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Fall Issue

19/20

# THE CALIFORNIAN

*The official newsletter of  
California FBLA*



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**WELCOME TO A  
NEW YEAR**

# THE CALIFORNIAN

## NLC 2019 RECAP

This past summer, California FBLA made its mark at the National Leadership Conference (NLC) in San Antonio, Texas when 174 of our members placed in the top ten for their events. California had 40 chapters attend the conference that took place from June 29 to July 2.

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When asked what his favorite part of NLC was, Raymond Mo from Southern Section said that “[he] really loved exploring historic San Antonio with [his] friends in between late-night study sessions and presentations.” Mo is the Southern Section Vice President and a senior at Troy High School.

Wensu Ng, a first-time NLC attendee, said that “[her] favorite part of NLC was definitely meeting new people. [She] was able to become friends with some amazing people across the country who [she] stills keep[s] in contact with today.” Ng had the title of Social Media Ambassador for the conference where she was tasked with creating videos and taking pictures. She was the only member of her chapter to attend the conference. Ng attends Ruben S. Ayala High School in the Inland Section.

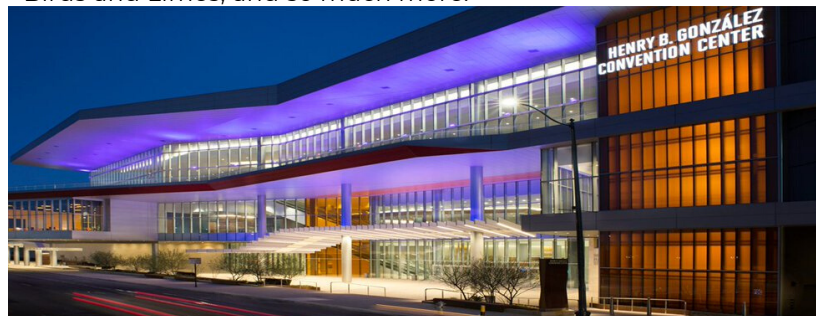
year!  
The 2019 National Leadership Conference was a time to remember for many members. On behalf of the national and state office, congratulations to every member that attended the National Leadership Conference. We look forward to another incredible year!



The conference allowed every FBLA member to showcase all their hard work throughout the year. The competition was intense but incomparable. Attending the conference was an enlightening experience because attendees can see the dedication that the competitors put into their presentations, role plays, objective tests, and more. The energy inside the convention center was surreal; every person that set foot inside the building were able to feel the nerves and excitement radiating from every member.

National winner Ali Mashael said that “being on stage and hearing [his] name be called for the first-place winner was the highlight of [his] year.” Mashael and his teammate Ryan Redden were titled national champions in 3D animation. Mashael and Redden are both seniors at Redwood High School in the Central Section.

When members were not competing, they were given the opportunity to attend conference workshops, trade pins with other states, visit the Alamo, walk alongside the river at the River Walk, enjoy Texas barbecue, see the Japanese Tea Gardens, ride Birds and Limes, and so much more.



# THE CALIFORNIAN

## LDI NORTH RECAP

LDI North was held from October 18-20 at the Santa Clara Marriott. From Northern Section, Center High School, Colusa High School, Jesuit High School, Lassen High School Maxwell High School, Pierce High School, Trinity High School, Westwood High School, and Whitney High School attended. From Bay Section, Cupertino High School, Dougherty Valley High School, Homestead High School, Jefferson High School, Lynbrook High School, and Westmoor High School attended. From Central Section, Cesar E. Chavez High School, Gregori High School, John Pitman High School, Lindsay High School, Madera High School, Madera South High School, Merced High School, North Redwood High School, Sierra Pacific High School, and Turlock High School attended. There was a guest chapter, Santa Maria High School, from Gold Coast Section, as well.



