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THE REFLECTOR



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NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

VISION:

ALL NEVADA STUDENTS
ARE EQUIPPED AND FEEL
EMPOWERED TO ATTAIN
THEIR VISION OF
SUCCESS.

MISSION:

TO IMPROVE STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT AND
EDUCATOR
EFFECTIVENESS BY
ENSURING
OPPORTUNITIES,
FACILITATING LEARNING,
AND PROMOTING
EXCELLENCE.



With the arrival of August, the return to school is on the horizon for students, parents, teachers, and administrators. The 2026-2027 school year is looking to be an eventful and productive one for career and technical education and student organizations alike!

DECA is among the oldest CTSOs in the United States, celebrating their 80th anniversary in 2026, with members across the United States and beyond. DECA's This is How We Do DECA new advisor virtual training will take place August 10 and 11. In November, the DECA Ultimate Power Trip will take place in Louisville, KY. Open to all members and advisors, the event will feature learning labs, college and career exhibits, networking events, and competitive opportunities with recognition for the top performers.

HOSA, continuing to bring opportunities to tomorrow's medical professionals, will be hosting their Annual Washington Leadership Academy (WLA) in our nation's capital. This will be an ideal networking opportunity for networking and further learning of HOSA members. In the days prior, the SAM Conference for State Advisors will take place as well.

SkillsUSA's theme for the year is "Level Up," and members will have the opportunity to do just that with the organization's Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTi), taking place in our nation's capital in late September. During this time, students will have the opportunity to conduct in-person visits with elected officials on Capitol Hill, and in addition to training, they'll even visit many of Washington's famous monuments and museums, including Arlington National Cemetery. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

In late September/early October, the World Dairy Expo takes place. The FFA contests will take place on Tuesday, September 29. Dairy Cattle Judging, Dairy Products Judging, Showmanship, and the World Forage Management Cup are the events taking place. FFA will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2028, and all members are encouraged to attend these events at the expo!

In early November, FBLA will be hosting their National Fall Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. The organization offers its members unique opportunities that can't be replicated elsewhere, including keynote speakers' general sessions, leadership workshops, networking opportunities, and specialized programs designed for every member.

More events are on the horizon for CTE programs and CTSOs in 2027 as well!



[HTTPS://DOE.NV.GOV/OFFICES/CRALEO/CTE](https://doe.nv.gov/offices/craleo/cte)

THE REFLECTOR

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND LEVEL ALL LAUNCH FREE COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS TOOL

Hello,

The Nevada Department of Education has partnered with Level All to provide Nevada middle schools, high schools, districts, students, families, and educators with access to a comprehensive college, career, and life readiness platform at no cost.

Level All helps students explore careers and postsecondary pathways, develop academic and career plans, and build the financial literacy, employability, and life skills needed for success beyond high school.

The platform can support Nevada schools with:

- College and career readiness: Guided content covering college, careers, trades, apprenticeships, military pathways, and other postsecondary options
- CCR Diploma and academic planning: Student-facing activities that support career exploration, goal-setting, and guided next steps
- Educator tools: Assignments, student groups, progress tracking, lesson plans, presentations, and implementation resources
- CTE and work-based learning: Career exploration, resumes, interviews, workplace readiness, and apprenticeship preparation
- Student and family access: A secure, ad-free platform with full Spanish translation and continued access beyond graduation

Join an introductory webinar

The Level All team is hosting short statewide webinars throughout the fall. Sessions will demonstrate how educators can access the platform, assign content, track engagement, and incorporate Level All into counseling, advisory, CTE, and college and career readiness programs.

Register here: [Webinar Sign-up Link](#)

Other ways to get started

Schools and districts may also:

- Schedule a tailored walkthrough: [Calendar Link](#)
- Contact Level All's Success team for implementation support: nevada@levelall.com
- Visit the [Level All + Nevada Hub](#) to learn more about Level All and how it can support Nevada schools

For questions or assistance, email: nevada@levelall.com.

