



THE INLAND INSIDER

Summer Issue | 2020-2021





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Greetings Inland Family!

No words could encapsulate the unparalleled time we have all found ourselves in during recent months. With the weight of the uncertainties, anxieties, and isolation, I only hope our Inland Family can continue to be an unwavering source of comfort, motivation, and opportunity for you all. May each of us strive to use this time to be flexible, innovative, and compassionate to better the communities we serve.

Your National and CA FBLA leaders have been working tirelessly to adapt to the given circumstances to deliver FBLA experiences— the 2020 National Leadership Experience, CA FBLA Officer Leadership Summit, and many more to come—that live up to our standards of our beloved organization. Throughout this term, your section team is committed to upholding the Inland legacy of family and to delivering remarkable membership opportunities. Thus, we have developed our Program of Work to target the following areas: Unity, Career Opportunities, and Member Resources. More information regarding our 2020–2021 Inland Section Program of Work—including updates on our progress and details on member activities— can be found on our section’s social media platforms (page 12 of the Inland Insider). Connecting with one another is becoming more important than ever, and we encourage any comments, questions, or concerns through email and/or direct message! Additionally, our CA FBLA website is another comprehensive resource of section- and state-related content to refer back to!

Every individual has something exceptionally unique to contribute to our Section, and it is only through the amalgamation of us all that we can grow individually and wholly. We are distinguishable from other organizations through our familial energy and heightened professionalism and are forever bound by the memories we share as one powerful group of leaders. Cherish the moments you spend with one another but do not count them as your last! These are the students and advisers you will keep close to your heart for years to come, and they will be there to lend a hand in times of need.

Remember to stay patient, be kind to one another, and keep your passion ignited throughout this year because we have big plans ahead! I truly wish you the best in your FBLA journey whether it’s just beginning or coming to a close. I hope to grow to know as many of you as I can both professionally and personally. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time!

Love and love always,
Megan Le



MEET THE TEAM



GEAN HU ✉ geanhu@cafbla.org
LEADERSHIP ASSOCIATE

Hello Inland Section! My name is Gean Hu and I'm thrilled to be serving as your section Leadership Associate this year. I joined FBLA to seek new opportunities, stayed because of the supportive community, and hope to continue to serve in this organization to provide members with the resources and opportunities they seek the most. I treasure every experience I've had with FBLA, whether that be hearing the inspiring stories and goals of fellow members or going to Nationals in San Antonio. Outside of FBLA, you can find me playing or listening to music, being terrible at video games, and finding happiness in the little things God has put into my life. I've been so blessed to call FBLA my family for the past two years, and I look forward to an even more exciting and opportunity-filled third year serving the Inland Section that I love.

SANYA DHAMA

sdhama@cafbla.org ✉ *HISTORIAN*



What's good, Inland Section?! I'm Sanya Dhama, your Inland Section Historian for the 2020-2021 term. Future Business Leaders of America. The name was intimidating at first, yet it soon transformed into the name of the organization where I met my best friends, learned professional conduct, gained knowledge about banking to entrepreneurship and many more, and prepared me for those 60-second elevator pitches. If you're looking for someone to talk to about the 2020 NBA Champions—the Lakers—, the fact that milk goes before cereal, or literally anything else, I'm here to talk to. Aside from FBLA, I love bollywood dancing, swimming, baking—burning cookies—, traveling, and meeting new people! I know that this year hasn't been "normal" by any means, but I truly believe that by developing our leadership, having meaningful conversations, and educating ourselves and others, we can foster a change greater than us. Please feel free to reach out whenever. GOOOO, INLAND! #inland4life

MEET THE TEAM



KONMAL ALI

SECRETARY ✉ konmalali@cafbla.org

These past few years have been full of countless memories, networking with new members who would become my best friends, long nights, laughs, cheers, and seizing every opportunity that comes my way. I have improved upon my public speaking skills, confidence, and learned business skills that would assist me in future endeavors. FBLA is composed of passionate individuals who strive for success which has inspired me to carry on the legacy of this amazing organization. Outside of FBLA, I enjoy playing basketball with my three little brothers, listening to music, visiting new cities, and capturing precious moments through my camera. This year may undoubtedly be different from the rest, but I know that my Inland Section Family will become closer than ever before. I am thrilled to serve as the Inland Section Secretary and cannot wait to see all that we accomplish this year!

