



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**3 NATIONAL FINALISTS, 3 TOP 10 PLACEMENTS, & 1 NATIONAL CHAMPION**

(July 3, 2025) – Iowa Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students made their mark at the 2025 FBLA National Leadership Conference from June 29 - July 2. FBLA is the nation's largest Career and Technical Student Organization focused on business. Members showcased their exceptional skills and professionalism, earning top placements and recognition among talented students nationwide. The event, held in Anaheim, California, attracted nearly 16,000 of the nation's top middle and high school students. 179 attendees represented Iowa at the conference and achieved outstanding results, securing several top placements.

FBLA's National Leadership Conference brings together students to compete for scholarships in dozens of competitive events over four days. Students also had the opportunity to engage in learning workshops, network with members, engage in a variety of activities in the Future Leader's Expo Hall, and explore Anaheim.

Iowa FBLA is fortunate to bring home several top placements and competition finalists. The following students presented in their preliminary rounds and advanced to the Top 15 in their event, securing spots in the finals:

- Laksha Suresh, Waukee - Social Media Strategies
- Aja Dorothy & Kayla Karangi, Fairfield - Graphic Design
- Aditya Pethe, Waukee Northwest - Impromptu Speaking

Then, at the Awards of Excellence Ceremony on July 2, the following students received top honors, earning them national recognition as Top 10 awardees, with scholarships awarded to those placing in the Top 3.

- Laksha Suresh, Waukee - Social Media Strategies - 3rd Place
- Aditya Suri, Linn-Mar - Financial Math - 5th Place
- Aditya Pethe, Waukee Northwest - Impromptu Speaking - 1st Place

Furthermore, students and advisers were recognized for their contributions to FBLA throughout the past year. Sriya Munjuluri (Waukee) was recognized as the Who's Who recipient for Iowa FBLA. Andrew Thonstad, FBLA Adviser at Sioux Center was acknowledged as the Outstanding Local Chapter Adviser for the state of Iowa. Both were recognized in the Parade of States at the Opening Ceremony, along with State President, Caroline Van Pelt (Fairfield).

Finally, Iowa FBLA is pleased to recognize Aditya Pethe (Waukee Northwest) and Sriya Munjuluri (Waukee). Both of these outstanding student leaders went through the process of running for national office at the 2025 National Leadership Conference. Both students spent the last few months building a rigorous campaign and studying testing materials for hours in order to prepare to compete against top candidates across the country. We are extremely proud of their efforts and the way they represented our state.



**IOWA FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA  
2025 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE PRESS RELEASE**

“We are incredibly proud of all our students who competed at the National Leadership Conference,” said Madison Kraemer, Iowa FBLA Executive Director and State Adviser. “Iowa members truly stood out at the conference this year. Not only in their competitions, but in the way they displayed professionalism, respect, and kindness during their time in Anaheim. We brought our largest group of attendees yet to a conference of 16,000 attendees, and they proved that they have what it takes to make a difference, both on the stage and throughout the conference.”

**About FBLA**

Future Business Leaders of America, Inc. is a nonprofit 501[c][3] education association with active middle school, high school, and college chapters worldwide. FBLA inspires and prepares students to become community-minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences. The association is headquartered in Reston, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C. For more information, visit [fbla.org](https://fbla.org).

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