

Family Career Community Leaders of America National Leadership Conference

Anaheim, California ♦ June 27-July 5, 2019



Getting to Nationals is Not Easy

Carly Acob

Getting to Nationals was not easy. I had just finished my season in paddling when my Culinary teacher gave me the opportunity to compete at States in the Culinary Arts category. I met two boys, who were strangers but whom I currently treat as siblings. It was never easy; we practiced early mornings and after school for months and even dedicated our weekends to this event.

During States, all our hard work and dedication got us to 1st place! We received a scholarship and the opportunity to compete at Nationals. We were able to fundraise, and, with the help of our parents, we were off to Anaheim, California.

We practiced long hours and dedicated the first month of summer to practicing. With our advisers, Mr. Hanagami and Mrs. Deguchi, our hard work, dedication, blood and sweat, we were able to compete at Nationals. I will miss competing and feeling the adrenaline, and if given the opportunity, I would do this all over again.

Our FCCLA Story

Christian Hermoso

In reminiscing about NLC, I realized that this was my last year representing Hawaii as our state president. WOW, time has passed. Three years ago, I was that kid who was intimidated and hesitant but was convinced that this organization has something very special to offer to him..... I must agree that FCCLA has made a tremendous difference of who I am today. These conferences have made a difference in my life. It has shown me what it's like to have the greatest feeling and joy when you are on stage in front of 8,000+ members waving the flag of Hawaii and the members from your state screaming at the top of their lungs, it is a memory that lasts a lifetime.

As president it is important to share the limelight to the rest of your officers and that is exactly what I did. I made sure that all of my officers who were on this trip were able to have the opportunity to be on stage. Hopefully, this ignited a bigger passion and sense of pride to represent Hawaii and our members in front of the nation.

This trip was one full of new experiences and extremely memorable. This year, I will share and show how FCCLA is such a unique organization - show how a competition, traveling, and fun can all be experienced within a week at NLC. I know that members of FCCLA will continue to be inspired because their story is OUR STORY.

Our 'Gold'

Loryn Garcia

We did not place gold, but we are happy with the experiences we gained through this conference. In a way, the friendships that we made is our "gold." We always made sure no one was left behind. I really admired how supportive everyone was as we supported our state president Christian Hermoso, unfortunately he did not become a national officer but we continued to applaud him for doing a good job of representing Hawaii. He is truly a professional, and carried out his duties as he continued to lead the election of the national officers for 2019-2020.



FCCLA Helps Set Career Path

Amanda Raphaella Ibanez

FCCLA is great for planning for your future, through FCCLA, I discovered which classes are appropriate for my future career. Many students are lost with what they want to do as a career or how they should plan to get there, FCCLA will help students plan their path, and give them the push they need in order to get started, and plan for success.

The Red Blazer

Mikayla Dumaslan

At the State Officer Training, we were asked what the red blazer symbolized. For me it represents the different opportunities FCCLA has given me. The challenges I have overcome and the experiences that has changed me into the person I am today.

I have become confident in myself and my actions. As I wore the red blazer it taught me to be a leader in my community and organization. The red blazer has taught me to strive for new horizons. It has given me the strength and encouragement to be the best version of myself.



My Personal Story

Jody Nacorda-Vieira

After months of hard work and going to nationals, what did FCCLA leave me? It indirectly gave me the opportunity to explore California and make wonderful memories. I got closer with friends and teachers in a way that wouldn't have happened in any other situation. This is my personal story out of thousands on why I would recommend this club to everyone and their friends.



Becoming Vocal

Camille Castro

This experience helped me with my people skills, to be less nervous in trying new things and to become more vocal. As a room consultant, I had to use my 'big' voice to get everyone's attention. It was difficult at first but became easier after each presentation. At first, I wasn't excited to be a volunteer, but then I met many cool people and gained new ideas for projects in the future.

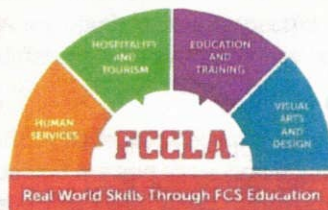


A Great Learning Experience

Jody Nacorda-Vieira

At the start of my senior year, I was encouraged to join FCCLA with my two friends. The club advisor, Mr. Sampson, always came to our graphics teacher, Mrs. Sawai, to ask for assistance for his club members in making their boards and their designs, so she wanted some of her kids to try it out as well. As a Graphics Academy student, I did not specialize in business, fashion, or culinary, which tended to be the main features in the STAR events.

What started as a challenge, it later became a great learning experience. Our team selected Tourism, Hospitality, and Recreation category, which required us to create a hypothetical company. We did a lot of research and interviewing to get our numbers and statistics correct. Because of this, I got a very helpful grasp on marketing and company management. In the end we did end up winning a gold medal!



Snapshots!

Dana Dela Cruz: The speeches at NLC helped me realize that I can make a huge impact as long as I believe I can.

Amanda Raphaella Ibanez: I will be taking what I learned back to Moanalua to organize events that will include our entire chapter.

Alicia Zhong: Everyone who represented our state should be proud of themselves. In our hearts, we know we were humble and were able to spread the Aloha during our entire stay.



A Club Becomes a Family

Dana Dela Cruz

Joining FCCLA is something I will never regret. The support and help, was extremely helpful. This club is not like any other club that I have joined, and I joined many.

