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SUMMER 2023

Penn State York's Future Business Leaders of America Collegiate Celebrate Their Success at the National Conference in Atlanta



The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is the world's largest business career student organization. Its mission is to bring business and education together. The Penn State York FBLA Collegiate chapter, established in 2019, has in a short period of time created a track record of success with 70 state awards and 50 national awards.

Each year to compete at nationals, students must place first or second in a presentation event, or first through third in an exam at the state competition held in April. Our 2023 FBLA team qualified for nationals by earning 18 competition awards and the Gold Seal Chapter Award.

Fourteen students, accompanied by their faculty adviser, Megan Lorenz, attended this year's FBLA national conference in Atlanta, Georgia in June. They were able to take advantage of opportunities to network and receive feedback/critique from business professionals, attend workshops, learn innovative technology, interface with potential employers, and be judged by business and industry experts. They proudly came home with eighteen national awards including four firsts, a second, and thirteen awards fourth through tenth. In addition, they received the Most Outstanding Chapter Award.

Students who competed at the FBLA National Leadership Conference were Pradynesh Bhoir, Polina Bolotnikova, Ryan Dellinger, Omar Elhasany, Caitlan Hevener, Nakhaiya Jacobs, David Lin, Cole Lukenbaugh, Rebecca Mauck, Isaiah Morales, Nhi Nguyen, Neeraj Patil, Lawrence Williams, and James Ye.

Three of the first-time participants shared what excited them most about the experience:

Rebeca Mauck, a junior with a double major in business, with a marketing management option, and project and supply chain management, spoke about the excitement of hearing the names of everyone from York announced at least once. "It is extremely rewarding to know that we broke our chapter's record for winning awards and won half of the awards for the Pennsylvania FBLA chapter as a whole."

Polina Bolotnikova, a junior with a double major in business, with a marketing management option, and project and supply chain management, recalls rehearsing presentations all together at night before the preliminary round at nationals. "The thing I liked the most was the representation and unity of our chapter. By talking to many other chapters and their presidents, I realized how good our chapter was, like a family."

Omar Isaiah Morales, a sophomore majoring in finance, shared "I learned to be more comfortable with being uncomfortable. I did not want to participate in the competition at first, but thought about how it could help me learn and grow professionally, so I did. I don't regret saying yes to compete."

(continued on page 2)



FBLA Success (continued from page 1)

The students also spoke about how much they appreciated their adviser, Megan Lorenz, for her dedication, patience, and passion to provide them with what they needed to be successful. Morales shared, "We practiced, mocked, and were successful because we also have an adviser who wants the best for us and set time aside to ensure we were ready for the competition. Her passion for helping others grow and develop was evident throughout this experience."

Ryan Dellinger, a junior majoring in information technology with a business minor, and a returning participant to the competitions, shared his accolades for the group's adviser, who he says pushed the group to perfect and refine their presentations. He also calls her a fantastic role model as a leader, and notes that she represents what FBLA is all about.

Lorenz returns the compliment and speaks about how passionate the students are to learn and compete. "These students have to spend significant time outside the classroom performing hours of research, rehearsing their presentations, and preparing for exams. None of this work contributed to a grade in any course. They are motivated by their own desire for personal development, which is truly admirable and amazing."



Support Penn State York

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Collegiate Chapter

Purchase Penn State Berkey Creamery Ice Cream

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Orders Accepted: August 29 – September 29, 2023

Ice Cream Pick Up: November 12, Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Pick Up Location: WellSpan Park, 5 Brooks Robinson Way, York, PA 17401

FBLA Contact: Lawrence Williams, lzw5499@psu.edu, 301-741-0062

Gary and Holly Mikula Establish a New Endowed Scholarship at Penn State York



Gary Mikula graduated from Spring Grove High School, in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania, and attended Penn State York before finishing his degree at Penn State Harrisburg. He began his career in Harrisburg and acknowledges that his early employment, learning different aspects of the financial services industry from local banks, helped prepare him to reach his current level of success as president of Birch Hill Investment Advisors LLC in Boston, Massachusetts.

Mikula stayed in touch with the campus and continued to share his passion for finding ways to help students from the York region, who did not have the resources they needed to obtain a Penn State degree. Gary and Holly established the Mikula Family Scholarship that will provide assistance for students, with financial need, to pursue their academic careers at Penn State York, now and in the future.

