

Tualatin Future Business Leaders of America is on a Five Year Roll

BY COLETTE PETERSEN

Tualatin Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) did it again. Tualatin High School's FBLA chapter won the 6A State title of Chapter of the Year for the fifth year in a row at their State Business Leadership Competition. Not only that, but together, the club took home 54 individual and team awards.

April 9-11, Tualatin FBLA attended the State Business Leadership Competition held at the Doubletree Hotel in Portland. This three day conference consisted of performance events, workshops, and two awards ceremonies at the start and end of the conference. Over 2000 FBLA members and advisors attended the conference from over 70 chapters from around the state.

Mackenzie Morrow, a senior at Tualatin and president of the club, reflects on what it has taken to achieve this, "The success from this chapter has originated from years past, along with the hard work and dedication of the current officer team, we have come home with another state championship. I am proud to be a part of such an amazing legacy."

Tualatin FBLA has a history of victory at the State competition having won 10 Chapter of the Year awards in the last 14 years. There were seven State Champions this year: seniors John Ayres, Erin Brohoski, Colette Petersen, and Elijah Raffo, juniors Malachi Seib and Layton Webber, and sophomore Allison Mo. Malachi Seib, who is also the vice president of Tualatin FBLA, qualified in two events.

Jim McCaffrey, the advisor of the club, shares his insights on what it took to win Chapter of the Year again, "At the beginning of the year, the mantra for the officers and members was to be part of something that's bigger than themselves. I am so deeply proud of this group of students. Together they set their sights very high in their community service initiatives- accomplishing them all. Then they turned their



attention to winning another state championship. Winning championships is so difficult and takes everyone buying in on the set goal and when the time comes, performing at their very best. This 5th straight 6A state championship speaks volumes of how well trained our students are in business and how dedicated they were to continue the Tualatin tradition."

The success of the school's chapter doesn't go unnoticed. The principle of Tualatin High School, Darin Barnard, is impressed with the accomplishments of FBLA: "I'm really proud of the program that Mr. McCaffrey has put together and the students that he's brought together. There are an unbelievable number of kids that are involved in our program and then how successful they have been in competition really represents Tualatin High School well. It makes me proud when our kids go out and not only compete and win, but represent our school."

Tualatin FBLA qualified for the National Leadership Competition in 21 events, and ten members will be making the trip to Chicago with the entire State of Oregon contingent during the first week of July. Tualatin has done well in the past ten years placing students at the National level every year, most recently with two National champions in Banking and Financial

Systems in 2013 and two students who placed in the top ten in Advanced Accounting in 2014.

To win Chapter of the Year, a school must amass more points than other chapters in their division. Points are earned by placing in competitive events, chapter projects, and online business-related activities called Business Achievement Awards.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is the largest business oriented, non-profit organization in the world. Members participate in community service events and compete in business related competitions at a regional, state, and national level.

To learn more about the TuHS FBLA Chapter, please visit www.TualatinFBLA.com.

For more information, please contact Jim McCaffrey at 503-431-5744 or jmccaffrey@tsd.k12.or.us.



Colette Petersen is the FBLA Marketing/Communications officer and is a senior at Tualatin High School.