Thank you for helping ensure Nevada students have the information, tools, and support they need to prepare for college, career, and life.

Warm regards,

Nevada Department of Education



The **Nevada DOE** is proud to partner with
Level All to support college and career readiness
initiatives across the state.

Reach out to nevada@levelall.com to learn more!

THE REFLECTOR

NEVADA LEADS THE NATION IN CTE PROGRAM READINESS

by Anna Reynolds, Education Programs Director



Nevada is officially leading the nation in preparing students for the modern workforce. According to a [newly released national analysis](#), Nevada has achieved a standout "High" program readiness rating. Impressively, it is one of only four states in the country to earn this top distinction.

Rather than simply looking at whether K-12 Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs exist, the report evaluates if states actually have the systems in place to track student progress and measure how well those programs align with real-world economic needs. Nevada's top-tier ranking reflects a statewide commitment to organizing, measuring, and openly sharing its CTE data.

A major factor in this success is how well the state structures its educational offerings. Nevada currently features 53 state-approved pathways organized across 14 career clusters, giving students clear, well-defined sequences for their education. Crucially, the report found student participation

in these pathways is "Closely Aligned" with Nevada's actual labor market priorities. The most popular K-12 programs right now include Marketing, K-12 Teaching, Culinary Arts, Audio/Visual Technology, and Automotive Maintenance. These active programs directly reflect the state's workforce demands and real-world opportunities.

The state also earned high marks for public transparency. The report noted that Nevada's CTE program data is "Mostly Accessible" to the public, meaning the information is easy to find and request without requiring special applications or fees. While there is always room to grow, the researchers noted that statewide data collection is currently "Partially in Place," and can be further integrated in the future. Even with room for growth, Nevada already has the tools to evaluate and improve its offerings.

This strong infrastructure empowers local students to make informed decisions about their futures, and it ensures employers can confidently look to our schools as a reliable pipeline for skilled talent, as students in CTE programs continue to gain the necessary skills for their careers, finding themselves ready to take their places in an ever-changing working world.

To dive deeper into the findings and see how Nevada compares to the rest of the country, read the full report at <https://effectivepathways.com>

PREPARING FOR PHASE 2 OF THE QPR: A FOCUS ON SAFETY

by Dr. Hiren Bhavsar, Education Programs Professional

As the Quality Program Review (QPR) enters Phase 2, safety becomes a primary area of focus. The goal is not simply to identify deficiencies during a site visit, but to help schools establish a culture where safety is everyday practice. Preparing for a QPR visit should begin well before reviewers arrive and should be part of routine operations throughout the school year.

Schools and districts should conduct regular internal safety walkthroughs of all CTE classrooms and laboratories. Staff should verify that required safety equipment is present, operational, and routinely inspected. This includes fire extinguishers, emergency eyewash stations, safety showers, ventilation systems, and personal protective equipment (PPE). Inspection and maintenance logs should be complete and up to date, as missing documentation often indicates that routine safety checks are not being performed.

Chemical safety is another critical area. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) should be readily accessible, chemicals must be properly labeled and stored, and flammable materials should be kept in approved storage cabinets. Culinary programs should routinely inspect food inventories to ensure expired products are removed before they become a safety concern. These simple, routine checks help create a safe learning environment while reducing findings during a QPR visit.

Finally, safety is everyone's responsibility. Teachers should regularly review emergency procedures with students, ensure required PPE is used correctly, and reinforce safe work habits every day. When safety becomes part of the classroom culture rather than something addressed only before a review, schools are better prepared for QPR visits and, more importantly, provide a safer environment for students and staff. Phase 2 of QPR is an opportunity to demonstrate that safety is not just a requirement; it is a commitment.

THE REFLECTOR

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION: NEVADA'S INVESTMENT IN WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

by Rick Espejo, Education Programs Professional

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is one of Nevada's most effective investments in student achievement, workforce development, and long-term economic growth. By integrating rigorous academics with technical education, industry-recognized credentials, and work-based learning experiences, CTE prepares students for postsecondary education, military service, apprenticeships, and high-skill, high-wage, in-demand careers that drive Nevada's economy.