allisonliu@cafbla.org ✉

ALLISON LIU

VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS



Hi there Inland Section! This year will certainly be one for the books, marked by unprecedented challenges as well as exciting new opportunities to strengthen our Inland Family, and I am deeply grateful for the chance to serve you as Vice President of Communications. Although my full name is Allison, as peers (and hopefully eventually friends) feel free to simply call me Ally. My passion for interpersonal connection drives me in my FBLA journey, and also all aspects of my life, whether I'm playing tennis with my team or getting boba with my friends. I hope to get to know each of you personally, and I promise to do all I can to elevate your FBLA experience. If you ever have a question or just need an open ear, know that I'm only an email or DM away!

MEET THE TEAM



SHREE REDDY ✉ sreddy@cafbla.org
VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMS

What's poppin' Inland Section?! I'm Shree Reddy, and I am so honored and excited to serve as your Inland Section Vice President of Programs this year! Being a part of FBLA has been an incredibly rewarding experience for me, from the countless memories made at conferences, to all of the inspiring people I have met throughout my journey. Outside of FBLA, you can find me at the tennis courts, repping the Ducks, or hanging out with my friends (and their dogs:)). We may have had a slow start this year, but if I know anything about our members, it's that we will overcome this together! No matter how far apart we may be, I know that our section is still grinding and ready to make this year a testament to the excellence and strength of our members. I look forward to getting to know all of you and making this year one to remember!...not that you would forget it anyway ;) See you soon!

MEGAN LE

mle@cafbla.org ✉ *PRESIDENT*



Hey Inland Family! I'm Megan, and I feel so blessed to be able to serve you all in my dream role for one final year. This year, more than ever, will be fueled by passion and innovation, and I want to thank you all in advance for your cooperation as we work to ensure all members continue to benefit from their participation in this unique organization. Every moment we spend uniting, supporting, and proudly proving ourselves as Future Leaders is precious, and it's ones like those that we will treasure the most when the dust settles.

Love and love always xx

P. S. Outside of FBLA, you can always find me at Disneyland, my church, or at a piano!

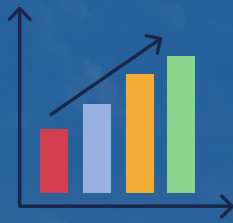




NATIONAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE RECAP

By: Allison Liu

On behalf of the Inland Section team, I would like to offer a huge congratulations to all members who attended the National Leadership Experience, demonstrating their dedication to FBLA despite the unexpected cancellation of the California State Conference. NLE was truly an unforgettable experience, boasting renowned keynote speakers, countless workshops, access to valuable resources, as well as interactive opportunities to win prizes and test your business skills. At the same time, numerous candidates campaigned virtually through webinars, live streams, and giveaways, culminating in the election of the 2020-2021 National Officer Board, with Drew Lojewski as the National President. Most importantly, we would like to recognize the members who represented the Inland Section in competitive events and earned a spot in the top 10 at NLE.



1ST PLACE	JOSEPH SHEN Business Calculations	WALNUT HS
2ND PLACE	CHRISTOPHER PHILLIPS Agribusiness	WALNUT HS
	DANIEL JI Introduction to Information Technology	WALNUT HS
5TH PLACE	ESTHER LI Agribusiness	WALNUT HS
	SHANI SU Insurance & Risk Management	WALNUT HS

By: Gean Hu

Q. What is the Inland Section Council?

A. The Inland Section Council is a group of FBLA members who want to contribute toward leading and improving the Inland Section. Council members represent their chapter at the section level, exchange ideas with other chapter representatives on how to best serve members, and work with the section officer team to accomplish our Program of Work (POW) goals.

Q. Who can be a part of the Inland Section Council?

A. One member from each local chapter may represent their chapter on the section level. However, we do ask that the chapter representative not be a senior in order to help the next generation of FBLA leaders foster valuable experiences. Otherwise, as long as a member is eager to get more involved in FBLA and have new ideas concerning our POW goals, they're qualified to apply.

Q. What can you gain from being a part of the Inland Section Council?

A. Section Council allows council members to work closely with the section executive team, which allows them to gain experience with working at the section level. This experience can help members decide whether or not they'd like to run for section, state, or even national office. In addition, council members get to make connections with members from different chapters across the section. Overall, Section Council allows members to get more involved with FBLA and develop leadership skills which enhance their service to their local chapter.

