

CANDIDATES FOR NORTH DAKOTA FBLA STATE OFFICE 2011-2012



**CANDIDATE FOR STATE PRESIDENT
PAIGE GRAVNING, HETTINGER HIGH SCHOOL**

My interest in FBLA began when I was just a little girl. I remember going to the local FBLA carnival on Halloween and having the time of my life. At that time, I did not really know what FBLA was but as I grew older, I began to understand by listening to my older role models. They taught me the importance of being a leader and instantly sparked my interest in FBLA.

Through FBLA, I have grown to be a stronger and more knowledgeable person. I cannot think of anything else I would rather spend my time doing. I have been on numerous committees in my local FBLA chapter, I have been our local FBLA Parliamentarian and local FBLA Secretary, and was the North Dakota FBLA Region III Vice President.

If elected as North Dakota's FBLA President, I will listen to everybody's ideas and use them to the best of my knowledge, because without the voice of others FBLA would not be possible. I will be a positive role model and will strive to raise the membership and awareness of FBLA.



**CANDIDATE FOR REGION I VICE PRESIDENT
JESSICA FAIRLEY, GRAND FORKS CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL**

I'm a sophomore at Grand Forks Central, and have been involved with FBLA for the past two years contributing to the chapter by volunteering for the community and competing in state events. Last year I took sixth place for web design at state, and this year I took second place in Spreadsheet Applications at Business Activities Day in Mayville. I have near perfect attendance, a 4.0 GPA and I'm currently taking two enriched classes. Other classes I have taken in the business department are Marketing I, web pages, and I am Microsoft Certified in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Other activities I enjoy are playing golf, snowmobiling, and going to the lake.



**CANDIDATE FOR REGION I VICE PRESIDENT
ANDREW HERSHEY, RUGBY HIGH SCHOOL**

My name is Andrew Hershey and I am a junior at Rugby High School. I have been an active member of my FBLA chapter for two years and I am currently serving as Treasurer. I am a very hard working and dedicated student to my studies. I make education a priority in my life and I continue to earn high honors in my courses. My involvement in sports, extra-curricular activities, community and youth group have allowed me to continue refining my leadership skills, team building, organization, patience, hard work, and the continued practice to work toward my goals. I believe I am a team player and you can count on me to get the job done. I participate in cross country, football, basketball, track, baseball, FFA, FBLA and am a member of the National Honor Society. Also, I have over 400 volunteer hours.

I have attended the Fall Leadership Conference and the State Leadership Conference and realized how FBLA plays a very vital role in my future plans preparing me to attend college and pursue a degree in Business-Financial Planning/Accounting.

I would be proud and honored to serve as your North Dakota FBLA Region I Vice President. I am running for this position because I believe I would not only enjoy the experience, but that I have the desire and ability to work hard and the necessary skills and experiences to make a valid contribution to the ND FBLA. I look forward to the challenges that officers have, the valuable learning experiences I will gain and the contacts and friends I will make along the way.

I believe in being involved.



**CANDIDATE FOR REGION I VICE PRESIDENT
CASSIDY WEBER, NEW ROCKFORD-SHEYENNE HIGH SCHOOL**

I, Cassidy Weber, would like to be your Region I Vice President. There are many responsibilities in becoming a state officer, and one of those responsibilities is making our organization superior. My main focus that I would like to accomplish in my term in office would be to bring awareness to our great organization and increase membership. I feel that our youth are the future, and with the volatility in the society and the stock market, more students need to become aware of how business affects their lives. Through a higher enrollment in members, more younger people will become aware of the world around them and make better decisions for tomorrow. FBLA will be able to teach these students about the world around them and make them more productive citizens in the future.



**CANDIDATE FOR REGION II VICE PRESIDENT
HALEY DONNELLY, RAY HIGH SCHOOL**

I believe that there are many qualities that a person must possess in order to be an effective leader. I feel that my time management, organization, communication, and team player skills would make me an ideal candidate for a ND FBLA State Officer position.

Time management and organization will be key qualifications for office. My time management will keep me on schedule to complete all of my tasks. I've exhibited this quality in my ability to play three sports, remain active in school organizations, and still achieve the honor roll. My organization skills have helped me prioritize my tasks. With this, organization is an aspect that is necessary to accomplish tasks efficiently.

My office will require my oral and written communication skills. I will use my oral communications skills that I have obtained from my positions of chapter secretary and class vice president to help me work with fellow officers. Competitive speech has improved my oral skills, and has increased my confidence in speaking in front of large groups of people. Along with my oral skills, I also will use my written communication skills. As Ray's chapter secretary, my written communication skills have improved, as I use my written skills to take minutes at each meeting.