FCCLA feels like a family as compared to other clubs where I felt we were in a battle to win it for ourselves. FCCLA is different, from the moment I signed up to be a member and to every meeting I have attended, I have felt the energy as we became closer to becoming more than just friends but a family. The support and encouragement we have given to one another when we worked on our projects was something I have never seen in other club I joined. This club has made a positive impact on me during my Junior year in high school.

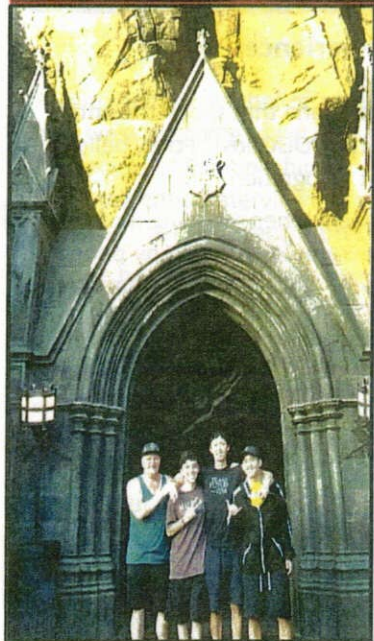


The 'Fitbit'

Jimmy Nguyen



The 'Fitbit' workshop showed us the benefits of this wireless wristband. The 'fitbit' counts your steps, checks your heart rate, calculates your sleeping patterns, keeps track of your exercise, weight and more. It gives us an idea of what we can work on to reach a specific goal - such as getting more sleep. I might invest in the 'fitbit.'



Theme Parks

Carly Acob, Jace Nakamoto,
Karen Relosimon

It was our first visit to the 'happiest place in the world,' Disneyland, and the extreme rides at Knott's Berry Farm. In Hawaii, the only theme park we have is the 50th State Fair that comes around once a year. It was so much fun to ride the insane rides with friends and see the beauty in person.



Hawaii Celebrities

Loryn Garcia

Being from Hawaii, we were the popular group as most people wanted our pins, which made us feel like celebrities. Everywhere we went, FCCLA members would ask "Hey, where are you from?" "Do you have any pins to trade?" and I also enjoyed receiving pins in return. I had so much fun just getting to learn more about FCCLA and what other states do to promote FCCLA at their schools.

STAR Events Develops Speaking Skills

Justin Fernandez

In preparation for competition at the national level, we worked on our portfolio, fixing it to make it almost perfect. We revised our script, memorizing and presenting it to other chapter members, and practiced right up until we were called to present.

Upon entering the room, we were nervous, yet we were ready. I set up the portfolio, took a deep breath and spoke confidently, and we successfully delivered our presentation – I didn't even mess up on the clicker! We answered the judges' questions and left, relieved and confident that we did well.

At the award ceremony, we placed silver and were slightly disappointed, but this competition has helped me with my speaking skills and for upcoming presentations.



Snapshots:

Kahmee Teshima: I believe that many should join FCCLA and work hard to attend the NLC. It is a great learning experience, where you meet new people from around the country and gain new leadership skills.

Camille Castro: Through FCCLA, I took on leadership roles, made friends with people from other states, and learned to believe in myself, to always produce my best work, and to be confident in speaking.

Aleli Mae Agbayani: We all have fears, giving up too soon because you feel like you put enough effort. Afraid of people seeing you fail. But these fears are a life lesson for us. It gives us an understanding of what life is. Don't give up and think that everything is over; push yourself so that you can be proud of who you are.

Amanda Raphaella Ibanez: My chapter members made this experience memorable, from the amusement parks, prepping for our STAR Events, and the crazy nights in our hotel room.



The STAR Medal

Luczilla Roflo

"Maui High School, gold!" the MC announced. We went up, claimed our medals, and I just stared at it. This medal has two parts: it's a circular metal and with its ribbon. The red, white, and black ribbon is woven perfectly and is latched onto the circular metal by a golden colored latch. The rustic-smelling circular gold medal contains two circles, its' outer outline and the one carved on the inside. Between the circles, "NATIONAL FCCLA" and "STAR EVENTS" are carved. Inside the inner circle lies a star, surrounded with five people.

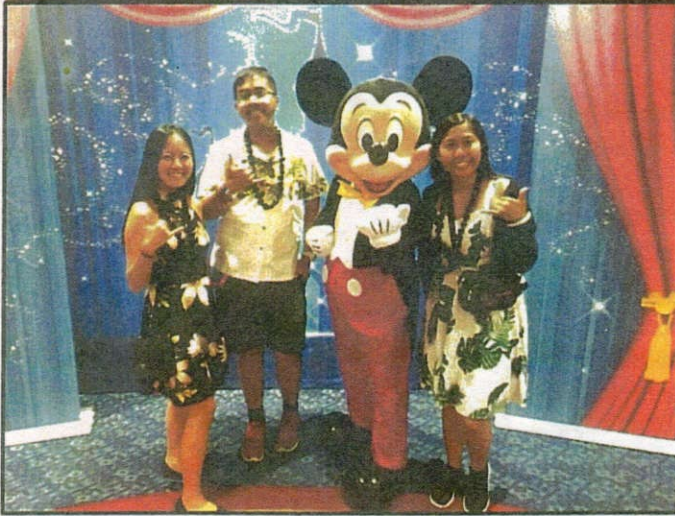
Medals come in many shapes and sizes, but this medal will always remind me of the hard work we put into completing our Star Event, and it will be my motivation to do better and improve.



