Greetings, Professional Division Members!

It’s hard to believe that we are at the start of a new membership year. This is an incredibly exciting time for the Professional Division (PD) as we come off our largest membership year on record with more than 3,900 members, a nearly 16% increase over the previous year. See below for some other fun stats from our social media sites.

- +86 Facebook likes in 2015–16
- surpassed 1,000 Twitter followers
- 10,813 members of FBLA-PBL Members, Advisers, & Alumni LinkedIn page

We continue to focus on increasing the value of your membership by:
- offering continuing education credits,
- providing additional recognition opportunities, and
- improving outreach to and involvement of PD members across the other divisions.

Your national team listens to your feedback each year and makes it a priority to do our best to implement continuous improvements to better serve you.

As we celebrate FBLA-PBL’s 75th anniversary, we will be putting extra effort into our engagement and membership goals this year. Stay tuned for communications from both the FBLA-PBL National Center and your PD national officers.

We are leaving A Legacy of Leadership, and we hope that you’ll join us at one of the NFLCs in Milwaukee, Daytona Beach, and Dallas to kick off the year. We look forward to an amazing year ahead and wish you much success.

Best Regards,

Blake Reynolds
2015–17 PD National President
ESTABLISHING A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP IN FLORIDA
an Interview with 2016–17 PBL National President Albert Amaya

by Kelvin Hill, Professional Division National Secretary/Treasurer

Albert is a senior at Florida International University, where he is currently majoring in Human Resource Management. He has been a member of FBLA-PBL for seven years and has served in many leadership roles along the way. He truly believes in FBLA-PBL and its ability to help prepare members for successful careers. His goal is to share his enthusiasm and passion for this organization with the entire FBLA-PBL membership so that together they can help leave A Legacy of Leadership.

Since Florida has one of the largest FBLA-PBL memberships in the country, we asked Albert to provide us with some insight as to how the state utilizes their Professional Division (PD) members and involves them in the state's activities.

How does your state PBL chapter work with PD members of your state?
Florida FBLA-PBL works very closely with the Florida FBLA-PBL PD. Our PD membership is made up of advisers, alumni of the organization, and business professionals. Our PD members show a great amount of support during conference season where they serve as judges and workshop presenters. Additionally, many of our chapters partner with PD members from their area to serve as guest speakers and assist with mock competitions.

What are some activities that you all do together?
As a state, our PD members typically have a presence at our statewide events, including the State Fall Leadership Conference, our State Leadership Conference, and our pre-NLC. PD members may be more hands on at the local level depending on the chapter. My chapter has a lot of support from our PD members, and we see them often.

What are some benefits that come from working with your PD members?
One benefit of working with our PD members is that a lot of them have been in our shoes, so they understand exactly what it takes to run a successful chapter or to be successful in this organization. Another benefit of working with PD members is the opportunities and resources that they can provide for our membership. Many of our PD members are professionals in their field, and they have connections that can benefit our organization as a whole.

What do you believe could strengthen the ties between PBL members and PD members?
I believe that more interaction with our PD members could really strengthen our ties. Combined workshops at national conferences or a mentorship program are two things that we can both benefit from.

What do you believe are some weaknesses of not having PD members helping our PBL members?
I believe that PD members are great resources to our members and they can have a positive effect on our membership. It is important that our PBL members see our PD members in action because they will want to continue their membership in this lifelong organization and help many generations to come.

Start a new job or get promoted? Get married or have a child? Finish graduate school? Win an award?
SUBMIT YOUR SUCCESS STORY
We want to highlight your achievements, because success is better shared!
RYAN PAUL

Ryan Paul is the Massachusetts FBLA-PBL State Adviser and chair of the Professional Division’s State Chapter Development Committee. He has been a member of the organization since he joined Nevada FBLA in 2000. The reason: free pizza. He had to borrow dress clothes from his dad to wear to his first state fall conference. After that day, he not only got a new wardrobe, but was also forever changed by experiencing what FBLA-PBL has to offer.

His senior year of high school, he served as a state officer and attended his first National Leadership Conference. After graduation, he helped start several PBL chapters at schools in Nevada. He served two terms as a PBL national officer, including national president. He completed his undergraduate program at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI thanks in part to an FBLA-PBL scholarship.

After graduation, Ryan moved to Massachusetts and over time became more involved in the state chapter. In addition to his volunteer duties in FBLA-PBL, he works full time as a digital strategist at an advertising agency in downtown Boston. His interest in the field began when he took a multimedia class taught by his FBLA advisers. So, quite truthfully, he would not be where he is today without this organization and the wonderful people who give their time to build tomorrow’s business leaders.

