

# BEGINNING THE YEAR WITH A BANG



The Maryland FBLA Newsletter | Volume VII, Issue 1

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## New Arrivals to Maryland FBLA

Maryland FBLA is bringing a whole new set of programs your way!

### **Subscriptions**

Now Maryland FBLA has always had fantastic newsletters, but they just got even better. Why look for the newsletter when our state chapter can directly send you email updates? We now offer the option for you to subscribe to our newsletters and email updates. Staying connected with your state chapter and their activities just got a whole lot easier. Subscribe right now on our brand-new website! You can unsubscribe anytime, although you probably would never want to after you have had a taste of how awesome it is!

### **Member of the Month**

Attention Respected Advisors: Nominate your dedicated students for the Member of the Month award! Now you can ensure your passionate FBLA members are recognized for all their hard work, long nights, and enthusiasm they put into their local chapters.

### **Photo of the Month Contest**

FBLA gives you experiences that will last a lifetime. Make sure to document all the fun times with your FBLA members because Maryland FBLA presents the new Photo of the Month Contest! For all you amazing photographers out there, this is your big break! Send your best FBLA-related pictures to our website for your chance to win the contest. The prize? One free item of your choice from the Maryland FBLA gear sale at the State Leadership Conference Yard Sale! Gear includes, but is not limited to, T-Shirts, lanyards, and National Leadership Conference pins.

### **Personal Quotes**

We know how all members love FBLA. Now, you can tell us how much! Submit a quote about your experiences with Maryland FBLA (or FBLA in general) and you may be featured on our homepage! We cannot wait to hear what you think!



### **Save the Date!**

**National Fall Leadership Conference** | November 7-8, 2014  
*Washington, D.C.*

**Regional Leadership Conferences** | February, 2015  
*(Check [www.mdfbla.org](http://www.mdfbla.org) for dates and locations)*

**Maryland State Leadership Conference** | April 23-25, 2015  
*Hunt Valley Inn, Maryland*

**National Leadership Conference** | June 24-27, 2015  
*Chicago, Illinois*



Maryland FBLA steps up to the challenge by working hard to create your program of work.

## CTSO Training

On August 6, 2014, the ever-ready brand new Maryland state officer team arrived at the North Baltimore Plaza Hotel with one mission: to create an insanely effective program of work but more importantly forge an unbreakable team. DECA, FFA, and Skills USA, the other Career Technology Student Organizations (CTSOs), were also invited to training. The first day kicked off with introductions leading into outstanding elevator pitches designed to catch the attention of congressman in less than a minute during a chance encounter in an elevator. The informative day continued with workshops in team building, SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely) goals, and what it takes to be a good leader. With their newfound skills, the Maryland state officer team was ready to create their program of work. After discussing winning workshop ideas, gratifying goals, and social media strategies, the Maryland state officer team created the foundation for the program of work. As much work as they accomplished, MDFBLA knows that in the end that a team that plays together stays together.

The team left the confines of their hotel and got their creative juices flowing with some intense laser tag! The unique opportunity really brought the team together and built an incredible team dynamic! After returning to the hotel, the Maryland state officers were proud to finalize their program of work which they immediately put into action. The next day the officer team filmed two fun-filled presidential addresses to excite Maryland FBLA members for another great year. As CTSO training was coming to a close, the workshop facilitators thought it would be cool to bring it full circle and close with elevator speeches, but there was a twist: each CTSO would advertise another CTSO rather than themselves! The activity taught everyone that all the CTSOs had the common goal of empowering youth to pursue their career dreams whilst studying in school. The Maryland state officers were disappointed to part ways but were now equipped with the vital tools necessary to carry out their program of work. Maryland FBLA is now ready to Step Up to the Challenge and make this year unforgettable!