The results demonstrate the value of this investment. Nationally, secondary CTE concentrators graduate at a rate of 97.3%, substantially exceeding the national average for all high school students (Association for Career and Technical Education [ACTE], 2025). Nevada has experienced similar success. For the Class of 2024, 96.9% of Nevada CTE concentrators graduated, compared with the statewide graduation rate of 81.6% for all students (Nevada Department of Education [NDE], 2024). Preliminary data for the Class of 2025 indicate that Nevada's CTE graduation rate has increased to 98.0% (Nevada Report Card, 2025). These outcomes reflect the power of engaging students in relevant, career-focused learning that connects classroom instruction with meaningful future opportunities.

Beyond increasing graduation rates, CTE directly addresses Nevada's workforce needs by developing a pipeline of skilled talent aligned with priority industries, including advanced manufacturing, healthcare, construction, information technology, hospitality, transportation, logistics, and public safety. Through work-based learning, dual credit, career and technical student organizations (CTSOs), and employer partnerships, students graduate with both academic knowledge and practical experience, enabling them to transition successfully into college and careers while helping employers fill critical workforce shortages.

The return on investment extends well beyond education. Individuals who graduate from high school are more likely to obtain stable employment, earn higher lifetime wages, and contribute to economic growth through increased productivity and tax revenues. Higher educational attainment is also associated with lower unemployment and reduced reliance on public assistance. Research has consistently demonstrated that increased educational attainment is associated with lower rates of criminal justice involvement and homelessness, producing measurable social and economic benefits for communities (Alliance for Excellent Education, 2013; Lochner & Moretti, 2004). Every student who successfully completes a CTE pathway represents not only an individual success story but also an investment in Nevada's future workforce and quality of life.

These outcomes directly support the vision of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V), which prioritizes equitable access to high-quality CTE programs, meaningful employer engagement, credential attainment, and successful transitions into postsecondary education and employment. As Nevada continues to diversify its economy and attract new industries, sustained investment in Career and Technical Education will remain essential to developing a highly skilled workforce, strengthening communities, and ensuring the state's long-term economic competitiveness.

Career and Technical Education is more than an educational pathway; it is a strategic economic development strategy that benefits students, employers, communities, and Nevada's future.

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THE REFLECTOR

COLLABORATION IN YOUR CTE CLASSROOM

by Victor Willert, Education Programs Professional

What is collaboration? It's people working together to achieve a shared goal or a common outcome. It involves sharing ideas, knowledge, and resources to accomplish something one couldn't achieve alone. Collaboration differs from teamwork; it's about brainstorming plans or ideas, while teamwork turns those plans into reality. They complement each other.

How do you improve collaboration? Team roles and goals should be clearly defined. This avoids confusion among the group members. Likewise, project management software, shared documents, and messaging platforms can streamline collaboration. Lastly, coordination keeps teamwork from turning into chaos. It's the glue that holds everything together, making sure everyone's actions are aligned toward a goal. Everyone can see where things stand. When team members know what's happening, it's easier to avoid doubling up.

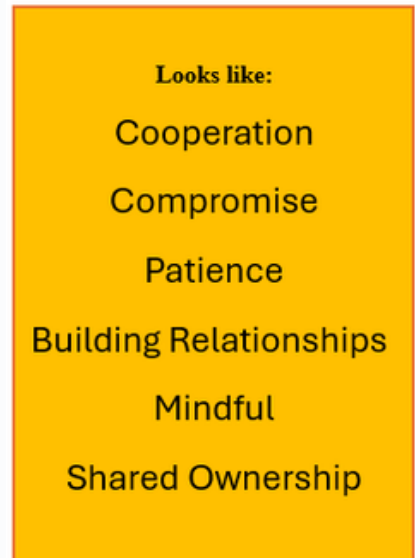
Why should collaboration be used in your CTE classroom? Students will eventually enter industries where teamwork and cooperation are keys to success. Nurturing collaboration in the CTE classroom ensures your students can take shared responsibility for success and failures alike, build strong working relationships with peers and future colleagues. Students will learn to steer challenges towards consensus and compromise, bringing multiple perspectives to a project.