Q. What's new about the Inland Section Council this year?

A. This year, in order to better involve council members with work at the section level, the section team has established three committees focused around our POW goals that each council member can participate in. The Unity committee works with social media and connects members together, the Career Opportunities committee connects members with businesses and helps members find the career pathways which suit them best, and the Member Resources committee connects members with the resources they need the most and compiles and shares how each chapter contributes to accomplishing the section POW goals.

JOIN THE INLAND SECTION COUNCIL TODAY!

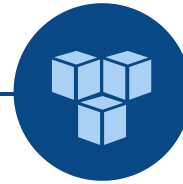
By: Gean Hu

Hear from these past Inland Section Council members on what they were able to gain from their council experience:



“ Inland Section Council allowed me to serve my FBLA community on a larger scale. Because of the Council I was also able to meet people from all over the section and build a stronger sense of community. ”

Prahleen Kaur
Walnut High School



“ Going into my junior year last year, being a council member helped me form amazing connections with my peers from other schools and enabled me to learn more about our Inland Section, helping me to become a better officer for my members and chapter. ”

William Chang
Diamond Bar High School

Finally, don't be afraid to take a chance to put yourself in a new environment by joining the Inland Section Council. Each person brings something new and unique to the table, and what you have to contribute might just be what the section needs. Even if you haven't had much previous leadership experience, this opportunity may be your first step to being more involved with leading in FBLA. If you're interested, make sure to let your local chapter adviser know so they can nominate you as your chapter's representative!

PROJECTS OVERVIEW

By: Shree Reddy

In the midst of all the chaos surrounding the uncertainty of almost everything in our lives, projects are here for you! Despite the changes the year may bring, projects are one of the areas that will remain relatively unaffected. Whether you're an FBLA veteran, or a first-year, projects are for you! At the section level, section projects are a collection of activities that revolve around a specific theme or objective. These activities are each allotted a certain number of points. To complete a project, you must complete activities that have a combined sum equal to or exceeding the threshold of points set for that project. The section projects this year are Inland Stays Fit, FBLA Speaks Up, and Inland Honors Society. For example, Inland Stays Fit involves submitting documentation of participating in sports and doing group exercise with your chapter, among other activities. Once the required amount of points are earned, the activity log and documentation must be submitted to your chapter adviser for review, who will then submit it to our Inland Officer Team. Projects are an integral part of FBLA, and completing them helps you develop

valuable leadership skills relating to organizing events, public relations, and more! Doing projects can often earn service hours as well, depending on the activity. The next level of projects are those at the state level. These projects involve more commitment, and are separated into two categories: chapter and individual projects. Submitting these projects involves going through the digital badging system, further details of which can be found on cafbla.org. For those just looking to get started, I highly recommend starting with section projects, and eventually working your way up to a state individual project, or even helping to organize a chapter level one! This year in particular, we may need to adjust the projects to reflect social distancing protocols, which will be sent out to you all very soon. Especially now, projects are a great way to continue to stay involved in FBLA, and receive recognition for your commitment and accomplishments. If you ever have any questions regarding projects or requirements, feel free to contact me! Good luck, and have fun!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

By: Konmal Ali



Muskaan Abdul-Sattar—former Inland Section Leadership Associate, Section President, and State Vice President—was able to push her limits and reach the sky through her involvement in FBLA! At the start of her FBLA journey, Muskaan was introverted and did not know how to present herself professionally. Through FBLA, Muskaan made long-lasting friendships, while also learning important lessons from those around her. By taking advantage of all the opportunities presented to her, Muskaan was able to establish her professionalism, shocking many people that she works with today. As a freshman in college, Muskaan noticed that many of her peers lack the ability to present themselves appropriately. One of her greatest memories is becoming the Inland Section President—an accomplishment beyond her wildest dreams! Her greatest advice is that the more work you put towards your goals, the greater the reward you will receive. It is also important to never give up and understand that failures bring you one step closer to success. Muskaan loves to watch Netflix, hang out with friends, and travel the world. Majoring in human biology and society—along with a minor in public affairs—Muskaan hopes to expand her horizons into the healthcare field in the near future.

