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Greetings from your Iowa BPA President, Meera Ajam!

Thank you all for helping create a wonderful Fall Leadership Conference! We had a blast leading the workshops, getting to meet all of you, and taking Judson Laippy's great dance moves to the dance floor! Now that UFLC is behind us, it is time to look ahead to what's coming. Our next big event is the State Leadership Conference in Des Moines on February 26-28. Start preparing for your events so SLC can be just as fun and exciting. SLC is a chance to show the world what you've got and to 'reach new heights' while competing in fun events that range all over the business spectrum. Those who qualify will get to go on to see the Windy City and compete in the National Leadership Conference in April. Iowa and Texas will be sharing a hotel in Chicago during NLC, so let's get serious and show them that not *everything* is bigger in Texas!

Ankeny students enjoying UFLC



North Fayette at the UFLC Etiquette Dinner

Cents Do Count!

At UFLC this year, BPA raised a total of \$933.11 to support the Special Olympics! Way to go BPA! For the secondary division, Bedford High School came out on top by raising over \$200. They definitely made a difference in the grand total at the Miracle Minute at UFLC. For those who aren't sure what this is, it is a minute in which every chapter has a bucket to fill with all the change they have and are willing to donate. Bedford came prepared. The Friday before UFLC, they did a miracle five minutes. Each advisory (known more as a homeroom to other schools) was given a bag and five minutes to fill it with change. The winning advisory got a pizza party. This definitely brought out the competition. Bedford junior Hannah Marcum stated, "Bedford has several students who participate in Special Olympics and the school is always supportive of them. I was genuinely proud of the effort people put in to donate, emptying their pockets and going out to their cars to get all the change they could before the five minutes were up. We ended up with over \$200 in donations, all straight from the heart." BPA definitely stood together this year to make a difference. Hopefully we can top our record at the next Miracle Minute!



Submitted by Parliamentarian Breana Hyder

Upcoming Contests...

T-Shirt Design Contest ~ Design the 2012 Iowa Business Professionals of America State T-shirt! The design must be a unique and original one that will be printed and worn by all students who attend our State Leadership Conference. Entry deadline is December 2, 2011. Check out www.iowabpa.net for official rules and entry form.

Trading Pin Contest ~ Create the official Iowa BPA Trading Pin used for students to trade at the 2012 National Leadership Conference in Chicago, Illinois this Spring. The pin must be a simple design submitted by December 2, 2012. Go to www.iowabpa.net to get the official rules and entry form. The winning pin and t-shirt design will be chosen by the Iowa officer team members.

Special Olympics Pin Design Contest ~ Develop a pin design that will be used as a giveaway during the Special Olympics walk at NCL. Designs must be submitted electronically by February 1, 2012, to www.bpa.org/submit. Go to www.iowabpa.net for official rules.

NEW!



TORCH AWARDS

The Business Professionals of America Torch Award Program serves to develop a member's involvement in their community by recognizing those who participate. Torch Awards are composed of seven different categories: Leadership; Service; Cooperation; Knowledge; Friendship; Love, Hope, and Faith; and Patriotism. Students may obtain points valued at 5, 10, 15, and 20 by participating in activities in their respective communities. There are four levels of recognition: Executive, Diplomat, Statesman, and Ambassador.

The deadline this year for the Executive, Diplomat, and Statesman Torch Awards is January 27, 2012. The deadline for the Ambassador Torch Award is March 15, 2012. Students who receive enough points for the Ambassador Torch Award will be honored at the National Leadership Conference in Chicago. Student resumes may be submitted electronically on the Iowa BPA site. We are making a big push this year to have Iowa recognized at the National Leadership Conference for our involvement in the Torch Award Program, so be sure to involve yourself in your community and meet the deadlines!

Submitted by Vice President Chad Norris

State Office—How to Run

Do you enjoy being a leader? Are you looking for new ways to become a more influential person? Then maybe running for state office is the thing for you! Running for state office is a great way to meet new people and to get even more involved in the BPA you love. Just follow these steps, and you'll be on your way to becoming an even better business professional.

First, you need to talk with your advisor and let him or her know your plans for the upcoming year. He/she will help you get the information that you need. There's a packet of information that you need to complete that states why you want to be an officer, what you hope to do while in office, a little bit about yourself, and then there are some questions included over your BPA knowledge (but don't worry, www.bpa.org is a great source for the questions you're unsure about!) And lastly you create a resumé. This is due before State Conference.

Next, find a friend who is willing to introduce you (and talk you up a little bit, too!) during SLC. After you have that done, you need to write a 2-4 minute speech (you and your campaign manager combined) reiterating what it is you want to do while in office, and how you can make a difference for BPA.

Then comes the fun part, really! The caucuses. Here your fellow BPA members get the chance to get to know the real you. It's your opportunity to show off your wonderful personality and maybe crack a few jokes to pull in even more votes.

You go from room to room, and the members in each room ask you a few questions they have prepared ahead of time. A couple questions are serious, like what are the colors of BPA? Or where is the national center located? And others are funny, such as what kitchen utensil would you be and why? Or they may ask you to make up a rap for them. This was by far my favorite part. As long as you're having fun, so are they!

I encourage all of you to run for office! It really is a great thing to be involved in, and it helps scare off any fears you might have of talking in front of people. . . you'll be a pro in no time!



Submitted by Marketing Vice President Ashley Trentz