The Culinary Event

Nainoa Ramos

The Culinary event taught me basic culinary knowledge, hard work, discipline, teamwork, and confidence to become a leader. Over ten teams were stuffed into a bus with our gear and kits. As we entered The Institute of Culinary Education, we scouted out the area and equipment and prepared our mindset. We started, then I got confused; luckily, we had a time plan that kept us on track. We were confident, and we knew that we did the best with what we had to work with. Everyone was proud of us.



Hawaii is the State

Camille Castro

“Do you have any Hawaii pins?”

Being from Hawaii made the trip more memorable; everyone wanted to trade their pins for a Hawaii one, and we got to show our own traits and traditions that made us unique. As we walked around the convention center, we encouraged the students around us to join in our song sessions and jammed to songs everyone knew.

During the opening session and closing session, all of us from Hawaii shared the same energy. We cheered for Hawaii and the other states. We would do “chee hoos” and be the loudest in the room.



Become an Active Member

Amanda Raphaella Ibanez

As I finished my STAR Event, I felt a sense of accomplishment. The nights I stayed up and the hard work I put into my project made me proud of what I had achieved. Throughout my journey as an active FCCLA member, I have improved my public speaking, researching, and communication skills.

Presenting STAR Events helped me improve my public speaking abilities. I used to be soft spoken, stumbling over my words, and I had a hard time explaining things clearly, but joining FCCLA has built up my confidence. Now, I can present my opinions and thoughts to others with no trouble at all.

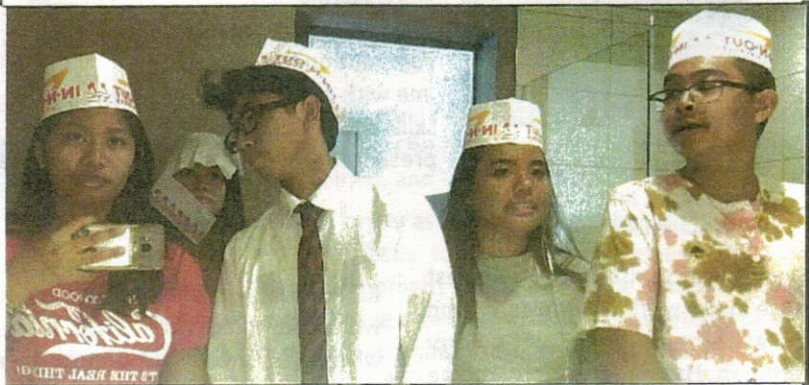
A One-of-A-Kind Experience

Dutch Bacalso

I was fortunate to have been a part of the ohana that shook the entire 2019 FCCLA NLC with our loud “CHEEEEEEHOOOOos!” I truly believe that Hawaii’s roaring spirit deserves great recognition.

The tight-knit Governors were a rare bunch; when we sang along to music at one of the venue lobbies, we were quickly joined by people from almost every state, bringing people together with fun and excitement.

I have never been surrounded by so many Caucasians until I attended the FCCLA NLC. I was intimidated by the Caucasian judges; however, this has provided me an opportunity to experience and overcome this challenge. I will forever cherish my first trip off the islands and the best national competition I have attended.



New Friends

Justin Fernandez

As a new member, I read that this club will help me meet new people and bond with my chapter members. Anaheim California made everything I read a reality, as I made new friends from Alaska, Oklahoma, and Idaho and it brought me closer with our Farrington FCCLA Chapter members.

Our first day in Anaheim, our chapter wasted no time, we went bowling, Disneyland, and ate at different places. One night the girls from Maui High School joined us for bowling, and we became friends.

This trip has made me value FCCLA, as the competition and workshops has improved my presentation skills. FCCLA has helped me make new friends and become a leader.



A Gold Medal

Von Richard Cariaga

A gold medal a symbol of accomplishment. On November 2018, Laura Daclison and I went to work on how we were going to get that gold medal. We juggled multiple ideas — "Why Milk is Bad for You," "The Challenges of Relationships..." — but the winning topic was "Sustainability in Hawaii." For four months, we researched, interviewed, conducted surveys, and educated the public. On February 28, 2019, we anxiously, yet confidently, presented to three judges. We got top gold that day.

For the next three months, we did more research and attended our first climate change protest at our state capitol. We altered our topic, 'How Climate Change Affects the World.' From sleeping at 2 am to working on the plane ride to Anaheim, California, we did everything we could to prepare for this competition. On July 2, 2019 we anxiously walked in the conference room and presented. We stuttered, we didn't remember our lines, and we didn't have great volume. Yet, I felt content with how we performed. Seven months of work to produce a ten-minute presentation. I was happy with how we performed. July 4, 2019 at the awards ceremony, we waited till they called Waipahu High School, and walked out with a shiny new gold medal. I was in shock. We did it. We actually did it.



Sharing our Project

Jimmy Nguyen

My NLC experience is irreplaceable. My team, Dutch, Christian and I, worked hard to fix our project to be efficient and effective. The hardest part was cutting our speech when we were over the time limit. We had to reword the long sentences into short sentences that got to the point. We fixed the slides to match the rubrics and our speech. It looked amazing.

On our presentation day, I didn't feel nervous. I felt excited as I wanted to share our project. I wasn't worried — I knew that we did our best. As we presented, I noticed that the judges at another station were watching us. It appeared that they were paying attention to our project. I think that we got a lot of attention because we were enthusiastic and we interacted with the judges.

More Tidbits.....

Loryn Garcia: It was pretty nerve racking for us to present in front of the judges but we remembered to smile and make the most out of our presentation.

Karen Relosimon: It was fun to try foods at In 'n Out and Chick Fil A!