Gary shared: "The high quality of a Penn State education is recognized from coast to coast. As a young student, I felt fortunate to have local access to such an education. Holly and I are happy to help York County students attain their goals and dreams right here at Penn State York."

Charlie Keller-Golden, the first recipient of the scholarship, shared some thoughts about the award's impact: "I am truly honored and humbled to be the recipient of this scholarship. The financial assistance that you have provided me will allow me to focus on my studies and pursue my passions without the added stress of worrying about how to pay for my education. I promise to make the most of this opportunity and to work hard to achieve my goals. Thank you again for your belief in me and for helping me to make my dreams a reality."

Alternative Spring Break (ASB) Students Have a Different Island Experience

Spring break is normally thought of as a time when college students head to a beach or island for fun and relaxation. Eighteen Penn State York students, accompanied by Nathalie Cabrera, an admissions counselor at Penn State York and Nikki Rosario-Flores, the global engagement coordinator at Penn State York, travelled to Puerto Rico for a different experience – working on disaster relief projects and immersing themselves in the island's culture. Cabrera, who attended a disaster relief trip to Puerto Rico as a student at Penn State York in 2020, was excited to take on a leadership role.

"Attending the alternative spring break trip was one of the best experiences in my life and to be working at Penn State York now and be able to continue to give back is important to me," Cabrera said. "I would never have imagined going back as a leader. I am glad I have been able to offer the student perspective at all our planning meetings and am looking forward to experiencing it all over again through a different lens."

The community service projects varied from day-to-day, including working on homes impacted by recent hurricanes, providing environmental restoration and trail maintenance at El Yunque National Forest, and working with the local Boys and Girls Clubs to assist youth with homework and practicing their English. The York group also collaborated on a community center project with students from Penn State Altoona and Penn State Scranton.



[Click for More Photos](#)

“Our trip to Puerto Rico was one of the best experiences I have had at Penn State York and allowed me the opportunity to grow and make new friends. Every member of our team worked hard and gave one hundred percent, which helped us serve the community in which we stayed and showed our Penn State spirit. I learned that I was able to do more than I thought possible and saw that mentality in everyone on the trip. The way we were able to see the progress we made on the trails we worked on in the rainforest and all the painting we did gave me a sense of accomplishment. The work we did was hard but at the end of the day seeing how much the community members appreciated what we did gave me a sense of pride and gratitude for all we have and all we were able to accomplish.”

~ Abigail Snyder, senior Psychology Major

“The ASB trip to Puerto Rico was one of the most fun and rewarding opportunities I’ve seen at Penn State. Before and after pictures show the difference we made cleaning buildings, painting community centers, and restoring forest trails. We worked hard and met great people from both Penn State and Puerto Rico. I still think about and miss this trip!”

~ Joseph Wolf, junior Energy Engineering Major

Penn State York Women's Philanthropic Network (WPN) Fully Funds the 2022-23 Grants

The WPN surpassed its 2023 goal of \$39,000 and has fully funded all six grants presented by the campus community. We will once again support our annual projects: leadership scholarships for student leaders on campus and sponsorships for students to attend the Pennsylvania Women's Conference in Philadelphia this fall. Other grants included national competition funding for the Future Business Leaders of America students to compete in Orlando, Florida next summer, Harrisburg Area Community College articulation scholarships, biology research support for students to have an in-field experience in California, and funding to make the Dress for Success initiative available **for all students** who need to be fitted for attire for new jobs and internships.

Our members stepped up this year on multiple fronts:

- Our first networking event in the academic year took place at the new South County Brewery location. The evening included a presentation, by co-owner Kellee Terroso, about opening a brewery in the middle of a pandemic. Our group went on a guided tour and of course there was some product tasting during our visit. Members received their WPN fleece vests and made gift card donations to support our Dress-for Success initiative.
- Our Giving Tuesday campaign, in November 2022, was recognized for being the most successful campus campaign based on dollars raised.
- Our fall clothing drive collected men's and women's items for the Dress for Success organization associated with the Harrisburg YWCA. Members brought clothing donations to our Motown Networking event, and we re-filled the YWCA's truck when it was emptied during their spring visit to provide fittings for students in need of professional clothing for internships, interviews, and new jobs.
- The Conference Selection Committee met to review essay requests and award conference registrations for the fall event in Philadelphia and was thrilled with the messages each student presented in their application to attend. We sponsored five amazing students this year!