My most valued qualification for office is my ability to work as a team player. I have used my team player skills in my own FBLA officer team and in the sports I have played. As a team player, I will work cooperatively with others and be open-minded to new ideas.

I can use all of my skills to increase productivity and to achieve goals. I believe that I possess all of the skills necessary to be an effective leader. My time management, organization, communication, and team player skills will make me an ideal candidate for a ND FBLA State Officer position.



**CANDIDATE FOR REGION II VICE PRESIDENT
BROOKE JOHNSON, PARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL**

I, Brooke Johnson, believe I have the qualifications to be a state officer. One of my qualifications is that I am an aggressive leader, because I would like to create more interest and understanding of the American business enterprise. I believe in good character and useful citizenship.

I believe members should do individual projects that contribute to improvement at home, work and especially school. I believe in the growth of FBLA and in my school. I will assist students that want to go to the state conference get there second Business Achievement Award Level done and tell them about meetings and tell them about community service.

I believe my qualifications go with me wherever I go, on the volleyball court, pole vaulting, or at work. I believe I can be Region II Vice President. I will change FBLA when I am in office and I believe my fellow officers will do the same. FBLA is growing and people including me would love the same thing, growth and accomplishment in North Dakota FBLA. Which I believe we can achieve.

I believe our economy isn't where it should be so that's why I would love for more people to join, because we are the future business leaders of America and we need to know how to run the economy. We can practice that with money management and these tests at the state conference. I would love to be a business leader. I solemnly promise to uphold the aims and responsibilities of a Future Business Leader of America and as an active member; I shall strive to develop the qualities necessary in becoming a responsible business leader.



**CANDIDATE FOR REGION III VICE PRESIDENT
KAITLYN EBEL, ZEELAND HIGH SCHOOL**

My name is Kaitlyn Ebel and I'm currently a Junior at Zeeland High School. I am running for the office of Regional FBLA Vice President for Region III because I feel that I am the best candidate for this office. I know what it takes to achieve goals and how to work with other team members to make these goals a reality. I am prepared to put 110% of my effort into FBLA, to make it the best it can be and make us as individuals the best we can be. My past achievements in my community have given me the skills and qualities needed to be a successful and influential leader. If elected, I will use these skills and qualities to increase FBLA membership and communication throughout my region and state. Most of all, I will fulfill all the duties and responsibilities that are expected of a Regional Vice President. I will do all I can to make every FBLA member's experience memorable and provide them with the skills and confidence that are needed to be a successful business leader.



**CANDIDATE FOR REGION III VICE PRESIDENT
KATELYN JOHNSON, HAZEN HIGH SCHOOL**

I, Katelyn Johnson, am a sophomore at Hazen High School who cares about the well-being of my fellow FBLA members. As my class's Student Council Faculty Representative, I have attained many leadership skills. In addition, Peer Youth has provided me ample volunteer hours which boost my ability to relate to people on a more personal level. Through business classes such as Word and Data I and Word and Data II, I have gained many computer skills. Furthermore, my FBLA chapter has given me the chance to increase my knowledge on leadership and business. Also, my grades are very important to me. I am a good student, and I stay involved with school functions. As Region III Vice President, I would be willing to speak the minds of those I represent throughout my region and North Dakota.



**CANDIDATE FOR REGION III VICE PRESIDENT
BAILEY SADOWSKY, HETTINGER HIGH SCHOOL**

Hello fellow North Dakota FBLA members! I am currently a sophomore at Hettinger High School. I may be inexperienced, but I know I have the ability to accomplish so much in this awesome organization. I am very active in my local FBLA chapter and now I am ready to take it the next level of Region III Vice-President.

If elected, I know I can offer a lot to my fellow FBLA members. I am ready to do what it takes to help FBLA grow and keep its very prestigious history as "the premier student organization" intact. I am ready to listen to everyone's ideas and make every effort to make them a reality through hard work. I believe FBLA is a place where students can strive to do their best and learn the skills needed to reach their fullest potential in the future.

I am so excited for the Spring Leadership Conference to begin so I can meet you, the esteemed members of our organization, and witness your success as you reap the rewards of your hard work!