Carly Acob: It was not only a great experience, but also an opportunity for my future career.

Snapshots!

Jimmy Nguyen: I met many people from different states and noticed that we all have accents. There seems to be two ways to say *oil*, three ways to say *18 wheeler*, etc. It was easy to tell if someone was from the South because they have a long, slow country accent.

Carly Acob: I volunteered at the Focus on Children event with a girl from Nevada. I learned more about her chapter and how hot their state is! We received \$15 for us to keep and use during our break.



'Believe in Yourself'

Naomi Au

On a warm Wednesday afternoon, our group of Hawaii NLC participants piled into a bus on our way to Knott's Berry Farm, a new experience for many of us. As thrilled as I was, I also dreaded the thought of large, high speed roller coasters and other stomach-turning, gravity-defying rides. Upon arriving at Knott's Berry Farm, everyone scrambled off in different directions ready to have fun.

Our first stop was the Silver Bullet; we stood in line for about 20 minutes while catching a nice view of the ride itself. Riders were twisted upside down and right side up while speeding towards the sky and dangerously close to the ground. This added to my uneasiness, I tried to focus on the whole reason why I was there. The theme of the conference was to 'Believe in Yourself' and with that in mind, I strapped myself into the ride and held my breath as we were launched at 55 miles per hour. Ride after ride left us feeling exhilarated and we wanted more. At the end of the day, I felt a great sense of achievement. On the many attractions we'd tried that day, I slowly began to feel less fearful and more free and content. I 'believed in myself,' and I did it.

FCCLA

Chicken Production

Jimmy Nguyen

I also learned that in West Virginia, there's a factory that makes KFC and Popeyes chicken. The recipe is different, yet the same company makes all of the chicken we eat at the different restaurants!



Join FCCLA

Camille Castro

My experience at the National Leadership Conference 2019 at Anaheim, California was truly spectacular and eye-opening. I was exposed to a different lifestyle and met many new faces.

One, FCCLA has taught me to multi-task. I received community service hours, fundraised, helped other members with their projects, and conduct workshops.

Two, FCCLA taught me to be professional, be punctual, and to respect others. We met members from Alaska, Oklahoma, Virginia and more, though we may have our cultural differences, we found ways to bond with them.

Third, FCCLA helped me to visit California, where I had many "firsts." Learning to bowl, exhilarating roller coasters, a magical day at Disneyland, being a room consultant, and even feeling an earthquake. I laughed a lot, took countless pictures and overall had a great time.

NLC made me realize that there's more out there, which is why I recommend to join FCCLA as it provides great opportunities and new experiences.

Snapshots!

Karen Relosimon: My experience at the NLC was unforgettable! I was so proud to have made it to Nationals as a new member. The NLC in Anaheim, California was definitely one for the books.

Carly Acob: The 4th of July Party was definitely my favorite – we got to dance and meet new people!

Jace Nakamoto: My favorite part at Knott's Berry was getting Panda's; I was craving rice so much, and we also saw almost all the Hawaii people enjoying the park.



Pin Trading

Jace Nakamoto

Hawaii is a very unique state, so we were mobbed left and right for pins. The pin-trading was a way to also connect with other students and get to know them. I learned that people think that we don't have a lot of buildings or that we live in tipi huts. Somebody even asked me if we had to sail on a boat to California.



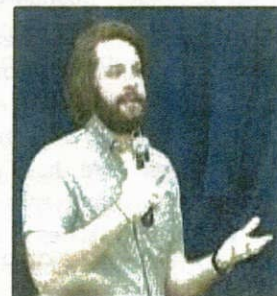
Our Keynote Speaker

Jeffrey Butac, Nainoa Ramos, Alicia Zhong

Guest speaker Kyle Scheele spoke about 'believing in yourself' And how the past shapes us. Kyle built a Viking boat when he turned 30 to say good-bye to his 20's. He spoke about how to differentiate healthy regrets and unnecessary regrets: ones that keep us alive verses ones that keep us tapping into our full potential. He has received over 15,000 note cards stating what they wanted to let go of. Fear was the most common with regrets coming in second. Scheele placed these note cards into the cardboard Viking ship and burned it down, representing the idea of letting it go so we can make room for the future and what it has in store for us.

He said that we don't have an obligation to be the same person we were five minutes ago. To me, this means that the past doesn't define who you are but only shapes who you are. The only person that is holding you back is the person in the mirror, and the sooner you accept that, the sooner you can move on in life.

After the opening ceremony, I realized that as Kyle spoke, all 8,700 of us felt like a family. For the next few days, everyone who came to Anaheim to compete for FCCLA represented all of the meaning behind our theme 'Believe in Yourself.'



Sharing our Island Traditions

Camille Castro

As a room consultant, I made friends with the evaluators and the adult room consultant, one judge shared her love for Dole Plantation ice cream. She had a lot of jokes that made me comfortable in doing my job as a timer and calling the participants. Being from Hawaii, I was glad to be able to share what I know about the islands and our traditions.

An Important Project

Mikayla Dumaslan

The reoccurring phrase "Believe in yourself" has motivated me. I realized what I am capable of doing, not only for myself but my community. As I presented my Financial Fitness project and read the feedback from the judges, I was glad I am part of an organization that helps the community. The feedback stated that this topic was important, it will help others. This all happened because I believed in myself.