*Central Section Officer Sahota Parneet giving her workshop*



*LDI North attendees at a workshop*

LDI North was jam-packed with exciting activities for all members to enjoy. Zumba kicked off all the festivities on Friday night with over 65 members in attendance showing off their best moves. This activity was the perfect way for members to decompress from the practice objective tests they took just minutes before. Saturday morning began with an uplifting speech by the amazing Jenna Edwards. After a long day of workshops following Jenna's speech, the main hall of the hotel was opened for a dance party! Group karaoke, limbo, and a photo booth were all a part of this party which made the night one to remember. Before it was time to head home on Sunday morning, there was a closing breakfast with recognition where members graduated with honors. All of these activities combined made LDI North one that members will never forget!

On the second day at Santa Clara, members were given a "World of Opportunity" to develop their leadership, network with others, and gain insight on business skills by attending 6 workshops. These were hosted by the state and section officer team as well as business professionals with topics ranging from marketing media, finding opportunities to find an internship as a high school student, the power of teamwork, and much more.

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## LDI SOUTH RECAP

The Leadership Development Institute South 2019, was held from November 16-17 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Orange County. With over 700 attendees consisting of members, advisors, and business leaders, LDI South was a great success! Members from the Gold Coast, Southern and Inland sections were able to discover a World of Opportunity through attending various workshops hosted by Section and State officers as well as business professionals. Workshop topics included simulations, personal branding, public speaking, and team building. We also had guest speaker Jenna Edwards, who inspired us to live with “aggressive optimism” and to have the courage to overcome adversity.

In the evening, there was a social where members had the chance to network, play giant JENGA, shoot some hoop, and dance! Our members raised over \$600 for various charities. On Sunday, we ended LDI South with competitive event practice tests, a flashback video, and recognition for members graduating with honors.



Los Osos students, Amy Zhang, Ally Liu, Annie Pan, and Virginia Yu, took the initiative to make free high-five signs for their chapter. They gave out high-fives to strangers and FBLA members alike and brought joy and smiles throughout the conference.



Gold Coast Officer Nikil Thalanki and members are enjoying learning the ropes of sales pitching and negotiation in the Trading Tournament workshop.

To all those that came to LDI-South 2019, your participation and willingness to engage by networking with others, presenting a sales pitch, or even wearing a business suit or dress, truly made this conference one to remember. What can you do to make your chapter better? High five members as they enter meetings, strike up random conversations with students in your school or professionals in your community, or can you plan fun socials or events so your members can bond. Ultimately what we do with our experience is up to us, so be bold, say your “Yes... And” to obstacles you face, and make an impact within your FBLA. One member’s willingness to dream can inspire hundreds more. Leadership is not about what we can do, but what we can lead others to do.

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## THE NEW BADGING SYSTEM

Information for the new State Badging System and how it functions can be found under the State Projects tab on the CAFBLA website. The new system is very similar to the National Business Achievement Awards system. To begin, you will need to create an account. Once you have created an account, you'll be able to access a "backpack" that contains all the different individual state projects and their tasks. As you complete each task, all your evidence can be uploaded to the portal. Once uploaded your adviser will need to review your materials and submit your project.



It is important to make sure your adviser understands the new process. Ask your adviser if her or she needs help to create their teacher account (an essential part to receiving recognition for your chapter's project completion). You and your adviser need to remember that the deadline to submit any project is February 28, 2020. Project cannot be submitted after this date. If you or your adviser have questions about the new system contact Ms. Sue Christensen, CAFBLA Communication Manager and she can assist you.



# THE CALIFORNIAN

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF DOING STATE PROJECTS?

1.

State projects are a great way to gain recognition for your work in FBLA. You find information regarding the new online badging system on the [cafbla.org](http://cafbla.org) website under the State Projects tab. Each project highlights a separate area of FBLA. For example, the Green Initiative Project focuses on your environmental impact on your community and business applications. Earn a pin at the State Leadership Conference.

### WHY SHOULD I ATTEND CONFERENCES?

2.

At our conferences members can attend workshops facilitated by business professionals and FBLA officers, learn valuable information, network with other like-minded individuals, and demonstrate skills/knowledge through competitive events. Represent your chapter!

