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HCHS Students Win National FCCLA Leadership Awards



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Houston County High School students competed at the 2019 Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Leadership Conference held in Anaheim, Cal. during the summer. Seven students brought home three awards among the top 10 in the U.S., to include two Gold medals.

Congratulations to the following students who won national awards:

- Nikita Shetty and Elizabeth Deal ~ Gold, 1st Place Overall, Environmental Ambassador (pictured top left);
- Cristina Espinoza, Jaidan Beal and Megha Patel ~ Gold, 4th Place Overall, Illustrated Talk (pictured right); and
- Maddy Hagemann and Emma Owens ~ Silver, 5th Place Overall, Focus on Children (pictured below left).



Over 700 FCCLA high school members took part in the FCCLA Leadership Academy, which offers curated lessons to students by grade level and is specific to relevant lessons in life, career, and college readiness. The academy uses the FranklinCovey *Leader in Me* curriculum to empower students to develop their leadership skills and self-confidence while learning side-by-side with peers from across the country. This in-depth training at

FCCLA's National Leadership Conference equips students with leadership and life skills they need, to excel in the 21st century. The HCHS FCCLA members who attended include Brynley Jones, Brenay Robinson, Jordan Beal, Jaidan Beal, Cristina Espionza and Megha Patel.

Brynley Jones, a junior at Houston County High and Georgia FCCLA Region Officer (pictured right), served as a representative for Georgia at the conference. In this role, she supported and encouraged hundreds of Georgia attendees.



In addition, Houston County High FCCLA Advisers received recognition for their dedication and commitment to FCCLA. Shonda McFadden, pictured below left, received the FCCLA Adviser Mentor Award. Brittany Tolleson, pictured below right, received the FCCLA Master Adviser Award.



Brenay Robinson, first-time attendee at the national conference, remarked, "I will never forget my experience in California at the National Leadership Conference. NLC gave me the chance to embrace new experiences, make new friends from all over the country, and grow as a leader. FCCLA has made me more confident in my abilities and has made me believe that I have the potential to make an impact on my school and community."

The school's FCCLA would like to express heartfelt thanks for all of those within the community that supported these students in being able to make incredible memories at NLC and have the chance to reach their California Dreams of becoming students that lead!

To advance to the national level, members must first compete and place at the district and state levels. Over 4,700 FCCLA members competed in national STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) Events, in which members earn recognition for their proficiency and achievement in chapter and individual projects, leadership skills and career preparation. Students develop real-world, employable skills through STAR Events, which enhance the classroom experience. The competitions include areas such as Early Childhood Education, Sports Nutrition, Entrepreneurship, Fashion Design, Job Interview and Culinary Arts.

This year's annual conference was the largest conference in FCCLA history, with more than 8,700 advisors, members, alumni and guests. They attended leadership and program trainings, heard national speakers, competed in events, and explored college and career opportunities. FCCLA is a student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through Family and Consumer Sciences education. FCCLA has over 175,000 members and more than 5,300 chapters from 50 state associations, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Houston County High School is located at 920 Highway 96 in Warner Robins. Dr. Doug Rizer serves as principal and may be reached at 478-988-6340. For more information about FCCLA, please contact Tolleson at Brittany.Tolleson@hcbe.net or visit <http://fclclainc.org/>.



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