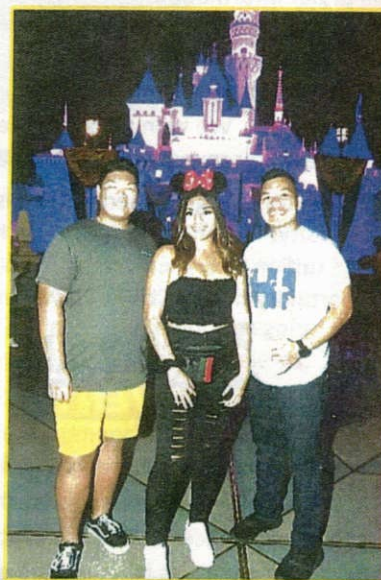


Behind Closed Doors

Laura Daclison

This year, I felt like a keeper of secrets because of the things I experienced were kept confidential. Every 6 years, Hawaii is given the huge responsibility of being on the Nominating Committee. This group oversees and deliberates over all of the National Officer Candidates and determines who will make it to the top 20.

The downfall for doing this meant that I had to sacrifice Disneyland, the happiest place on Earth. However, I still had a great time meeting amazing people and being part of the important process that goes on behind closed doors.



Culinary Arts Room Consultant

Von Richard Cariaga

I was selected to be a room consultant for the Culinary Arts STAR Event. The plan was to wake up at 6, eat breakfast, and be at the Hyatt by 7. Instead, I woke at 6:43, ran to the hotel hungry, and ended up at the wrong Hyatt. So I had to Uber to the Anaheim Marriott. I slept through the 30-minute ride, to the Institute of Culinary Education.

The kitchens were clean and organized, exactly how I imagined an actual industry kitchen would be. Caitlin, a student from Michigan, and I were assigned to be timers for the competing teams. The teams had 80 minutes to mis en place, cook, and plate an appetizer, entree, and dessert. "30 min left! 20 minutes left! 5,4,3,2, and 1; alright, hands up!" is what we said to the teams.

The best part about being there was seeing 12 states battle it out Iron Chef-style. I got to see Hawaii team from Mililani High School compete. After the competition, the Institute treated us to a turkey sandwich, a Caesar salad, and the best chocolate chip cookie I've ever eaten. I was able to meet the teams, asked if they wanted trade pins, but I soon realized that they didn't know what I was talking about because it was their first time attending this conference. This blows my mind because while they were first-timers, they competed like they are professional chefs. It was a great experience.

Tennessee Friends

Jett Palacpac

It was the bus ride back from Knott's Berry Farm, and we were all pooped. It was dark in the bus, and it looked like it was going to be a quiet ride back to the convention center. I quickly learned that wasn't the case as two very excited girls started talking to our group. They were from Tennessee; that bus ride went by quickly as we answered their questions about Hawaii and they told us about their state. It was a welcoming experience to us all.



The Benefits to Being a Volunteer

Jacob Pagdilao

Surprisingly, I had a memorable time as a volunteer STAR Event Evaluator. I learned about other STAR Events and networked with other states. Being a student judge was an opportunity for me to learn about different presentation styles. I now have a better understanding of what the judges are looking for when a student is presenting, along with information that I can now pass on to future STAR Event participants.

Going to this year's NLC, I knew that I would create more life long memories, but never thought that being a volunteer would be so rewarding. I have gained more knowledge of the different STAR Events and presentation methods. I would strongly encourage future NLC attendees to volunteer, for you will learn information that will be of great use for your future.

Trinity from Texas

Jett Palacpac

The most memorable part of my time at Nationals was the first time I made a friend with someone from another state. Throughout the conference, many people would come to our Hawaii group... just to trade pins. These pin exchanges were very brief conversations, some simply being, "What state are you from?" and "Do you want a (so-and-so) pin?" It was great to have people come to us and try to get our attention for a short time, but no one spent time to really talk to me — that is, until I met Trinity from Texas. She was kind, and we talked while waiting in the food truck line. It was nice to be able to exchange stories and experiences from our two different states.



Pin Trading

Kahmee Teshima

Pin trading is an activity at the NLC where you approach new people, learn what state they are from, then trade pins with them. Hawaii pins were in demand, so we ran out of the pins quickly since people actually hunt us down.

One of our pins is a 'Spam Musubi.' When I gave the pin away, I realized that there are so many misconceptions about the food — that it's a type of sushi or that we eat seaweed raw — but I was able to educate others about the popular food item that we have on the islands.



The Road to Gold

Jacob Pagdilao

At the awards ceremony, I was filled with nerves and anxiety. I knew that we did well based on the judges reactions, and I felt proud of what we accomplished. When the national officers called out our names, I was surprised, we got gold! All those days after school spent researching, printing, and cooking with my partner paid off in the best way possible. My partner and I shared the same passion and goals, and this made every step filled with many laughs and great memories.

At the start of the school year, we had our minds set on competing in the Culinary STAR Event, but Mrs. Uyehara persuaded me to compete in Food Innovations and shared some sample boards. We had two options — create an indulgent salad or an indulgent dessert. We chose salad as we felt we would be able to highlight the flavors that would bring us back to simpler times. Coming up with the dish and presenting it to our focus groups was one thing, but putting all of our information cohesively onto a display board was an entirely different task. We wanted to display all of the necessary information in a way that was both aesthetically pleasing and would compliment our speaking portion of the presentation. We won a gold at the Hawaii CTSO conference and made improvements for the NLC competition.

Along with the gold medal, we also got a scholarship to a university! Never in my life would I have dreamed of getting a full tuition to any university. I am beyond blessed for every opportunity that FCCLA has given me.