### WHAT IS WHO'S WHO?

3.

This award honors members who have made outstanding contributions to the organization. Each local chapter may nominate one member and the State Management Team reviews nominations and selects the winner who will be announced at the Awards of Excellence at SLC. Who's Who in FBLA nomination forms (find it at [www.cafbla.org](http://www.cafbla.org), then click Competition and scroll down to forms section) and a resume must be submitted by March 8. See the [cafbla.org](http://cafbla.org) website for more information.

### WHAT ARE WAYS I CAN GET INVOLVED IN MY CHAPTER AS A FRESHMAN?

4.

Attend your chapter's general meeting to learn about opportunities for you to get involved! Volunteer at events and attend business tours and socials. Chapter projects are a great way for you to get involved in your chapter. At the end of your freshman year, apply for chapter office if you have the passion and time.

### HOW DO WE PLAN SUCCESSFUL EVENTS FOR OUR CHAPTER?

5.

Effective promotion and planning are essential for planning successful events. Make sure to use social media promotion, post flyers around school, and advertise at general meetings. Contact alumni in the area for guest speaker events or use personal contacts.

### HOW DOES MY CHAPTER GET GOLD SEAL?

6.

Download the Program of Work forms and Outstanding Chapter guidelines at [www.cafbla.org](http://www.cafbla.org), then click Resources. Send a copy to your section director and upload a PDF for prejudging using the submission form found on the Competitive Events Overview page. Submit the completed final Program of Work Progress Form and a copy of the Local Chapter Annual Business Report to your Section Director.

### HOW DO I RUN FOR SECTION OR STATE OFFICE?

7.

The Officer Guide and Applications to run for Section or State office are available for download on the CA FBLA website under Student Resources. If you are applying to run for a State Office or Section President, applications must be submitted to your Section Director and the State Executive Board adviser. If you are applying to run for a Section Office other than Section President, applications are submitted only to your Section Director. Remember that you must be taking, or have taken, a CTE course!



# THE CALIFORNIAN

## MEET YOUR STATE OFFICERS



Hi CA FBLA! My name is Venugopal Chillal and I'm your State President. I joined FBLA in 9th grade (my school offered free donuts at our first meeting) and have since enjoyed countless experiences in this organization, from endlessly pestering my friends to participate in chapter fundraisers to meeting amazing people from all over the state at LDI North and South. Outside of FBLA, I'm involved in debate and CSF; I also love listening to Taylor Swift (yes, really), baking, watching real estate tours on YouTube, and pretending my life is a dramatic music video. I want to get to know all of you as much as possible, so feel free to email me your questions and suggestions or start a conversation about anything on Instagram/Facebook! Let's make this year a great one together.

Hello friends! I am overjoyed, ecstatic, enthralled, and excited to serve as your State Vice President representing Bay Section and to be using thesaurus.com for the upcoming year! When I'm not FBLAing, you can catch me at Trader Joes, curating my monthly Spotify playlists, or popping off in a courthouse for Mock Trial. At the chapter level, this is my third year as an officer, and my favorite position by far has been serving as the middle level chair for two middle school since I love working with kiddos. FBLA has ignited my passion for business and service and it's truly amazing that I get to work with an incredible team to make CAFBLA the best it's ever been. I would love to get to know all of you, so message me, email me, MySpace request me and let's make this an amazing year.



What's up CAFBLA?! My name is Kyle Tran and I am your 2019-2020 Central Section President. I am currently a senior at Pitman High School (Go Pride!). I am in my 4th year of FBLA joining all the way back to freshman year which was one of the best decisions I have made as I have developed so many skills, made lots of friends, and created memories that will last a lifetime. Outside of FBLA, I serve as my school's ASB President and am involved in many other activities at my school. Some of my favorite activities include photography, videography, and graphic design. I hope to see you at future conferences! Feel free to contact me about any questions you may have or if you just want to have a nice conversation that's cool too!

