



Reflections.

F R O M F B L A O F F I C E R S

National Officers share their 2019-2020 thoughts on their "World of Opportunity"





What was your most memorable moment during your national officership?

Walking out on stage during the Birmingham NFLC, I looked out into the crowd. I didn't just see hundreds of smiling members, but I saw myself: I saw freshman-year Travis sitting out in the crowd with a beaming smile. That moment during NFLC was powerful for me because it reminded me that seeing our members happy is one of the reasons I worked so hard to become a National Officer

Choose one area of business interest that has been of most interest to you during your time at FBLA. Share.

Serving as an active, voting member of the FBLA-PBL Board of Directors this year fundamentally changed me as a person, and it allowed me to develop a keen interest in Nonprofit Management and Board Leadership. . I learned how to positively use my voice to represent the people I was elected to serve, Boards can truly be progressive bodies that are drivers and agents of change.

Give a business lesson in ten words or less.

Good leaders must start with why and know their people.



Travis Johnson

FBLA National President





What was your most memorable moment during your national officership?

My most memorable moment of my national officership was my time at the National Fall Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. I had such an amazing time at this conference getting to connect with members on a more personal level through the workshop Ethan and I gave and the state officer session.

Choose one area of business interest that has been of most interest to you during your time at FBLA. Share.

I started out my FBLA career by competing in Introduction to Business Communication which was really rewarding because I was able to see my hard work studying pay off at my state conference. Specifically, I had a blast working on various social media platforms for FBLA throughout my terms as a state and national officer which sparked my interest in continuing with communications.

The focus of FBLA is "Experience." What does this mean to you?

To me, "experience" means becoming actively involved: participate in community service, learning opportunities, and competitive events.



Margo Boyd

FBLA National Secretary





What was your most memorable moment during your national officership?

During the 2020 State Leadership Summit, my team had the opportunity to visit the West Wing of the White House to speak with Joseph Riley, the current Director of Oceania and Indo-Pacific Security for the US government, and former FBLA National President. Speaking with an FBLA alumnus about the impact the organization had on his life was incredibly inspiring!

Choose one area of business interest that has been of most interest to you during your time at FBLA. Share.

After recognizing the profound impact FBLA (a nonprofit) had on my life, I decided to utilize my newfound business skills to implement a nonprofit of my own. In May 2018, I created Chords for Comfort, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that donates free guitars and musical resources to children of divorce. Thanks to FBLA, I not only gained a better understanding and love for nonprofits, but I translated that interest into a real business!

Give a business lesson in ten words or less.

Enthusiasm is contagious, and so is pessimism.



Vivian Clarke

FBLA National Treasurer





The focus of FBLA is "Experience." What does this mean to you?

To me, experience embodies every aspect of FBLA. We want our members to have the best FBLA experience possible, our advisers want the resources to make this experience possible, and our members want more experiences through workshops, conferences, and competitive events.

Choose one area of business interest that has been of most interest to you during your time at FBLA. Share.

I've been interested in International Business and Trade. I would love to find a career in International Affairs to study how economies interact and how business practices can be relevant in international relations.

Give a business lesson in ten words or less.

Always look for a balance between risk and reward.



Elizabeth Howell

FBLA National Parliamentarian





What was your most memorable moment during your national officership?

When I met with all of our region's state leaders online. It gave me the chance to help them out and learn from their unique experiences, which not only led to long-lasting friendships with leaders across the country, but also made me learn a lot more about leadership as well while giving back to this great organization.

The focus of FBLA is "Experience." What does this mean to you?

When we go through high school, we need to get the best experience possible by participating and challenging. In FBLA, we are able to gain leadership and business-related knowledge through our various offerings of leadership experiences- conferences, chapter activities, etc.- that are invaluable to our future pathways to success.

Give a business lesson in ten words or less.

"Rule #1: Never lose money. Rule #2: Never forget rule #1." -Warren Buffet



Drew Lojewski

Eastern Region Vice President





What was your most memorable moment during your national officership?

My first meeting with the state presidents of my region, where each of them described the most exciting parts of their year thus far. This time helped me truly grasp the influence the National Officer Program of Work has on the years of our members.

The focus of FBLA is "Experience." What does this mean to you?

FBLA has provided me the opportunity to visit our nation's capital, speak in front of thousands, and make life-long connections. This organization provides an experience that supersedes business or leadership. The time I have put into FBLA has left an indelible mark on my development as an individual.

Give a business lesson in ten words or less.

To rise, you have to be prepared to fall.



Drake Vorderstrasse

Mountain Plains Region Vice President





What was your most memorable moment during your national officership?

Definitely being on the stage at NFLC in Colorado. The adrenaline rush that I experienced when walking on the stage at opening session was an experience that cannot be justified by words. It was truly a life-changing experience.

Choose one area of business interest that has been of most interest to you during your time at FBLA. Share.

The stock market and investing companies. In the future, I would like to possibly interview some brokers who have been in the game for at least a few decades and ask them questions about their daily jobs and how investing has changed over the past 20+ years.

Give a business lesson in ten words or less.

When the going gets tough, the tough keep going.



Ben Morrison

North Central Region Vice President





What was your most memorable moment during your national officership?

At the Washington D.C. NFLC I remember helping to lead a philanthropy workshop with Margo and cheering on attendees as they wrote and sang your own FBLA “jingles.” I remember meeting some of you for Insomnia Cookies before all of us came together on the dance floor at our Blue Jeans for Babies fundraiser.

