Heartland Students Place at Nationals

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Heartland Community College students Hetal Dhirawani, Kyra Ester, and Kristi Becker placed in their competitive events at the Future Business Leaders of America - Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL) National Leadership conference on June 24-27, 2015 in Chicago. More than 1,700 members attended and 45 State-Qualifiers from Illinois competed in events.

Hetal Dhirawani placed fourth in the nation in the Client Services competition. This competition required her to provide excellent customer service in a simulated situation to clients (judges). Hetal also qualified at the state level to compete in the national finals for Future Business Executive.

Kyra Ester presented the report she and Kristi Becker wrote on their chapter’s SuitUp! event in the Community Service Project competition and placed 9th in the nation. The SuitUp! project was a partnership with Heartland Community College PBL and the members of State Farm’s WNET (Women in Networking) organization, who donated professional business clothing for Heartland students to take, free of charge.

Heartland Community College’s PBL chapter invites local business leaders each month to talk to students about networking, interviewing skills, business success and failures, leadership skills, and goal setting. Students prepare for state and national competitions by completing work within their classes, attending meetings, and preparing outside the classroom.

Future Business Leaders of America – Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL) is the largest business career student organization in the world and is a nonprofit education association with four divisions, one each for middle school, high school, and college students, as well as a division for business people, FBLA-PBL alumni, educators, and parents who support the goals of the association. The mission of FBLA-PBL is to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs.

Local businesspeople who donated their time and expertise to the Heartland Community College chapter of PBL during the past year include: Mark DeKeersgieter, CIRBN; the late Andy Butler, Sprint; Joan Maney, 1st Farm Credit Services; Tim Rixstine, Molly Maids; David G. Lewis, Lewis Consulting Group; Elias Corpas, Country Financial; Erin Keefe & Jessica Shoddy; State Farm Women in Networking Organization.

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