Dana Dela Cruz: Our National FCCLA officers stated: "You must do your part to make a difference, it will be a process but you will get there as long as you believe in yourself." This motivated me to make sure new members will feel like family



Join FCCLA

Kahmee Teshima

I would never trade this trip for anything in the world. I became close to my chapter members; we all enjoy the bigger rides and have more in common than I thought. We experienced many new things that created a stronger bond between the three of us, which I will never forget. Even if it seems like hard work, I believe if you find a passion in your work it will not seem like work. Join FCCLA and come to NLC next year.



STAR Event vs Roller Coaster Rides

Rycial Ignacio

On a ride going eighty-six miles per hour within the span of two seconds, I drag my feet, arms tightening on the bars, my head pounding, heart racing, as I am 'ragdolled' in every possible direction. Knott's Berry Farm was a frightening yet fun experience. Similar to everyone's emotions and feelings throughout the FCCLA competition, the amusement park started with the excitement of attending a national program in a state that I haven't been to before and strapping in for a wild ride. Then, the slow incline, where you're aware of what's going to happen next, and bracing yourself for the drop, similar to how all groups practiced all their lines and projects. Finally, the final drop, the moment in which students present their projects to the judges, is followed by a brief relief of the pressures of the competition. The drop was the scariest part of the whole ride, but is as followed by the smoothest ride of all, the conclusion of the ride, when everyone is happy and comfortable with their success.

The Knott's Berry farm experience signified and symbolized our chapter in this FCCLA trip. Filled with happiness and fear, moments of doubt to moments celebrated, having Hawaii be announced on the stage, when every member screams from the top of their lungs.

California

David Kim

The FCCLA NLC a new experience for me. California's landscape is large and there were buildings everywhere. The different types of architecture amazed me. It was something you would never see in the state of Hawaii. We tried different kinds of foods, visited the aquarium, Universal Studios, and places that left us speechless.

As we prepared for our presentation, practicing, I saw others struggling and stressing too. It made me realize that nationwide, we all have the same goals. I also realized that I could not have done what I did without my group. On this trip I learned that there is so much to life, and seeing people from other states showed me that everyone has different life styles and struggles. This trip was amazing, and the experience that has been made because of FCCLA will never be forgotten.



Evaluating the Food Innovations Event

Jeffrey Butac

I wasn't excited to be an evaluator for the Food Innovations event, but I learned a lot. FCCLA doesn't compete with other people but against a rubrics, so, with that in mind, I could not compare each project. Two more experienced advisers helped me understand what I was looking for in the Food Innovations project. The senior category had to make a dessert, package it, sell it, and gather the nutritional facts, ingredients, cost, mark-up and pricing.

I learned the process of designing a food product, the development of the trial and error, the science of food preparation and customer service. I learned a lot from this experience and would do it again. Sadly, this is my first and last year in FCCLA. If only I joined earlier, I could have gained more knowledge about Public and Human Services.



Chapter in Review

Karen Relosimon

The actual competition was pretty nerve racking! I was scared I would mess up my lines or forget my script in front of the judges! Take the time to memorize your scripts — it's worth it in the end. My group and I competed in Chapter in Review Portfolio, where we showcased all the events and activities of our chapter for the year to show a better understanding of the FCCLA purposes.

Universal Studios

Nick Camacho

With Mr. Sampson, the lead adviser for my school, navigating, we were never lost, but one-hour drive to Universal Studios turned into two hours as he changed the route to stop by every "cool" place to eat or visit on our way to the theme park. We went to Cookie Good, where we ate the most outstanding cookies in the most bizarre flavors, like a *Cheetos* cookie that actually tasted and looked like a *Cheeto*.

As we continued our drive to Universal, we took detour after detour to all the places Sampson insisted we visit — from taking Instagram-worthy photos beside an iconic pink-painted building of Paul Smith to overlooking the city of Los Angeles from the Hollywood hills.

My fears are scary noises, people, heights, unseen objects, after explaining this to Mr. Sampson, I found myself standing in line for the Walking Dead's ride, which is like a haunted house. After being scared beyond resuscitation, the past behind me, we jumped into a limousine-type golf cart, in awe of what I had just witnessed, the secrets behind Universal Studios.



Friends become Family

Dana Dela Cruz

With the number of people in attendance at the NLC, I felt that there was no way we could win a gold medal, but we were assured that we would make it as long as we tried our best.

The NLC has been the best experience of my life — who knew that friends could become family? From the fun activities to the late night practices, having friends around made the experience much more enjoyable. With everyone's help and support, we won a gold medal!

Food Show Project

Rycial Ignacio

To create a unique, successful project, which will earn a gold medal to attend the National Leadership Conference in Washington D.C., you will need to work vigilantly, ask others for help, and always follow what you believe is right for the event.

To produce a Food Show competition, begin early, this will enable you to recruit more participants. Organize and conduct a workshop which will help participants create and prepare a dish. The workshop should also assist participants in completing the application forms for the competition. Create posters to advertise within the culinary programs across the island.

A suggestion for this year's theme, might be 'Farm to Table.' For the actual event, create tons of activities and unique add-ons. This year, we had one activity and the Silent Auction (that was successful), so creating more would be great. Good Luck!



Outside of our Island

Jace Nakamoto

At the FCCLA NLC, I met a lot of people, attended workshops, and had fun at the amusement parks. I was a little iffy about going on this trip, but I am glad I did. This experience allowed me to see the world outside of our small little island — and is it big! I still can't believe there were about 8,700 participants at this event.

