The Road to Anaheim is Drawing Near

Can you believe it is conference season already? The Anaheim NLC is just two months away and we are aiming for another record-breaking attendance, with more than 13,000 members and advisers across both conferences converging on the city known for what else—Disneyland! Your PD national officers have been hard at work to bring you the best conference experience possible. I am thrilled to report that our membership currently stands at more than 3,700 members.

We have updated our open event topics to drop the two least popular events and have added two new events: Agribusiness • Business Ethics • Current Events in Business • Hospitality Administration • Leadership.

We will again be offering two opportunities at each conference to participate in PD open events, with each PD member able to take up to two tests. Testing times are: PBL: June 25 @ 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. & June 26 @ 9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.; FBLA: July 1 @ 7:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Continuing education credit will again be offered this year for FBLA-PBL advisers and PD members. Additional information can be found on page two. Many thanks to Rick Ross and Valley City State University for providing this opportunity.

We will set up our PD booth at the FBLA NLC where we will be offering our popular résumé reviews, distributing helpful PD materials and information, and signing up new members onsite. We would greatly appreciate your help staffing the booth. You can email PD Vice President Alan Rzepkowski (pdvp@fbla.org) to sign up.

Thank you for your commitment to and passion for this organization and our division. Our growth and success would not be possible without you, our members, being at the core of what we do and how we are able to give back to students, embodying our Legacy of Leadership. We look forward to seeing you in sunny Anaheim soon, particularly at the PD Reception and Awards Program.

Best Regards,

Blake Reynolds
2015–17 PD National President

PD TIP

Keep your membership current and select the ‘automatic renewal’ option in your member profile.

NLC VOLUNTEERS

Want to help with PD NLC activities? Contact Eric McGarvey (goyoureka@aol.com) for more information on how you can help plan activities geared toward the Professional Division at the NLC. Have a direct impact on our visibility and growth!
FBLA/PBL Professional Development Offering June 24–July 2, 2017

Valley City State University, an institution of higher education accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. Named to the U.S. News and World Report “Best Colleges” list for nineteen consecutive years. Is pleased to offer optional 700-level continuing education credit to FBLA-PBL Advisers and Professional Division Members attending and participating in the 2017 FBLA-PBL National Leadership Conference. This credit may be used for teaching licensure renewal, salary adjustments, and etc. This credit will not count towards undergraduate or graduate degree requirements.

- Cost of the credit will be $75.00 for 1 continuing education credit.
- Registration can be found at www.vcsu.edu/extend. Only online registration will be accepted
- Registration for the continuing education credit will close on Sunday, July 2nd, 2017.

For more information contact Rick Ross at 701-845-7182 or rick.ross@vcsu.edu.
One of the PD’s major initiatives during the past few years has been our working committees. All three of these committees made great strides in implementing their goals this year. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please contact one of the officers, and we will put you in touch with the committee chair.

Current committees are:

- **State Chapter Development Committee**—working to develop and support state PD chapters.
- **Conference Experience Committee**—working to review the NFLC and NLC in order to recommend and implement ways to enhance PD members’ experiences at these events.
- **Membership and Alumni Committee**—working to explore and recommend ways to sustain FBLA-PBL membership at all levels and through to the PD.

To become involved in a PD committee, visit [fbla-pbl.org](http://fbla-pbl.org) and click on the PD Committee Application link under the PD tab.

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**NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (NLC) JUDGES NEEDED**

PBL NLC: June 25–26  
FBLA NLC: June 30–July 1

Any PD members planning to attend the NLC are encouraged to serve as competitive event judges. Over 800 judges are needed, and your assistance would be appreciated.

Conference information is available at [go.fbla.org/NLC](http://go.fbla.org/NLC). We urge you to submit the online judging form at [go.fbla.org/NLC_judge](http://go.fbla.org/NLC_judge).
PD Secretary/Treasurer Attends Georgia SLC

Professional Division Secretary/Treasurer Kelvin Hill attended Georgia FBLA’s State Leadership Conference, held March 12–14, 2017. Georgia’s theme this year was “Time to Shine!” and it certainly was a spectacular conference, complete with Georgia’s southern hospitality.