Below, you'll find a list of strategies you may already be using in your classroom to foster collaboration. Integrating these methods can prepare your students for their careers, developing skills they'll use at work and home.

- **Group Projects with Defined Roles:** Assign a project that requires your students to work in small groups. Make sure each student has a specific role. You should rotate said roles for future projects.
- **Community Based Learning:** Partner with a local business or organization to give students real-world problems to solve as a group.
- **Case Studies:** Provide students with a scenario or problem. Have them work together to analyze the problem and reach a consensus.
- **Peer Teaching:** Pair up students and have them teach concepts and skills to each other. This helps students to see different learning styles.

After the activity, students reflect on the experience. Sample questions:

- **What went well in your group?**
- **What challenges did you face?**
- **How did you resolve disagreements?**
- **Would you do something differently?**



THE REFLECTOR

EMPOWERING NEVADA'S CTE PROGRAMS THROUGH SELF-EVALUATION AND EQUITY

by Barbara Dillard, Education Programs Professional/NDE MOA Coordinator

Dear Nevada CTE Community,

As your Education Programs Professional handling Quality Program Review and Methods of Administration Coordination, my mission is to ensure Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in Nevada provides exceptional, equitable, and accessible opportunities for all students. Continuous improvement is the heartbeat of a thriving education system. To help us reach our goals, I want to highlight an effective resource: the ACTE Quality CTE Program of Study Framework® Self-Evaluation Instrument.

Through its ongoing High-quality CTE Initiative, the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) has developed this framework to describe key components of a high-quality program of study. The framework is designed to apply to programs spanning both secondary and postsecondary education. It's organized into 12 elements, such as Standards-aligned and Integrated Curriculum, Community Partnerships, Work-based Learning, and Data and Program Improvement.

Programs rate themselves on 92 distinct criteria using a 0 to 3 rubric. The scale ranges from "0 = Not at all achieved," meaning there is no evidence, to "3 = Substantially achieved," meaning it's implemented on a regular and sustained basis across the entire program. Because all criteria carry equal weight, the tool allows you to easily calculate a percentage score to identify areas of strength and opportunities for growth. It's best conducted as part of a collaborative effort among your program stakeholders.

Given my role, I'm drawn to Element 6: Access and Equity. High-quality CTE requires that our programs are free from bias, inclusive, and remain non-discriminatory. The framework asks us to evaluate whether we actively recruit from underrepresented populations and to ensure our facilities, equipment, and curriculum are accessible to everyone, including special populations and individuals protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act. It emphasizes taking action to eliminate barriers to extended learning experiences, such as work-based learning and Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) participation. Furthermore, Element 12: Data and Program Improvement encourages educators to use disaggregated data to facilitate comparisons among student subpopulations; a vital step in addressing equity gaps.

You and your stakeholders are encouraged to complete this program self-evaluation. You can do so online at www.acteonline.org/high-quality-CTE, where you will receive automatically calculated scores and be directly connected to the online library for elements identified as needing improvement. By committing honest self-evaluation, we can elevate the standard of CTE in Nevada, ensuring that every student has all they need to succeed in their future careers.



THE REFLECTOR

REDEFINE THE STANDARD - NEVADA HOSA LOOKING FORWARD

Nevada HOSA empowers its members through learning, leadership, service, and innovation. It strives to equip them with skills in preparation as future leaders in healthcare. The 2025-2026 State Officer Team hosted the State Leadership Conference in April with 1,400 attendees where members were able to compete in events, attend symposiums, and network with peers. Ultimately, the new State Officer Team was elected, with Ehibor Moseri, Aarav Achi, Aaralyn Tran, Areeb Mohiuddin, and Jeremiah Urbina serving for the 2026-2027 term.