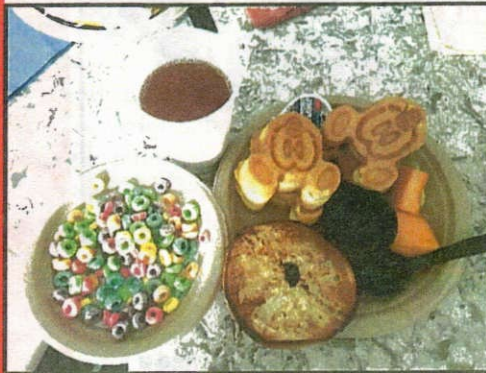
At the 4th of July party, we "Chee-Hoo'd" our way to the dance floor with the other Hawaii people. We taught some mainlanders how to "Chee-Hoo" too! On the plane ride back home, I realized that this was such an amazing experience, earthquakes and all. I'm happy that I was able to top it off with a Gold medal in Life Event Planning.

Volunteering

Alicia Zhong

As a room consultant, my job was as critical as the judges' because I had to limit the judges' discussion times, limit the presentation times, triple check all three judges' scores. One of the judges made a huge 50-point error! We were able to have her correct her score. This made me realize that, although the judges may have the difficult evaluation job, we have the ultimate responsibility of making sure that all of the scores are correct, which will award the student the medal they deserve.

I received an FCCLA calendar and a metal straw as my award for volunteering. I enjoyed volunteering, and if I attend the NLC next year, I will volunteer again.



A Glimpse of My FCCLA Journey

Alona Rose Tugaoen

When my partner, Aleli, and I learned that we qualified for the national competition, we were ecstatic! Our adviser, Mrs. Abe, convinced me to go, partly because I have never been out of the state before.

We spent three months revising our project; during the presentation, we used note cards and barely made eye contact, but we won a gold! I will never forget this experience — I met new people and experienced new things. I'm so grateful for the people who supported me and helped me to achieve something so great. FCCLA, thank you for all the lessons and experiences. I can only hope that I can do something as great as this in the future.

FCCLA Prepares You

Amanda Raphaella Ibanez

FCCLA helps you become a leader. As an active member, you take part in service projects, lead yourself and your team to success through STAR Events. Joining FCCLA will not only prepare you for your high school years, but it will prepare you for experiences after high school, in college, and in your career. As a student in high school, you should join FCCLA.

Believe in yourself



A Room Consultant

Loryn Garcia

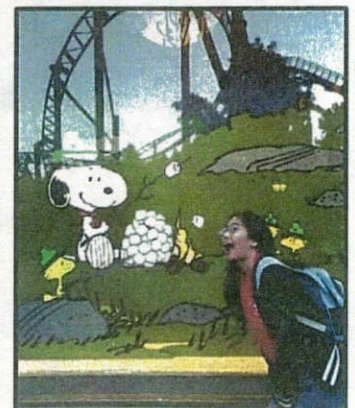
A most unique experience for me was being a room consultant for the fashion construction event; basically, it was job for a day. The team of judges that I worked with were very nice, and we worked well together. I saw beautiful gowns, outfits, and even baby clothing. It amazed me that they were all created by students my age, and it sparked my own interest in learning to sew.

As a room consultant, I kept track of the presentation time by using the "5 minute warning," "One minute warning," and "Time's Up" signs. I feel that everyone attending NLC should volunteer to be a room consultant because it is a great experience that teaches you responsibility as the presenters are relying on you to do your job. I will definitely volunteer again!

My Responsibility

Laura Daclison

This year I was not focused on collecting pins, as I had to make sure the Waipahu chapter was on time, and SAFE. I had a lot of fun picking up cocoa late at night and hosting chapter meetings in our room. I'd like to thank my group for being funny and helping each other out while I was gone for Nominating Committee Meetings.



Learning While Being a Room Consultant

Naomi Au

I was a youth room consultant for the Advocacy event. I had never done anything like this before, and meeting new people made me nervous. Susan, a CTE teacher from Brookings High School in South Dakota, assisted me throughout the day.

My anxiety returned almost immediately when it was time to call in the first person. As a shy and soft-spoken girl, it was difficult for me to shout the names in the noisy hallway. Luckily, the people I was looking for were nearby and came to me. Observing the different presentations was fascinating. It made me realize what makes an outstanding project.

At the end of the day I learned so much. I had a better understanding of how well we should have done. I wish we had volunteered before doing our project. As I expected, we were awarded a bronze medal. I was disappointed, but I soon realized how I could improve for next year. Taking that medal was definitely a learning experience.



Youth Networking Session

Aleli Mae Agbayani

Attending FCCLA's NLC in Anaheim, California has taught me to be brave. Growing up as a very timid and quiet girl, it was always hard to crack my shell and be who I am. With over 8,700 plus students from across the country attending FCCLA's NLC, communicating and getting to know them has built my self-confidence.

FCCLA's Youth Networking session allowed us to meet people from different states and socialize with them. It was a fun experience to be out of my comfort zone, interacting with new people. FCCLA has given me the bravery to face those challenges.

The Strong Bonds within Ourselves

Mikayla Dumaslan

Throughout this conference, our relationship as a state grew stronger. I remember seeing not only Farrington but also Leileihua, Mililani and Campbell students giving Camille and me a thumbs up after we won gold. It felt amazing to see all the support and love Hawai'i has for each other. At the National Leadership Conference, we were all able to accomplish different things, experience something great, and make memories that will last forever.