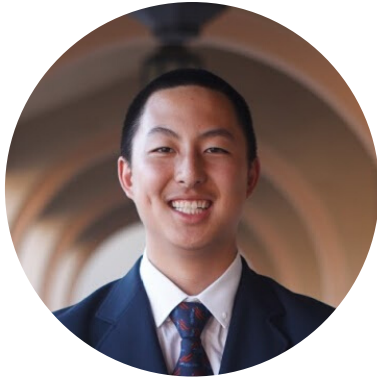


Hi CAFBLA! My name is Christine Huynh and I am serving as your CAFBLA Vice President representing the Gold Coast Section. I am currently a senior at Mark Keppel HS (lets go 2020!) and this is my 6th year as a member of FBLA. FBLA has fueled my passion for business and developed who I am as a leader. Aside from FBLA, I am heavily involved in ASB as the Senior Class VP, CSF, and NHS. In my free time, I love listening to all types of music, reading, and doing my nails. I also recently started working as a bobarsita at a local cafe in the SGV area! I look forward to meeting all of you at the upcoming conferences and please feel free to email/contact me if you have any questions, recommend some new music, or visit me at work (I'll hook it up)!



# THE CALIFORNIAN

## MEET YOUR STATE OFFICERS



Hello Family! My name is Joshua Zhang, Inland Section President from Los Osos High School. I just want to high-five you, and get to know who you are, so next time you see me, yell out HEY!, I will respond back with even greater energy. I've been in FBLA for 4 years now, and I have loved it because of its people. Everyone is so different, so funny, so cool, and being able to try to make these people smile has been a fulfilling experience. The connections for me have been the most important thing in FBLA, and just being able to have so much FUN working hard has given me purpose and passion for what I want to do in the future which is to start a non-profit business, a church, with my best friend James Dingle. Outside of FBLA I am involved in Grizzlies for God prepping worship nights, listening to people's stories and struggles and healing from my own. I love basketball, running, and especially the Lakers. I hope to hear your story to!

Hello members of California FBLA! My name is Kelsea Whiting and I am the State Vice President representing the Northern Section. I am a junior at Colusa High School and have been a member of FBLA for 3 years now. I have served as a section/state officer for 2 of those years. Becoming an officer with FBLA was one of the best choices I could have made because I have been able to bond with members all over the state. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the CAFBLA State Leadership Conference this year! Outside of FBLA, I run 2 businesses, one of which is a photography company! Photography has become a major passion of mine in the last year and I have learned so much from the experience of running a company. Skills I have learned from FBLA have played a huge part in growing my business. I am looking forward to an exciting year ahead!



Hi California FBLA! My name is Lauren Cho, and I am the State Vice President representing Southern Section! I'm currently a senior at Oxford Academy (the best chapter in the world) and am now in my fifth year of FBLA. Being a part of FBLA has truly worked wonders for me, not only in refining so many essential skills for the work world, but also in building up my confidence to do more than I ever thought I was capable of. The best part of being on State Board is not just the awesome team I get to work with; it's getting to network with each and every one of you. I've had so much fun performing Tik Toks, grabbing lunch, and cracking jokes with so many of you. Please never hesitate to contact me for spontaneous hang-outs! For a little fun fact: I've already worked two jobs this past year, McDonald's being my first. I'd like to say I remind myself of Trish from Austin and Ally... #iykyk





# THE CALIFORNIAN

## MEET YOUR STATE OFFICERS



Hi! My name is Abbie Linhares and I am the 2019-2020 CA FBLA State Secretary. I am currently a senior at Redwood High School in the Central Section. I joined FBLA my freshmen year after constantly being asked to attend a meeting by the legend, Derrick Chau. I had no idea what to expect when I joined the organization, but I can say now that I am so happy that I did. I have served several different officer positions over the years and each one has caused my love for FBLA and all the people in it to grow more and more. I am so blessed to hold this position. After OAT Day, LDI North, and other chapter events, I could not be more excited to see where this year takes us! I have seen so much passion and excitement in every member that I can say, without a doubt, that this year will be the best yet! This year, I am most looking forward to the State Leadership Conference in April where I will be able to meet so many new members and build connections that will last a lifetime. I cannot wait to see everyone there!