Linxi Wu, former Inland Section President, has a story that amazed us all. At the age of 8, Linxi and her family made the bold move of moving from China all the way to the United States. At the start of her FBLA career, the Los Osos chapter only consisted of a few students, but with her hard work and dedication, future meetings were full of many interested students by her senior year! FBLA has allowed Linxi to foster meaningful connections that assisted her throughout her career, even when landing jobs. Linxi went from a quiet freshman to a confident young woman who learned to establish herself professionally. Her advice to high school students in FBLA is to truly lean into relationships, have no doubts in yourself, and trust the process of life. Linxi's favorite moment in FBLA was when a group of her friends went to the National Leadership Conference in Nashville and sat in the hallway of the hotel eating pie with Mr. Frost. Today, she works at Netflix as a Content Strategist. Linxi truly believes that without the guidance and skills provided by FBLA, everything she has achieved so far would not be possible.



By: Konmal Ali



Adam Ng

Inland Section VP of Programs '16-'17
Inland Section President/State Vice President '17-'18
Student at University of California, Berkeley

Adam Ng, former Inland Section Vice President of Programs, Section President, and State Vice President, opened a world of opportunity for himself by setting foot into his FBLA journey. Adam became a passionate public speaker as he learned about different FBLA events such as presentations and case studies. His favorite FBLA memory is from the National Leadership Conference in Chicago, where he met amazing people and created long-lasting friendships. The most important thing Adam learned from FBLA was to constantly explore, be creative in his endeavors, and take advantage of the many opportunities the business world has to offer. Adam's greatest advice is to be extremely open-minded, venture out of norms, and continue moving towards your goals. Currently, Adam attends UC Berkeley as a Business Administration major while pursuing a minor in data science. Outside of the educational world, Adam loves to rap and play basketball with his friends. FBLA was an amazing experience for Adam, granting him the opportunity to truly live in the moment and see the light in business!

Kelly Pan—former Inland Section Leadership Associate and Vice President of Communications—utilized her experiences in FBLA to assist her in her future endeavors. By taking advantage of the various opportunities FBLA offered, Kelly gained first-hand experience about the complex business environment she wished to enter. As the only freshman in the chapter, Kelly was constantly surrounded by upperclassmen. She overcame this challenge by stepping out of her comfort zone and developing strong attributes that led way to a confident leader. Her advice to FBLA members is to persevere through all obstacles, keep moving forward, and understand that you can make a difference regardless of your position. She emphasized reflecting on every moment—good and bad—in order to strengthen our skill sets and become better leaders. Kelly's favorite FBLA moment was her final Inland Section Conference, where she not only won first in both her events, but also cherished the last FBLA experience alongside her FBLA family.

Today, Kelly is a student at UC Berkeley studying Business Administration and has even launched her own cosmetics brand!



Kelly Pan

Los Osos High School
Inland Section Leadership Associate '16-'17
Inland Section VP of Communications '17-'18
Student at University of California, Berkeley

LEADERS OF THE SUMMER

By: Sanya Dhama

FBLA serves to mobilize students in their leadership and business endeavors, both inside and outside of the organization.

This summer was definitely one to remember. The pandemic has taken over all aspects of students' lives, from schooling situations, social engagements, and beyond. However, one of the things that have remained stable throughout this rough period is Inland Section FBLA members' drive and willingness to lead and support their communities.

Kiiana Castillo, a graduate from Palm Springs High School, expressed how FBLA was "by far one of the best experiences" of her life. During the summer, she decided that she wanted to make her own business. She started a lip gloss collection at Cetina Raw Natural Beauty that is an "all natural lip gloss made without a lip gloss base and only 100% natural oils!"

She explained that "In opening my own business, I already knew a key ingredient was going to be networking and connecting with others in my target market." Through this she said that she met "amazing, YOUNG aspiring entrepreneurs who are making their own clothes, phone cases, jewelry, cosmetics, and even stickers!" In running her small business, Kiiana wanted to make sure that she was giving her community and customer "not only giving others another option but a healthier alternative to the toxic chemicals commonly found in everyday lipglosses."

She owes a lot of her success to FBLA. Though she joined the organization her senior year, she stated, "If I'm being completely honest, the experiences you gain from being in FBLA are incomparable to any other kind of high school experience and can be so beneficial regardless of whether you become an employee for a massive corporation or a business owner yourself."