To provide the recently elected HOSA Officers with the proper skills for their term in office, TeamTRI and Oregon CTSO invited Nevada HOSA to attend the "Your Story" Officer Training in Portland. This training was incredibly beneficial in assisting all five officers discover their unique leadership voices and in sharing their stories with other CTSO Officers. Beyond learning how to maximize their leadership potential, they were given the time to plan out their Program of Work for the upcoming year.

Recently, HOSA celebrated their 49th International Leadership Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. State officers Ehibor Moseri, Aarav Achi, and Aaralyn Tran attended the conference with over 16,000 HOSA members. It was an amazing opportunity to connect and meet with others from across the world and compete at the international level. The buzzing culture of pin trading between different chartered associations kept everyone busy throughout the entire conference. Nevada excelled in the international spotlight with 18 finishers on stage.

The 50th Anniversary International Leadership Conference was an unforgettable celebration of five decades of leadership and community. Moving forward into HOSA's next half century, the organization has officially announced its 2026-2027 theme, challenging members to Redefine the Standard. This powerful call to action challenges members to rise above and beyond, pushing past expectations and refusing to settle. Instead of following the status quo, members are driven to unleash their full potential, lead with purpose, and most importantly, elevate excellence.

Alongside the excitement of the new theme, the State Officer team is prepared and enthusiastic about three major initiatives aimed at uniting communities. The Silver State Support Initiative brings to the forefront, statewide donation drives with regional participation surrounding food, clothing, and hygiene. Additionally, the Sister Chapter Initiative bridges chapters of all divisions for joint competitive event preparation and community service opportunities. Lastly, the State Officer Mentorship Initiative aims to provide aspiring State Officers transparent insight to the State Office.

SUMMER FUN WITH FFA

by Heather Dye, FFA Executive Director

For some students, summer break isn't a break, but rather an opportunity to personally grow. Two Nevada FFA students traveled to Washington DC the week after July 4 to attend the Washington Leadership Conference.

Paige Frey, Churchill County FFA (Fallon) and Shay Hooper, Diamond Mountain FFA (Eureka) made the long trip to attend National FFA's Washington Leadership Conference. The event encourages attendees to become changemakers when they return to their communities. While in the nation's capital, students learn how they can explore, encourage, advocate and serve. They are encouraged to use the lessons learned to implement their own civic engagement projects, Living to Serve Plan, in their communities.

While in Washington D.C. they also toured the National Mall, U.S. Capitol, and Smithsonian Museums. Another highlight for attendees was meeting students with similar interests from throughout the nation. Nearly 350 students attended the conference the same week as Paige and Shay. National FFA offers five weeks of the Washington Leadership Conference. To learn more, visit <https://www.ffa.org/conference/washington-leadership-conference-wlc/>.



NEVADA
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION



Photo – Paige Frey, Churchill County FFA (Fallon) visiting some of the sites in the National Mall while attending the Washington Leadership Conference.

THE REFLECTOR

NEVADA DECA UPDATE: NEW SUCCESSES AND A NEW SCHOOL YEAR AHEAD

by Heather Dye, FFA Executive Director

Nevada DECA has had an eventful quarter of the year wrapping up competition and actively preparing for the school year ahead. To start, we would like to highlight our accomplishments at the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, where members from nine Nevada chapters competed against over 20,000 high school students!