The focus of FBLA is “Experience.” What does this mean to you?

In FBLA, experience means improving our organization by running for office, developing business knowledge through competition, or helping out at a local fundraiser. I hope that this mentality — one of great enthusiasm and great devotion — is one that we all take with us from FBLA in the years to come.

Give a business lesson in ten words or less.

Pour your heart into everything that you do.



Ethan Ghozali

Southern Region Vice President





What was your most memorable moment during your national officership?

My first NFLC was my first time in the south. This was an amazing opportunity to experience a new world of culture and meet new people. Yes, meeting new people from FBLA is the highlight for me. From the different backgrounds everyone comes to, the different competitive people have competed in, it is a blessing to have the opportunity to see FBLA on a global level.

Ask a business owner to share how COVID-19 has impacted business.

After interviewing a motivational speaker, I learned that a speaking business thrives from groups gathering, the profits they made from speaking has decreased quite a lot. However, some have taken this time as an opportunity to create more content like books and audio material, which is now a new main source of profit.

Give a business lesson in ten words or less.

Don't wait for the right time. The right time is now.



Haneol (John) Lee

Western Region Vice President





THANK YOU

FROM YOUR FB LA
NATIONAL OFFICERS





Reflections.

F R O M P B L O F F I C E R S

National Officers share their 2019-2020 thoughts on their "World of Opportunity"



Have you ever discovered business practices to be "hidden" someplace unexpected?

These hidden lessons are learned behind the professional: as oppose to just watching a TED Talk or Workshop, I always try to reach out to the person and ask questions to learn about their walk in leadership. What experiences brought you to where you are? What would you tell your 20-year old self? These kinds of questions always spark excitement in the business professional, and usually reveals important life lessons that I otherwise would not have heard.

The focus of PBL is "Engage." What does this mean to you?

To me, engage now means to take action and challenge yourself, letting no barrier come in the way. There are a few ways this idea manifests itself: using Tallo and LinkedIn to network with professionals or shadowing professionals to explore more careers. The Career Connections Conference encapsulates 'engage' to me; I encourage you to begin saving now for this incredible opportunity later this year.

Give a business lesson in ten words or less.

Put others first and always show respect.



Max Michel

PBL National President



What was your most memorable moment during your national officership?

That's a toss up between closing ceremonies at 2019 NLC because that's where you all elected me as your national treasurer, or Career Connections Conference 2019 because that's where our team became a family and I got to explore the city with the members

Choose one area of business interest that has been of most interest to you during your time at FBLA-PBL.

Networking has been my interest since joining BFLA-PBL. It's why I initially joined - I wanted to get better at networking and speaking with individuals I still have not mastered this, but PBL has been my mentor in achieving this goal. Networking is the key to business relationship

The Focus of PBL is "Engage." What does this mean to you?

Be present at all times. At a networking event, have genuine conversations with people instead of trying to say hello to everyone in the room. Give back to your community whether by volunteering or simply waving at everyone you see on your walk to class. Take advantage of everything in this World of Opportunity.



Nicole Clark

PBL National Treasurer



What was your most memorable moment during your national officership?

The most memorable moment during my term as a national officer was being able to lay the wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier with fellow national officers.

The focus of PBL is "Engage." What does this mean to you?

To me, PBL engages members by giving them a chance to use their classroom knowledge in the field with hands-on learning opportunities

Give a business lesson in ten words or less.

Everything begins with the small step of taking a chance.



DJ Hardwick

Mountain Plains Region Vice President

The focus of PBL is "Engage". What does this mean to you?

Engagement must go further than initial contact, Phi Beta Lambda members set themselves apart from the competition by continuing the conversation and making those meaningful connections with people in their industry. If one wishes to engage, they must be present and persistent.

Choose one area of business interest that has been of most interest to you during your time at FBLA-PBL

During my time at FBLA-PBL, I have become increasingly aware of the need for CTSO exposure on a state and federal level. Much of our funding, including the Perkins legislation needs advocacy from our dedicated members to be renewed. As members, we have experienced first-hand the benefits of CTSO experiences, and as such have a responsibility to ensure these experiences are not lost on younger generations. I hope to encourage our members across varying levels of our organization to get involved with CTSO advocacy to ensure the future of our organization and excellent programs for years to come



Ellie Murphy

North Central Region Vice President

What was your most memorable moment during your national officership?

One of the most memorable experiences during my national officership was attending the Career Connections Conference in New York City! This conference allowed me to connect with my team in new ways, as well as meet members from all over the country!

This year's theme is "A World of Opportunity" now that we are full circle.. what do those words mean to you today?

One year ago, A World of Opportunity was just a phrase. Since then, I was able to meet people from all around the country. I met top executives for companies I have dreamed of working for. I have become friends with people from very different walks of life, united in one purpose. My entire world has changed since one year ago. My dreams are still the same, but goals are (mostly) still the same, but the person I am and the people I surround myself with are entirely different.

Give a business lesson in ten words or less.

Constantly network and never burn bridges.



Liz Anderson

Western Region Vice President



Travis McConathy
PBL National Secretary



Keenan Carter
Southern Region Vice President



Kylie Doupnik
PBL National Parliamentarian



Justin Flemons
Eastern Region Vice President



THANK YOU

F R O M Y O U R P B L
N A T I O N A L O F F I C E R S