As the state with the largest FBLA membership, there were nearly 200 judges for Georgia’s SLC this year, and Kelvin had a wonderful time serving as a judge for these young people and preparing them for the NLC in Anaheim.

One of Kelvin’s many interactions with members of GA FBLA involved a conversation with a retired teacher, who was the first person to start FBLA in Georgia and is also a PD member. Kelvin also networked with three other judges, informing them about the PD and sparking their interest to join.

The PD national officer team thanks Monty Rhodes of the Georgia Board of Directors for hosting Kelvin at their 2017 SLC. We look forward to seeing everyone at the NLC in Anaheim in just a couple of short months!

PD COMPETITIVE EVENT SPONSORSHIP CHALLENGE

As FBLA-PBL continues to work toward having every competitive event at NLC sponsored, the PD set a goal of sponsoring one event at the FBLA and PBL NLCs. 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. The 2015 NLC 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, we need your support. No donation is too large or too small. Can you donate $100? If not, can you donate $50, $25, or $10? Every bit helps us reach $5,000. We encourage you to ask your employer 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.
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Andrew Ondish, a PD member from Maryland, has been involved with our organization since he was a two-year state officer with Maryland FBLA from 1998–2000. Since then, he earned his bachelor’s degree in accounting, passed the CPA exam, and has become a successful senior tax accountant with a focus on business services. He has served on the Maryland FBLA-PBL Board of Directors since 2010 and is a founding member of the Maryland FBLA-PBL Foundation where he serves as the vice president/treasurer.

“FBLA changed the direction of my life when my business teacher, Ms. Hammond, challenged me to get involved in a business class instead of taking gym classes,” said Mr. Ondish. He believes that this one simple change in his high school course work put him on the path to higher education and a successful career.

“FBLA offers an alternative to athletics and other programs in schools that kids might not fit in with. It can keep some kids’ minds in the classroom and let them believe college is an option,” said Mr. Ondish. His career has given him experience in both large and small firms where he has honed and expanded his skill set. His PD involvement has allowed him to share his story with both students and professionals in our organization.

Using what he learned in FBLA, Mr. Ondish believes that being a PD member and giving back to an organization that had a profound impact on his life was a great way to stay involved and help others learn and achieve what he has achieved as a business person. Beyond his volunteer involvement in FBLA-PBL, Mr. Ondish also gives back by volunteering as a youth coach and assisting a nonprofit for addicted youth. In the public arena, he is involved with his local county government as a member of their Budget Advisory Board, and he volunteers with a number of local candidates and elected officials in his home county.

“Being a Professional Division member, and also increasing my involvement with the Maryland FBLA-PBL Board and Foundation, has allowed me to meet a variety of business leaders as well as high school and college students across the state and country,” said Mr. Ondish. “These connections will help build my legacy of leadership and hopefully impact others as they seek to make an impact and succeed in life and in the business world.”

ANNUAL GIVING

In addition to contributing to the Professional Division Competitive Event Sponsorship Challenge, you may consider contributing to the Annual Giving Campaign. Your contribution to FBLA-PBL will support scholarships and other student development programs—fulfilling our mission of providing innovative leadership and career development programs. FBLA-PBL offers a diverse learning community with a commitment to our future leaders. It is important for our students to be a part of an organization that nurtures and challenges the intellectual, creative, and leadership abilities of its student members in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. FBLA-PBL offers rich educational, extracurricular, and leadership programs and conferences. Please make FBLA-PBL your philanthropic priority—to invest in America’s future leaders. FBLA-PBL is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational association, and all contributions are tax deductible. To contribute to the Annual Giving Campaign, visit go.fbla.org/annualgiving.

BOOTH VOLUNTEERS

Promote the PD and help us staff the booth at the NLC! We have had some fantastic traffic at the booth, and it’s due to the wonderful enthusiasm and energy of PD members who staff it. The booth will be open during exhibit hall hours at the FBLA NLC, and we need your help to ensure we are represented at all times. Contact PD Vice President Alan Rzepkowski at pdvp@fbla.org to donate your time.

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!