Hi! My name is Clarissa Gao and I'm the State Public Relations Officer! Outside of FBLA, I'm usually jamming out to Lauv and humming along out of tune, reading a book, or writing! I also love listening to musicals, so hit me up with any book/song/musical recs. I also have such a fascination with Youtube, I wrote a college essay about it! I thank the past four years of FBLA for countless memories and friendships, and I'm so excited for all of you to experience more of what FBLA has to offer! I look forward to meeting you at conferences or as @cafbla on Instagram! Aside from that, don't hesitate to text me, email me, or get food with me, if you want to just hang out or if you have any questions! <3



Hi California FBLA friends! My name is Priscilla Goh and I'm serving as your CAFBLA State Parliamentarian. I'm currently a senior at Cupertino High School in the Bay Section! I spend most of my time curating Spotify playlists, defending myself for liking Khalid and Lauv and watching Netflix. I joined FBLA on a whim my freshmen year, and I'm so grateful that I did. I love getting to know so many members, because all of you are so unique, passionate and special. This is super cheesy, and it's a line I stole from Josh, but you guys are truly my FBLA Family. I've made so many new friends all across the State, and I can't wait to meet all of you at the upcoming conferences. Feel free to contact me through social media or email if you have any questions/concerns or to send me your DisneyPlus log in details!

# THE CALIFORNIAN

## ADVISER HIGHLIGHTS



Section: Southern

Adviser: Mrs. Smith

Chapter: Portola High School

Fun Fact: She brings a lot of experience in the field of Business to Portola and is the best in ensuring the collective success of the Portola Chapter.

Goal for the Year: Continue to have high spirits which creates an atmosphere of fun and positivity.



Section: Bay

Adviser: Asra Ziauddin

Chapter: Jefferson High School.

Years as an Adviser: 2 years

Fun Fact: She loves SZA and other R&B artists!

Goal for the Year: She looks forward to bringing more students to attend competitions and conferences.



Section: Central

Adviser: Ms. Dao

Chapter: Cesar E Chavez High School

Years as an Adviser: 11 years

Fun fact: She loves tennis!

Goal for the Year: She looks forward to another successful FBLA year with more involvement!



Section: Inland

Chapter: Ruben S. Ayala High School

Adviser: Taylor Clark

Years as an Adviser: 2

Fun Fact: She has taught and continues to teach AP Government and Politics, AP Seminar, AP Research, World History, and AVID.

Goal for the Year: She is looking forward to the State Leadership Conference this year!

Especially since she is an AP Government teacher, she is excited to help those interested in the new open state event, Political Science!



Section: Gold Coast

Adviser: Mr. Jackson

Chapter: Adolfo Camarillo High School

Years as an Adviser: 3 years

Fun Fact: He took his robotics team to world championships in Houston, Texas.

Goal for the Year: He looks forward to the growth his students will exhibit and growing the school business.

# THE CALIFORNIAN

## ALUMNI ADVICE



FBLA is a great organization to add to your college resume, but I cannot stress enough the importance of putting yourself out there and meeting people from different chapters - you are sure to encounter some of the most talented and motivated individuals in the nation. For example, former California FBLA president and one of my best friends, Sanika Mahajan, and countless other FBLA alumni whom I have the pleasure of calling good friends are studying at other top colleges or building their careers at the most prestigious banks, consulting firms, and tech companies. So get involved in any way you can: attend LDI, compete at conferences, and take on leadership positions at the highest level possible. In doing so, you will build valuable relationships that will serve and support you far beyond your high school years. - Daniel Cho, Harvard University

Just go for it! As cliché as it sounds, this is ultimately the most important piece of advice I could give - take advantage of every opportunity that you have but accept that not everything will go your way. Be willing to embrace both your successes and failures, because looking back, I without a doubt gained the most from experiences that did not always go as I expected or hoped. On a lighter note, the people you will meet during your years in FBLA will genuinely be some of the most passionate, genuine, and diverse individuals you'll meet, so learn from and forge relationships with them, because you never know where you might find a best friend - I know I did!