In each grant cycle, our applicants create a two-minute video as part of the application process, and this year our FBLA students surprised us with a [short follow up video](#) that they created during their competition in Atlanta.

Penn State York
WOMEN'S
Philanthropic Network



If you want to become a member of the WPN you can do so by making an annual membership gift.

Check out our [website](#) for more details.

Please contact
Di Hershey at
dkh13@psu.edu
or 717-771-4127
with questions.



Athletic Firsts Celebrated at Penn State York



Penn State York Baseball Team Makes History

Congratulations to the Penn State York Baseball Team on making history and becoming our first campus baseball team to compete in the Penn State University Athletic Association (PSUAC) Championship. York finished second losing to Penn State DuBois, 6-1, in the championship game at Medlar Field at Lubrano Park on the University Park campus. The team began the season with spring training in Florida, brought what they learned from that spring break experience back to York, and was recognized throughout the season by their competitors for being a force to be reckoned with in the conference. They finished 19-13 overall and 11-5 in the PSUAC. As a relatively young team, with only three seniors graduating, they have built a strong bench for the future. WE ARE looking forward to more excitement and celebrations in 2024!

Logan Snyder earns gold medal from the U.S. Collegiate Athletic Association

This past October, Logan Snyder became the first men's winner of the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) Golf Championship in the history of the Penn State University Athletic Conference (PSUAC). "Getting that gold medal was the greatest feeling I've had on a golf course," said Snyder. He began golfing when he was just seven years old and his dad took him to the golf course, and he hasn't stopped since.

Snyder graduated in May with a bachelor of science degree in business, with an accounting option. He said he chose Penn State York because his goal was to graduate college with no debt, and Penn State York offered that opportunity along with a "world-class Penn State education." He anticipates creating a career path in accounting at a large company doing financial analysis and moving into a controller or CFO role. He plans to earn his certified public accountant (CPA) license. Golf will continue to be a big part of his life as he looks to compete for state and local amateur titles. In the coming years, he would also like to start his work toward becoming a certified PGA teaching pro.

Snyder was spotlighted in a Question-and-Answer article in the University's July/August 2023 news magazine, The PennStater. [Read more about Snyder.](#)



Penn State York Women's Volleyball Team Competes in Two Conference Championships

The Penn State York women's volleyball team claimed a second-place win in the Penn State University Athletic Conference (PSUAC) Championship on November 1, 2022, at Rec Hall at the University Park campus. This is the first time a women's volleyball team from York played in the championship game.

The Penn State York Women's Volleyball Team again made history in Penn State York Athletics with earning the runner-up slot in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) National Championship in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on November 12.

A Message from the Chancellor

August 2023



When students graduate from high school and select a college, they often focus on the academic programs they complete in preparation for a professional career. Of equal importance are the resources and programs that a college offers to assist students in achieving their academic goals. I am excited about the recent steps that we have taken to create an integrated first-year experience that will help students with their transition from high school to college.

This transition starts when students attend the New Student Orientation over the summer and meet with advisers to establish their academic goals and select classes for the fall semester. In the week before classes begin, they attend the New Student Welcome where they meet one another, as well as peer mentors, faculty members, and staff members. Our goal for these events is to provide students with the essentials that they need to get off to a quick start once classes begin in August.

New to our campus this fall is a required First-Year Seminar to help students adjust to the increased classroom expectations, demanding workload, and new liberties that come with college. Over the course of the seminar, students will learn how college is different from their experiences in high school, and they will be introduced to the many academic support offices on campus to help them be successful. These services include individual consultations in the Advising and Career Development office, tutoring assistance in the Nittany Support Center, leadership opportunities in the Graham Center for Innovation and Collaboration, and so much more! Along the way, the Penn State York Student Affairs will provide activities and experiences as a much-needed balance to the academic expectations in the classroom.

When a student enrolls at Penn State York, we also provide opportunities for their families to become part of their support network. We encourage you to learn about the online Parents and Family Experience that identifies the resources and support mechanisms Penn State provides to assist our students. Please visit our [Penn State York Parents and Families page](#).

David Christiansen, Chancellor
Penn State York
The Pennsylvania State University

Megan Lorenz Receives 2023 George W. Atherton Award for Excellence in Teaching



The George W. Atherton Award, honoring excellence in teaching at the undergraduate level, is named after Penn State's seventh president. Megan Lorenz, assistant teaching professor in business administration at Penn State York, was one of six faculty members, from across the University's entire footprint, to receive the award.