“ ...to anyone who has the opportunity to join FBLA, grab it and let it lead you into your future. ”

“ The skills I learned from FBLA helped me succeed in my goal. ”

Juan Merino



Juan Merino from El Monte High School took the initiative to attend a virtual program called "USC Bovard Scholars." Through this program, he was able to support his community by giving high school students advice on the intimidating college exploration and application process.

"I think the fact that I come from a low-income area drove me to help those in need. My community doesn't really have access to guidance for higher education, and this is what allowed me to do something about it."

He mentioned how FBLA helped him enhance his communication skills, enabling him to give peers advice.



Kiiana Castillo

LEADERS OF THE SUMMER

By: Sanya Dhama

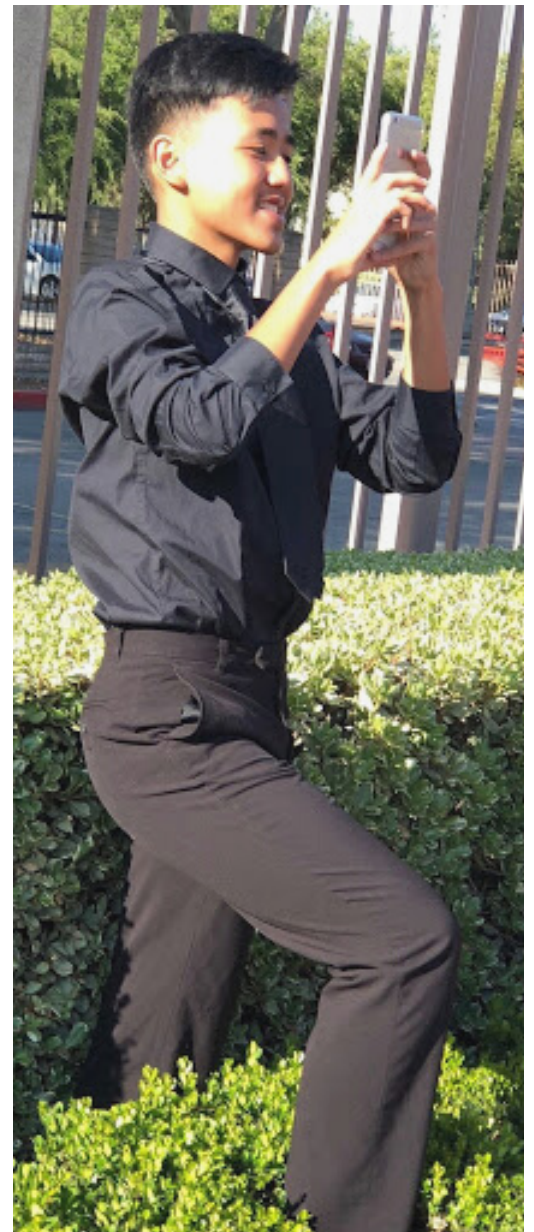
Bryant Le from El Monte High School challenged himself to build his self-confidence, explore his passions, and enhance his personal and organization's growth.

"The essence of FBLA has taught me how to plan my future through one important factor: networking. The benefits of networking allowed me to achieve personal/organizational goals through a variety of relationships within my community and outside of my comfort zone."

This has translated into Bryant's work as an officer of another on-campus club where he is in the works of implementing new at-home volunteering events and increasing membership.

He also partook in the Johns Hopkins Bio-Med Engineering Innovation Program: it "...taught me to be vigilant of my time management skills but to persevere to the end, which I believe is a skill all leaders should hone in on."

Through FBLA and learning and taking new opportunities, Bryant is a great example of exploring occupational goals and improving the community!



Bryant Le

FBLA's vision and mission lives on in every member. We hope that you have been able to apply the skills you have learned to better yourself and the world around you.

CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



@INLAND_FBLA



INLAND SECTION FBLA



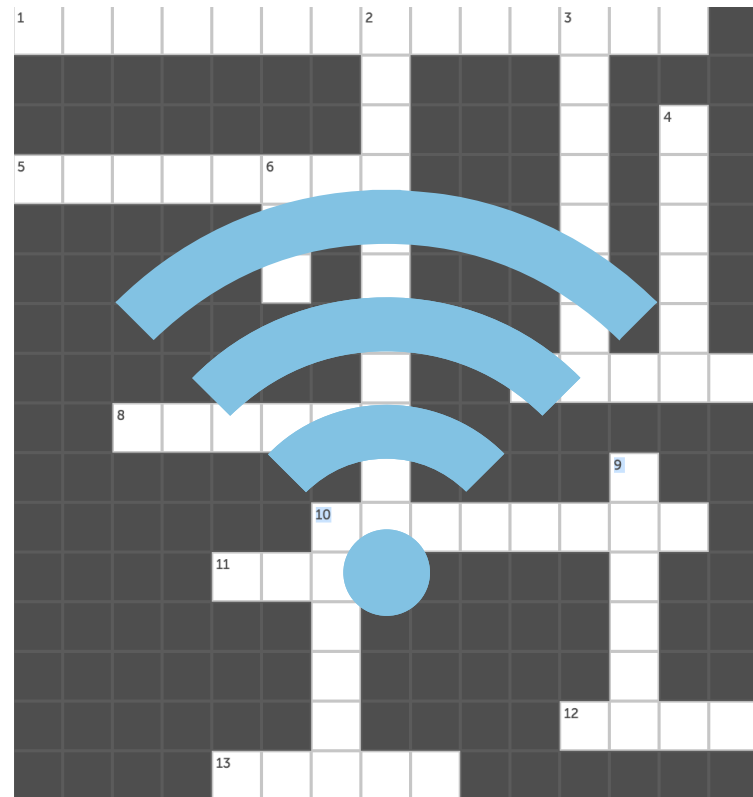
@INLANDFBLA

By: Allison Liu & Konmal Ali

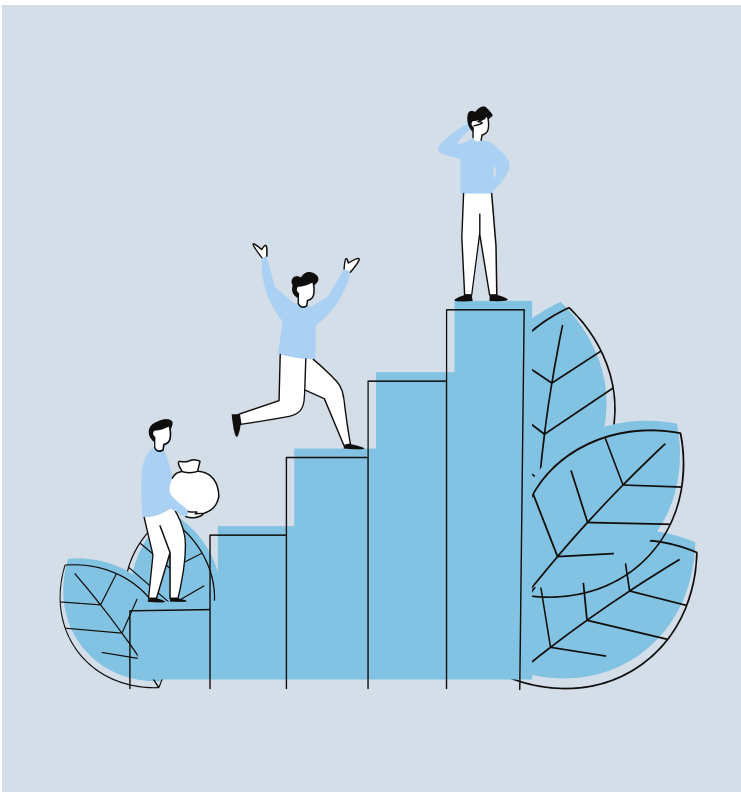
COMPLETE THE INLAND INSIDER CROSSWORD FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE!

After reading the entirety of the Inland Insider, combine your new FBLA knowledge with your existing expertise to complete the crossword. Once done, submit a screenshot or other form of evidence to the Microsoft Form in the Inland Section Instagram Linktree. Each person may submit one entry and a winner will be announced through our Inland Section social media, so stay tuned!

(This crossword has been optimized for desktop use but is still accessible from a mobile device)



Go to: tinyurl.com/insidercrossword



DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE IN YOUR CHAPTER WHO DESERVES RECOGNITION? LET US KNOW!

This year we aim to promote a more member-focused FBLA experience, and what better way to do that than through your direct input? By visiting the Microsoft Form in our Instagram bio, you can share your story about a person or event in your chapter that made an impact, giving us the opportunity to spotlight them on our social media, or even the next edition of the Inland Insider. We can't wait to hear from you, Inland Section!