



Maryland FBLA



A shot of the Verizon Center in Washington D.C. during the Washington Wizards' FBLA/DECA day.

What you and your Chapter Should be Doing

- Competitions—If you already held Preliminary tests, grade those tests and prepare for Regionals.
- Alumni—Have an Alumni Day. Invite former chapter members, officers, and advisors to speak to your current members.
- SLC—Begin preparing for State Leadership Conference in the spring.

Executive Committee Opportunity

Calling all FBLA members! Do you want to be more involved? Looking for a position within the State? Well, here's your opportunity! We are now accepting applications for Vice Chairman of three State committees: Fundraising, Go Green, and Membership. Please contact Vice President Aaron Moore at amoore@mdfbla.org for more information.

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!**

National Fall Leadership Conference (D.C.) Reflection

November 14th and 15th was the National Fall Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. I had the opportunity to travel to our nation's capital and attend this national conference. The people I met and the time I spent there will never be forgotten. Someone asked me when I returned "How was the Conference?" and I answered, "I felt recharged." After a conference like that, you remember why you work so hard, why we, as Future Business Leaders of America, do what we do. We want to make a mark on the world, and the people who led the conference accomplished that. They have personally made a mark on me and many others by just standing up and speaking out. Our national theme this year is *Get the Edge!* and I really felt like I did that.

Upon arriving on Friday, members could have attended a variety of workshops during three sessions and then were free for dinner. Later, members reconvened for the Opening Session, in which several National Officers were introduced, as well as an outstanding guest speaker. Dr. Joe Martin, whose career ventures have included being a professor, business owner, author, and motivational speaker, shared his life experiences and spoke about living life, overcoming adversity, and being a leader. His words were moving and he was very impressive. On Saturday, members had the chance to attend more workshops during six sessions, and Saturday ended with the Closing Session, with yet another amazing guest speaker, Grant Baldwin, who inspired all members to make a difference. Following the Closing Session, there was a March of Dimes Blue Jeans for Babies dance, where members enjoyed themselves, danced to music, and had the chance to donate a dollar or two to the March of Dimes. In addition to the many lessons learned through attending workshops, members also had the benefit of networking and meeting with other members, advisors, and professionals from across the country. Again, an amazing conference and thanks to our National Officer team for organizing such a great event.

There were only a handful of members from Maryland in attendance. Next year, there will be a NFLC in Baltimore, so let's look forward to next year so we can host an amazing NFLC!

Karthik Krishnan—River Hill High School—Eastern Region Vice President's Assistant

Washington Wizards FBLA/DECA Day Reflection

On November 21 over 2,500 FBLA and DECA members from Maryland, Virginia, and D.C. attended the Washington Wizards FBLA/DECA day. There were a number of guest speakers, including executives from the Wizards' front office, radio and T.V. announcers for the Wizards' games, and even a player from the Washington Wizards, center Brendan Haywood.

Members listened to the presentations and then were able to explore the College Fair concourse provided by Westwood College. The Washington Wizards organization also provided members in attendance with free dinner. Members then got to observe Yao Ming and the Rockets defeat the hometown Wizards in a tough game. This event was a great opportunity for members to hear from business professionals in various industries, meet and network with other many other members, and enjoy themselves. Thanks to the Washington Wizards for hosting such a great event. The Wizards have presented this event before, and will hopefully present it in the future.