**CANDIDATE FOR REGION IV VICE PRESIDENT
BRIANNA GAPP, MAYPORT CG HIGH SCHOOL**

As a freshmen FBLA member, I have been extremely active in my first year of service to the organization and my chapter. I strive for opportunities of leadership. I have demonstrated leadership throughout my life in many ways. I have done my part in encouraging other freshmen members to join our chapter and show them all that FBLA has to offer. I have wasted no time delving in to all of the opportunities that FBLA can offer. I took part in the 2010 Fall Leadership Conference in Bismarck. I also have been completing the Business Achievement Awards throughout the year. I am currently on the Business level.

As I campaign for FBLA Region IV Vice President, I hope to motivate all members to take a bigger part in their chapters and in the overall organization that is FBLA. I would like to encourage all members that no matter what year you are in school you can still excel in all the FBLA offers for not just now, but also their futures.



**CANDIDATE FOR REGION IV VICE PRESIDENT
SONNI LAGODINSKI, EDGELEY**

Sonni Raquel Lagodinski is currently a junior attending Edgeley High School. Sonni is active in volleyball, basketball, and track. She is an affiliated member of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). Sonni has taken Word Processing, Spreadsheet and Electronic Presentations, Computer Applications, Introduction to Business, and Accounting I and II. Sonni is the 2010-2011 North Dakota FCCLA State President and the Vice President of her local chapter. In school, Sonni maintains an A average in all her classes.



**CANDIDATE FOR STATE SECRETARY
SANDI KRUSE, DRAKE-ANAMOOSE HIGH SCHOOL**

Sandi Kruse has already spent one year as an FBLA state officer. She was the 2009-2010 State Secretary. She enjoyed her position and would love the opportunity to go for another term. Sandi is outgoing and loves to serve her people. She has always been involved in her school and organizations. Since she has been a seventh grader she has held some office position for an organization. Challenges motivate her. FBLA is the shining star of her involvement. Sandi loves FBLA and is motivated for another great year, and believes she has all the qualifications for another year as secretary.



**CANDIDATE FOR STATE SECRETARY
LEXIE UNHJEM, DIVIDE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL**

Hello, my name is Lexie Unhjem. I'm an active member of Divide County FBLA, and I would like to be your next State Secretary. This is my second year of FBLA, and I can't wait for more years of experience. I've been active in our chapter by placing in competitive events, completing Business Achievement levels, working hard on numerous chapter and community activities and projects, and doing my best as an FBLA class representative.

I've been involved with many other organizations as well; such as 4-H, Girl Scouts, FCCLA, LYO, Yearbook, and FFA. I've also held an office position in all of these clubs. I work hard and have a positive attitude in whatever I do. Through my experience as an FFA Secretary, I believe that I have the skills and knowledge to be your State Secretary.

I am confident that I am an excellent candidate for this position. If elected, I will put in my best effort to accomplish my goals, carry out the role of State Secretary, and be a good role model. I look forward to meeting members at State Conference, and I wish you the best of luck!



**CANDIDATE FOR STATE TREASURER
HEATHER LEMER, DRAKE-ANAMOOSE HIGH SCHOOL**

I am Heather Lemer. I am a sophomore at Drake-Anamoose High School. I am very responsible, organized, hardworking, and honest. I have taken Accounting I and II so I understand the fiscal period, payroll, and how keep records works. I am active in FBLA, Student Council, volleyball, basketball, and softball.



**CANDIDATE FOR STATE HISTORIAN
KATELYN BJERKE, MAYPORT CG HIGH SCHOOL**

As a first year FBLA member for the May-Port CG FBLA Chapter, I have went above and beyond the traditional membership role. I am constantly looking for ways to better myself in this organization. I strive for success. I enjoy leading others whether it is through the dance classes I help with or being a peer in class. I believe another avenue of leadership to pursue is the avenue of Historian for the North Dakota State FBLA Chapter.

I have been active in projects and local activities. I am on my Business level in the Business Achievement awards I also was fortunate enough to attend the Fall Leadership Conference in Bismarck.

As campaign time draws near, I hope to encourage our younger members to step up and strive for success in this organization as it has a lot to offer its members. I believe I also have a lot to offer the organization.



**CANDIDATE FOR STATE HISTORIAN
HANNAH WEGNER, BEACH HIGH SCHOOL**

My name is Hannah Wegner and I am junior at Beach High School. I am a candidate for the office of FBLA State Historian.