In addition, we bonded over the fact that we were from Hawai'i. Many people came up to us to ask for pins, pictures and other fascinating facts. We are so proud to be from Hawai'i, and we definitely showed it. It gave me joy to see our state bonding and sharing something we hold so close to our hearts.

During the opening and closing session, we waved our flag with pride and cheered each other on with all the love.



The Scavenger Hunt

Jace Nakamoto

The Scavenger Hunt workshop was a fun way to learn about the national programs of FCCLA. First, we wrote a postcard; I wrote one to my parents saying I missed them a lot. Next, our team had to come up with a solution to a problem in our community. Homelessness is a serious problem in Wahiawa, and our solution was to create a "Pineapple Express" that would go around distributing canned goods to the homeless. Then, we learned how to write a check for the cost of an item of our selection, such as Gatorade or a water bottle. The last session was one of our choice - self defense, driving safely, or a teamwork activity.



STAR Event Presentation

Rycial Ignacio

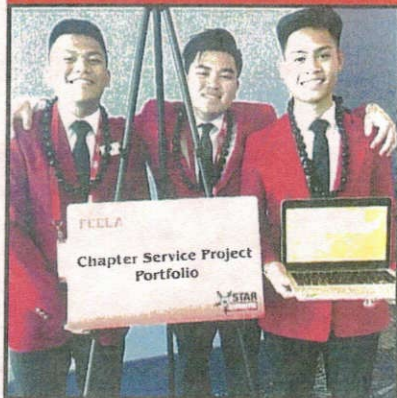
Do not procrastinate when putting your final STAR Event project together, get help for your slides and scripts. Double and triple check every tiny detail. Practice your lines, to the point where you remember them. Judges at nationals are very picky, they will watch closely if you stumble or are seconds off from your timing on your slides. But, most importantly, have fun doing the project. There's no point in doing the project if you are not enjoying it. Just have fun, and the success will come.



The Importance of FCS

Kahmee Teshima

I thought our club was about using FCS to complete challenges and tasks, but FCCLA is really about understanding how important FCS is in our daily lives and how we need to teach more people about it. The workshops, expos, and RedTalks opened my eyes to the other STAR Events and different competitions our chapter can compete in for next year. Many of the events are more fun than you'd expect. It's a lot of work, but it is 100% worth it.



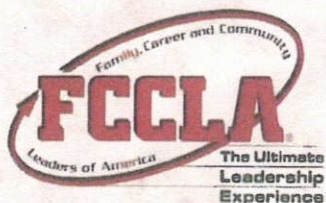
A Roommate That Turned Into A Friend

Luzcilla Roflo

At midnight we heard our hotel door opening and we pretended to sleep. She entered and said "are you guys fake sleeping?" and we all turned around and said "hi."

Throughout the conference, we bonded, and did a lot of things together from 3 am horror movies and struggling to wake up the next day, to walking up and down sixteen flights of stairs, to wishing each other good luck in our STAR Events.

Before meeting our roommate, we wished that she would be a nice person. However, we've met more than just a "nice" person. We've met a generous, caring, cheerful, and beautiful friend that made our trip to Anaheim extra enjoyable and we'll cherish her friendship for the rest of our lives.



A Ride Like No Other

Alicia Zhong

Anaheim, California, home where Walt Disney's work comes to life with a big heaping of pixie dust. Our chapter members spent 16 hours at the 'happiest place on earth.' We were able to skip long lines to ride Splash Mountain three times!

As the blue skies changed to black, we rode our last ride of the day-Peter Pan with heavy hearts as once we left, we knew we had to put our mindset on what we really came to Anaheim for, presenting our Star Events.

The next morning we groggily woke up and attended the scavenger hunt activity. As soon as we entered the area we didn't need coffee to wake up, students and advisors from around the nation came at us as if they had struck gold! It was an interesting morning.

Change

Elizabeth Krauss

I have grown everyday while I was in California, I am more open minded, courageous and responsible because of the great opportunity presented to me by Leilehua FCCLA. The STAR Event competition has pushed and taught me to hear the opinions of others, and to have a more positive outlook. I now express my opinions in a respectful and constructive manner; because I realize that everyone is different and everyone has their own experiences and future goals.

In addition to becoming opened minded I have also become more courageous. I can now put my fears behind me and show bravery in everything I do. At the beginning of the year I was afraid to take chances and to step out of my comfort zone. I am no longer afraid to teach others what I know and to share my experiences with those around me.

I have now become more responsible. This experience has taught me that we must use our time wisely and learn as much as we can because today's observation will not be the same as next week. Therefore, I have used my time to commit to learning from others, being on time, and completing any and all tasks asked of me.



Our FCCLA 'Ohana'

Christian Hermoso

Anaheim, CALIFORNIA – Being my second year attending the FCCLA National Leadership Conference, the excitement that I had before the trip was immense. On the Hollywood tour we ate and tried, Mexican food, experienced the people and the views in a way where our bellies were full.

Our day at Disneyland, "the happiest place on earth," is very true. We rode the rides, ate, and bonded together. It was such a memorable day because even if I missed some of the hours with the group due to my National Officer Candidacy responsibility. Everyone made sure that I had fun when I returned. This confirms that this organization has a strong sense of 'ohana,' ensuring that nobody is left behind.

At the end of a day full of activities, we practiced our STAR Event presentations. We listened to each other's presentations, gave feedback and reminded ourselves that we were here for the competition, the leadership experience, and the fun. I can truly say that, together as an 'ohana' we excelled. I know that everyone is already excited for the next year!