-Anusha Fatehpuria, UCLA



Looking back, the most important advice I would give to current CAFBLA members is to simply have fun and make lasting memories. As a current undergrad studying business, I can confirm that FBLA provides great exposure to those interested in pursuing a career in business after high school, but I would also add that the curiosity aspect is even more valuable and applicable to any pursuit you may find yourself

in. -Edward Li, UC Irvine

# THE CALIFORNIAN

## MEMBER/CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

The California FBLA State Executive Board has been working diligently to create opportunities for chapters and are excited to introduce new initiatives to ensure success. Following our POW goal of promoting social media engagement with our members, we have initiated local chapter highlights, one minute videos featuring members, officers, conferences, or anything that is important to the chapter. These videos will be published to the California FBLA Instagram, and we've collected 11 chapter highlights from all of the 6 sections so far, and are excited to see more! Please make sure to email your videos to our State Public Relations Officer and State Parliamentarian at [pr@cafbla.org](mailto:pr@cafbla.org) and [parli@cafbla.org](mailto:parli@cafbla.org) to be featured. The California FBLA Chapter Highlights are a great way for chapters to promote their members and allow others a glimpse into the amazing things our local chapters are doing.

We have also organized and initiated the Member Spotlights, which are snapshots of a member's FBLA experience, with the impact FBLA has made on them, or vice versa. We recognize members' admirable dedication to CAFBLA and want to showcase our unique and talented members through shout-out posts on our CAFBLA Instagram. Feel free to write your experience or nominate another member for their hard work! We'd love to hear about your FBLA endeavors and respectable accomplishments!



*Member Spotlight: Michelle Moshirnia from Pitman High School*



*Chapter Highlight: Yorba Linda High School*

Please fill out the form at [tinyurl.com/cafblamemberspotlight](https://tinyurl.com/cafblamemberspotlight) to be highlighted, and feel free to contact the State Executive Board if you have any questions.

We hope that chapters utilize these wonderful opportunities, and we are more than excited to get to know you better this year!

# THE CALIFORNIAN

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear California FBLA:

Serving you as State President for the 2019-2020 school year has proven an unbelievable honor so far! Thank you for providing me and the other officers on the State Executive Board the opportunity to serve you through our leadership.

On behalf of the State team, congratulations to everyone who placed at or attended the 2019 National Leadership Conference in San Antonio! We are proud of your dedication to FBLA and your commitment to strengthening business- and career-oriented skills that will continue to serve you in the future. In addition to our outstanding competitive successes, California FBLA hosts thousands of members across hundreds of chapters, all of whom play a vital role in our organization. Congratulations to every one of our new and returning students; you have decided to invest time and effort towards FBLA on your unique path to success!

With the school year well underway, our State and Section teams have meticulously planned and executed Section-wide Officer/Adviser Training (OAT) Days, and the Leadership Development Institute-North and South. Each of these events saw hundreds of attendees who enjoyed unique opportunities to attend interactive workshops, network with their fellow members, and maximize their experiences in this organization! I encourage you to actively harness your opportunities to participate in FBLA and attending events such as these is a great way to do so.

The State Executive Board is unwaveringly focused on positively impacting our members through an enhanced communication network, chapter guidance, and social media engagement. From implementing a liaison system for chapter-Section communication to overhauling the content of the Californian, we strive to take CA FBLA to its greatest heights yet; our goal is not simple, but certainly achievable with your support and feedback. This year, the spotlight is on you (and quite literally so on our Instagram account!). We have much more planned, so stay updated through the CA FBLA website, follow our social media, and contact me (vchillal@cafbla.org) or any other State Officer with questions! Let's achieve our vision of California FBLA, together.

Warmly,  
Venugopal Chillal  
2019-2020 California FBLA State President

