



FEATURED STUDENT AUTHOR

FCCLA, NOT JUST ANOTHER SCHOOL CLUB

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I never imagined I'd learn as much as I have by joining FCCLA. This club has taught me what it is to be a leader and strive for something greater. Mrs. Saenz and Mrs. Perez, along with Mrs. Brady, three advisors for FCCLA, have been nothing but prime examples of role models. The past FCCLA officers, and others, have been great examples of what leaders should look like and this is what FCCLA is all about. Gaining those leadership skills and improving on personal traits to help better prepare students for their future. I wanted to gain skills necessary for a successful adult life and FCCLA greatly contributed to that. One of the eight purposes for FCCLA is to encourage individual and group involvement in helping achieve global cooperation and harmony, so if you're interested in changing the world, even slightly, this is the club for you!

FCCLA stands for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. This club isn't just another school club; we are a non-profit national Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) that's been around in private and public schools since 1945. This club provides students opportunities for personal growth, leadership development, and career preparation opportunities. FCCLA has a mission and that mission is to promote personal growth and leadership development through family and consumer sciences education. Focusing on the roles of family member, wage earner, and community leader, members develop skills necessary for a successful adult life through: character development, creative and critical thinking, interpersonal communication, practical knowledge, and career preparation. The knowledge and skills I've learned from being in this club will last me a lifetime. This club not only works to improve the lives of its members but we also take field trips that help us build our leadership skills and networking skills with others around the country. The 2014 Fall Leadership Extravaganza and State Leadership Conference were amazing, not to mention the opportunity to go to Washington D.C. this summer for National Leadership Conference. Those experiences are once in a lifetime for a high school student.

This is only my first year and I've already learned so much. I've grown to love this club; the positivity and seeing everyone grow and improve and the opportunities they've given us to expand our minds towards new horizons is worth all the hard work of fundraisers, activities, and community services we've done. FCCLA gives members recognition at national levels for outstanding dedication and achievements. Members are able to compete at local, state, and national levels by participating in national contests, STAR Events, and in Family and Consumer Sciences Knowledge Bowl. A few other ways to be recognized are through Dynamic Leadership, Leaders at Work, and completion of the Power of One. Scholarships are also awarded to national members through sponsorship from partners and universities.

Members are also invited to apply to a six-week Japanese Exchange Scholarship opportunity during the summer. I can't stress enough how beneficial FCCLA has been for me; of course my advisers also played a huge part in that as well. If we were to take the person I was when I first joined the club and the person I am now, we'd be two completely different people. I strongly encourage everyone to be in CTE classes and if possible, join the club. If the purpose of life is to live it, then why not do it? Taste experience to the utmost without fear. In the words of Mark Twain, "Throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbor, and catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover." There is so much a person can receive from FCCLA, and I'm glad I made the decision to join. FCCLA really is the ultimate leadership experience for high school students.