ICDC 2026 Event Highlights:

Top 10 International Winners:

Franchise Business Plan - Second Place: JiYuen Lee and Isela Suarez | Clark High School

Business Services Operations Research - Third Place: Yash Kadam, Pragalad Nithyanandan, Kian Parikh | Clark High School

Franchise Business Plan - Seventh Place: Grace Hua | Clark High School

Retail Merchandising Series - Tenth Place: Henry Park | Davidson Academy

Virtual Business Challenge Hotel Management - Tenth Place: Jack Harris, Christion Rogers, Brody VanderVeldt | Faith Lutheran High School

Overall competition Finalists:

Benjamin Feinstein, Elliott Harouni, Eli Saltzman | The Adelson School

Yash Kalla, Kangwoo Kim, Suyash Vangala | Coronado High School

Krish Sharma | Clark High School

Rhea Govindaraj, Aileen Pham, Abigail Watanabe | Coronado High School

Exam & Roleplay Medalists:

Shruthi Inamdar | Davidson Academy

Anirudh Polagani | Clark High School

William McCall | Davidson Academy

Aadi Patwa | Davidson Academy

Adrianna Keroles | Las Vegas Academy of the Arts

Madison Gastwirth | Palo Verde High School

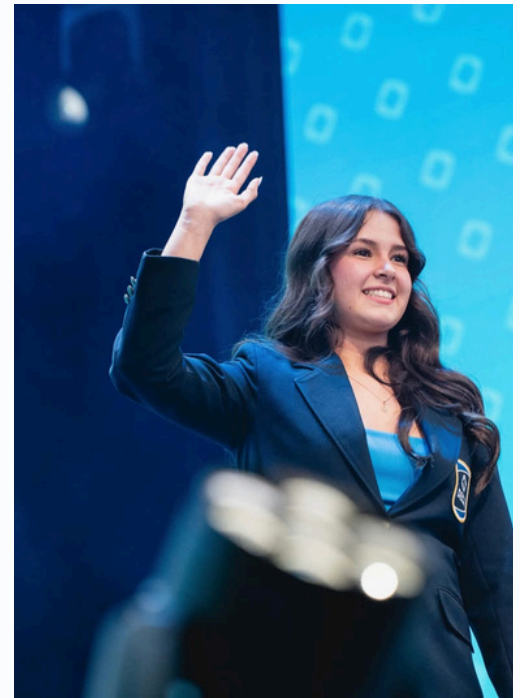
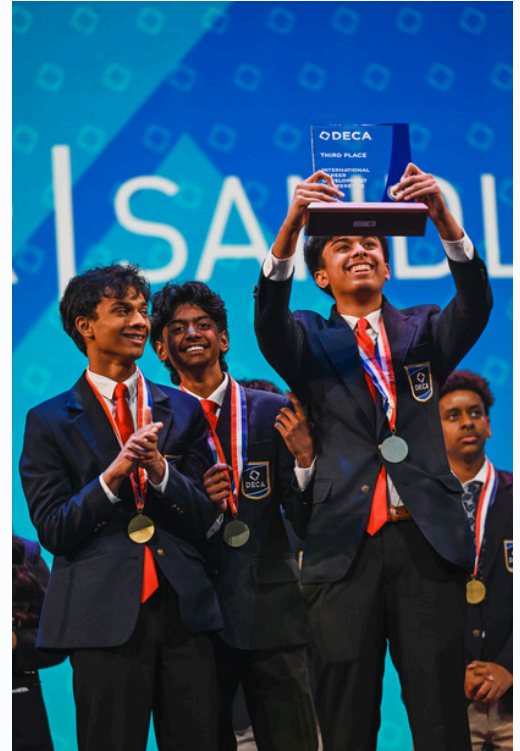
We are extremely proud of all our competitors and award winners!

We would also like to give a special shoutout to our very own Rachael Golembesky, who was elected as the new DECA International Western Region Vice President! Rachael will represent Nevada on the international stage and serve members across the entire Western Region.

Since returning from ICDC, the team has been busy preparing for the upcoming school year by creating Chapter Officer guides and planning upcoming events. In June, Vice President of Leadership Sai Manivannan organized a pickleball social for Northern Nevada members. This event was a massive success and brought together students for fun and connection.

In July, the State Officer team attended DECA Inc's Emerging Leader Summit in Tysons, Virginia, where they networked with leaders from across the country, sharpened their leadership skills, and bonded as a team.