“As PD members, it’s our responsibility to inspire our middle level, high school, and collegiate division members,” said Paul. “It can be through judging at a conference, speaking at a chapter meeting, mentoring individuals, presenting workshops, or taking a member shopping for their first suit at Men’s Wearhouse.”

“It’s also up to us to strengthen the PD so we can continue building A Legacy of Leadership. You can do this through recruiting new members (especially former FBLA and PBL members), organizing a local social event for other PD members, or joining a national committee. Every moment you give to the organization helps build a better future for our members.”
What a truly exciting time to be a member of the Professional Division! As we celebrate FBLA-PBL’s 75th anniversary, this is the time for us to shine like a diamond and take action to make this our greatest year yet. To do that, we need your help! As part of one of our great committees, you can help guide our wonderful division.

We have three committees, each headed by a chair that sets the goals for the committees each year. You can take part in achieving those goals and play an active role in the development of our division. The three committees are: **Conference Experience Committee, State Chapter Development Committee, and Membership and Alumni Committee**.

Our Conference Experience Committee is chaired by Eric McGarvey. This committee reviews the NFLC and NLC to recommend and implement ways to enhance PD members’ experiences at these events. The committee has done great things to enhance the conference experiences for all PD members and can always use new people and new ideas to help make our conferences the best they can be. They help establish the continuing education credit program that was used in Atlanta for NLC, the Open Events, PD Reception and Awards Ceremony, and scheduling events/workshops for PD members.

The State Chapter Development Committee is chaired by Ryan Paul. This committee works to establish and develop state PD chapters. Several states have PD state chapters, and the committee is striving to establish three more this year in California, Mississippi, and Texas.

Our third committee is the Membership and Alumni Committee led by Glenn Gilyot, Jr. This committee explores ways to sustain FBLA-PBL membership at all levels and through to the PD. We know that we have such a large membership in FBLA & PBL and they strive to develop new ways to retain that to the PD, and work on ways to recognize our alumni for things they have done either in their field of work or for the organization.

To join one of these exciting committees and help our division grow to its fullest potential, visit go.fbla.org/PDcommittee to complete the application, mark the committee(s) you would like to serve on, and a committee chair will be in touch with you.

We are only as strong as our members, and this year will be the year to prove that our organization is the best in the nation and the world. Let’s make this a great year!
PD COMPETITIVE EVENT SPONSORSHIP CHALLENGE

As FBLA-PBL continues to work toward having every competitive event at NLC sponsored, the PD has set a goal of sponsoring one event at the FBLA and PBL National Leadership Conferences. Our goal is to raise $5,000 to sponsor one event at each conference, and 100% of the sponsorship will go to the members in the events we sponsor.

Last year was the first time the PD challenged its members to sponsor a competitive event for FBLA and PBL, and we were able to sponsor an event at the PBL NLC. To sponsor events at both NLCs this summer, we really need your support to be successful. No donation amount is too large or too small. Can you donate $100? If not, can you donate $50, or $25, or $10? Every bit helps us reach $5,000. We encourage you to check with your employer to see if your company will match your donation.

You can find the donation link on the About Professional Division page of fbla-pbl.org or at go.fbla.org/pdgivingchallenge. We will provide updates on the website.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS AVAILABLE AT NFLC

Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda, Inc., in coordination with Valley City State University in Valley City, North Dakota, has made continuing education credits available for the National Fall Leadership Conferences. The credits are available at all three locations, Milwaukee, WI; Daytona Beach, FL; and Dallas, TX.

Credit Costs
The continuing education credit cost $75 for 1 credit.

Expectations
The credits are available to all teachers and professionals that attend the conference. The teacher or professional should have a bachelor's degree or higher. We do make exceptions for teachers that do not have a bachelor's degree completed. Please contact Rick Ross at rick.ross@vcsu.edu if you need the exception.

The teacher should attend workshop sessions, marketplace, and main speakers. Observations of student activities are considered a workshop session.

The continuing education participant will write a summary of the conference and list the workshops, breakout sessions, main speakers, and marketplace that were attended. The summary should include a section on “Take Aways” from the conference that you can use in your classroom.

All assignments will be emailed to rick.ross@vcsu.edu by December 15th, 2016.

VCSU does not guarantee that the credit earned will be acceptable in your school district or state. Please contact your district or state to determine if this credit will be acceptable. If there are any questions, please contact rick.ross@vcsu.edu or 1-701-845-7182.

Enrollment
To enroll, visit vcsu.edu/extend and click the link for “Registration and Course Availability”. The continuing education class is titled FBLA / PBL - Fall National Leadership Conference. Click that box and follow instructions.

NFLC VOLUNTEERS

Want to help with PD NFLC activities? Contact Blake Reynolds (pdpres@fbla.org) for more information on how you can help plan activities geared toward the Professional Division at the NFLC. Have a direct impact on our visibility and success!