard. FBLA competition does meet the MERIT guidelines for academic competitions.

What makes a great leader is his or her ability to inspire others to reach a common goal. Through FBLA, you can become such a leader as well as a role model to those around you. FBLA is full of inspirational figures who work hard to ensure students get the most out of FBLA and emerge as better leaders as well as better individuals. Eventually, you can become a leader yourself, inspiring others to join and helping others connect, explore, discover and achieve. As a leader, you can assist in implementing additional programs to improve a member's experience in FBLA and help him or her get the most out of it. As a leader, you can share your experiences and make a difference in the lives of many more students by preparing them for and helping them attain their desired future careers. As a leader, you can inspire others to follow your example in community service, leadership, passion and hard work.

FBLA is an organization through which these five elements can carry on throughout your life and career. The connections you make through FBLA can last a lifetime and may even help you in your future business endeavors. The topics you explore can be revisited to an even greater depth as a career or skill set. The discoveries you make about your passions and interests can prepare you for your future and help you determine your future goals. The achievements you obtain hold value that can attest to your character and mastery of important business techniques. The legacy you leave behind inspires others to connect, explore, discover, and achieve just as you have. FBLA serves as the perfect platform from which to build yourself upon and emerge as an improved individual and a quality business leader.



"Most people don't believe you when you say some non-club business organization changed your life. FBLA did just that though. In four short years, FBLA taught me how to be a selfless leader, helped me choose a career path, took me to new places, and introduced me to new faces. It brought a second family and people who always believed in you, even when you didn't believe in yourself. The organization opened doors and led to opportunities that got me to where I am today, and I'm forever grateful. "

**Former President—Tyler Williamson  
(UGA Student)**

"FBLA gave me a home, friends, pride, and a purpose. I didn't know when I joined that I would be blessed with these things. FBLA gave me the drive to chase after the things I love in life and to make the world mine. This organization helped me define myself. Everything I accomplish, I trace it back to joining FBLA. I earned not only a National title, but self-confidence and pride for my work and my abilities as a young adult. I learned that I love graphic design and public relations, something that my freshman self would have never been able to discover on her own without FBLA. I hope that every student joins FBLA so they can discover themselves like I did. That is small portion of what FBLA means to me."

**3rd place (world) Social Media Campaign—Ellen Ponder**

"FBLA provides many opportunities to excel in the business world, and while it helped to build my professional experiences, it also played a crucial role in building my personal confidence. I'm not afraid to venture out of my comfort zone and taking on important tasks don't seem as daunting anymore. My many years in FBLA has given me the confidence and courage---and that's something I'll always be grateful for."

**Former President—Ngan Tran (UGA Graduate)**