As we look ahead, we can't wait to kick off the new school year and welcome back our members. We have an incredible year in store for Nevada DECA and are excited to bring new initiatives to life!



THE REFLECTOR

NEVADA FBLA CELEBRATES A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

by Anna Jung, Vice President of Media



Nevada FBLA concluded another successful year this spring at the 2026 State Business Leadership Conference (SBLC), where members from across the state came together to compete, develop their leadership skills, and celebrate their achievements. The conference also marked the election of the 2026–2027 Nevada FBLA State Officer Team, who will lead the organization throughout the upcoming school year.

The newly elected officers are:

- State President: Muhammad Qadri
- Executive Vice President: Anirudh Polagani
- Southern Region Vice President: Dhruvi Patel
- Northern Region Vice President: Claire Dillon
- Eastern Region Vice President: Melanie Beardall
- Vice President of Membership: Brooklyn Bolt
- Vice President of Programs: Erika Gutierrez
- Vice President of Media: Anna Jung

Following a successful SBLC, qualifying members traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to compete at the 2026 National Leadership Conference (NLC). Each year, more than 16,000 FBLA members from across the country gather at NLC to compete in national business events, attend leadership workshops, network with peers, and celebrate excellence in business education.

Nevada FBLA is proud to recognize the following national finalists:

- Insurance & Risk Management: 1st Place – Scout Leopard
- Introduction to Business Concepts: 1st Place – Ryan Robichaud
- Local Chapter Annual Business Report: 4th Place – Muhammad Qadri, Brooklyn Bolt, and Erika Gutierrez
- Business Law: 5th Place – Ian Chen
- Introduction to Business Communications: 7th Place – Rachel Yelowitz
- Impromptu Speaking: 7th Place – Ivan Romeo
- Data Analysis: 10th Place – Melissa Lai's and Valerie Wang
- Introduction to Social Media Strategies: 10th Place – Natalya Bravo and Keira O'Brien

These outstanding accomplishments reflect the dedication, hard work, and professionalism of Nevada FBLA members and advisors throughout the year. Their success on the national stage showcases the talent and commitment of students across Nevada.

As Nevada FBLA begins the new school year, the State Officer Team is preparing for a collaborative leadership retreat with Nevada DECA. During the retreat, officers will finalize their Program of Work initiatives while planning CTSO Launchpad content and leadership workshops for members across the state. Nevada FBLA looks forward to another year of empowering members through leadership, service, and career preparation while continuing to expand opportunities for students statewide.



2026 National Leadership Conference.



Annual Welcome Retreat.

THE REFLECTOR

CTE MISSION STATEMENT:

THE OFFICE OF CAREER
READINESS,
ADULT LEARNING, AND
EDUCATION
OPTIONS IS DEDICATED TO
DEVELOPING
INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS
TO ACQUIRE SKILLS FOR
PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT
AND LIFELONG LEARNING.

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Superintendent of Public
Instruction

Dr. Torrey Palmer
Deputy Superintendent of
Student Achievement

Heidi Haartz
Interim Deputy Superintendent
Student Investment Division

Christy McGill
Deputy Superintendent
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Upcoming Events in 2026

August 10-11

This is How We Do DECA
New Advisor Training
Virtual

September 19-22

HOSA Annual
Leadership Academy
Capital Hilton
Washington, DC

September 26-30

SkillsUSA Washington
Leadership Training
Institute (WLTi)
Crystal Gateway Marriott
Arlington, VA

September 28-
October 3

DECA School-Based
Enterprise Week
Nationwide

September 29

World Dairy Expo
FFA Events
Alliant Energy Center
Madison, WI

November 5-7

FBLA NFLC (National Fall
Leadership Conference)
Washington Hilton
Washington, DC

November 20-22

DECA Ultimate Power Trip
Kentucky International
Convention Center
Louisville, KY



The Nevada Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.