I believe I am qualified for this position because I am dedicated, determined and enthusiastic. I have participated in FBLA for three years. Last year I held the office of Chapter Historian and this year I am the Chapter Student Council Representative. I placed in State in Public Speaking I for the past two years. This year I also participated in the American Legion Oratorical Contest, taking second place at the local level. I was employed as Technology Assistant for one semester. Members of the school staff looked to me for help in their computer needs. I have also been employed as a lifeguard at the local pool for two years and have worked with people of various age groups.

Having a strong academic back ground but also having other interests outside of school makes me a well rounded person. I have held a position on the Buc Revolution team since my freshman year and I hold the position of Class Secretary/ Treasurer. I am involved in Student Council, Band, and was a member in the Senior Class Play. The sports I participate in are Basketball, Volleyball, and Track. I was in charge of decorating our class hallway for homecoming and it was my responsibility to help organize the committee and get the project done. I participate in school activities as well as those within the community. I am an active member in my church. I play piano for the weekly Sunday School children and am a member of Luther League. I am on the Honor roll with the position of highest honors. I enjoy

working with people and cooperate well with others. I have great school spirit, and an outgoing personality.



**CANDIDATE FOR STATE WEBMASTER
MORGAN LAFFERTY, CAVALIER HIGH SCHOOL**

I am qualified for state officer because I have held several offices in the past for various organizations. I am currently serving as Cavalier FBLA's secretary. I also currently serve as the sophomore class secretary and treasurer, and was President for the Cavalier Junior High SADD Chapter.

My leadership skills have grown stronger by taking the lead and helping the younger athletes in volleyball, track and golf along with helping the younger kids in choir and band. I was the co-chair in our community's Veteran's Day Program, which gave me many responsibilities in planning the program, getting speakers, and making sure the program itself ran smoothly. All of the activities stated above make me qualified for state webmaster.



**CANDIDATE FOR STATE PARLIAMENTARIAN
REBECCA BIRDSSELL, DRAKE-ANAMOOSSE HIGH SCHOOL**

My name is Rebecca Birdsell. I am a freshman at Drake-Anamoose HS. I am a responsible person that is very organized. I have been involved in FBLA for many years, even though this is my first year as a member. My mother is a chapter advisor, so I have been involved in the Drake-Anamoose chapter since I can remember. I am also the local secretary of our chapter. In my free time I enjoy playing softball, volleyball, and basketball.



**CANDIDATE FOR STATE PARLIAMENTARIAN
KODY GLASS, MANDAN HIGH SCHOOL**

I have been actively involved in FBLA for over a year and a half and have been serving my school's own chapter as treasurer since the beginning of the year. Through working closely with other officers, students, members, and administrators, I have effectively been able to take the lead and plan events. These events have boosted FBLA interest greatly and raised money in the process. On top of serving as a leader in FBLA, I am also a leader on my school's newspaper, The Courier, serving as News Editor. Though this is my first run for state office, I know I can adapt quickly to the changing atmosphere and ensure that the principles and benefits of FBLA are upheld.



**CANDIDATE FOR STATE PARLIAMENTARIAN
CHRIS MILLER, LAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL**

I am a sophomore at Lakota High School and have been involved in FBLA for two years. I am currently the vice president of my local chapter. I am involved in football, basketball, baseball, band, and chorus. I enjoy hunting, fishing, reading,

writing, hanging out with friends, and playing video games. I am a team player and would love to be part of the state officer team for next year. FBLA has made it so that I can meet many new people and have fun at the state conferences. My goal for this year would be to get more students interested in FBLA by showing them how fun it really is.



**CANDIDATE FOR STATE PARLIAMENTARIAN
TRISHA SEM, DIVIDE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL**

My name is Trisha Sem and I want to be your North Dakota State FBLA Parliamentarian.

This is my third year as an FBLA member. I have competed in events such as Word Processing I (10th), Parliamentary Procedure Team (4th), Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure (2nd), and Public Speaking I (3rd). I am an active member in our local chapter, participating in fundraisers, events and community service projects. Parliamentary procedure is something I have always loved. Everything has a purpose. I love the responsibility that was put on me to make sure that the meeting runs smooth and efficiently.

I have also learned valuable social skills through my job at Crosby Self Serve, a pizza and fried food restaurant in Crosby. I have learned to work with all kinds of people and find solutions for their problems. Also, my job as a farm hand teaches me the benefits of hard work, and the payback of pure accuracy.

With these qualities, I have set goals for the FBLA and myself that can be achieved if I become Parliamentarian. I want to promote more interest in parliamentary procedure for its something that all businesses in the world use today. It is important that all students to know the basics of running a meeting.