Lorenz believes the most valuable skill anyone can possess is the ability to be a leader, and that's a goal she strives to teach her students. "I don't believe leaders are born; they are made," Lorenz said. "For students to learn how to be great leaders through an academic experience they must be engaged to learn, work on diverse teams, and develop confidence in their abilities by applying their learning."

Lorenz looks for ways to engage with her students in and out of the classroom. Her interactions focus on education but also earning their trust and respect. When she arrived at Penn State York, she formed the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter and with her mentorship and coaching the students have excelled in competition and brought home national awards each year since the chapter was established. Lorenz's students tell us why she deserves this award: "She's an incredible mentor, teacher and, above all else, role model. To summarize, she is the blueprint, and I would not be who I am, or where I am, without her."

[Read more about Lorenz.](#)



Welcome to our 2023-24 season! This is now my sixteenth season with the Pullo Family Performing Arts Center (The Pullo Center) and each year, I look forward to introducing the fantastic line-up coming to our theater.

Allow me to take you behind the scenes. The search for our shows begins each December with talks with various promoters, video clips of potential shows, team discussions, and in January an annual booking conference. Our goal is to schedule something for everyone and this year, I believe we achieved just that!

We packed in several kid friendly shows such as American Girl Live, Mini Pop Kids Live as well as family friendly shows, classics, and fun tribute bands. If you are a fan of Broadway, you may recognize The Four Phantoms and Spamilton: An American Parody.

We have several fan favorites returning this year such as A Motown Christmas and the PA Ballet Academy presenting Nutcracker Sweets!

Along with our talented staff, these shows wouldn't be possible without our sponsors – we'd like to thank Murphy & Dittenhafer Architects, Bailey's Family of Companies, Johnson Controls, Victor's Italian Restaurant, Collens-Wagner Insurance, UPMC, Traditions Bank. and the Penn State York Women's Philanthropic Network.

Now, "Get the Led Out" and check out everything that awaits you at The Pullo Center!

Thank you for your patronage and we look forward to seeing you at the shows!

Tina M. Rohrbach
Director, The Pullo Center



ThePulloCenter.com | 717-505-8900

Penn State York Student Entrepreneur Creates All-Inclusive Dating App



Mary Richardson did not plan on creating a dating app. She was determined to create something that would be “label-free” and provide a service to all audiences — and especially to those who might not feel welcome or represented on other dating apps. Richardson and business partner Brandon Teller, who runs a software company in York, created Bindr, a dating app designed for everyone but with a focus on the LGBTQIA+ community.

Richardson thanks faculty and staff at Penn State York for guiding her and Teller on their journey and connecting them with the York Launchbox powered by Penn State. “My business professor, Dr. Ali Kara, suggested I contact Allan Lehman, the director of the York LaunchBox, to find out about the free services Penn State has to offer to entrepreneurs,” Richardson said. “I met with Allan, and he shared the variety of resources available through the LaunchBox. He was my go-to guy and the first person to say we really had something in Bindr.”

Richardson and Teller have competed in and won numerous pitch and accelerator competitions sponsored by the University and other entities. Their first big win was at the Inc. U Competition at University Park, back in March, where they took first place and won \$15,000. In April, Richardson attended the Penn State York Advisory Board meeting and shared her Inc. U Competition success story. During the Q&A that followed her presentation, board members were very interested in learning more about the startup challenges she overcame and the business plan she has created to continue to grow her membership. To date, Richardson has received a total of \$33,750 from competitions to use for funding the app development, and going to Pride events to get word out about the app.

Richardson's success in competitions earned her a spot in the Summer Founders Program, hosted by Happy Valley LaunchBox in State College. This experience is a thirteen-week boot-camp-style program where students develop their companies. “The connections we have made in the program have been great,” she said. “The co-working space is amazing and the way we and the other students have really come together to help with each other's companies really shows the value of the program.”

In September, Richardson will find out if she is a winner of one of the 2023 Women in Technology Awards presented by the Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania. She was nominated for the Diversity/Inclusion Award by advisers, community members, and people with whom she has worked. The award recognizes a woman's active commitment to inclusion and diversity in technology. Richardson said. “As a queer woman in technology, an award for diversity and inclusion would mean the world to me and show that my work is being recognized for the LGBTQIA+ community.”

Richardson and Teller said they hope Bindr will become a major competitor in the online dating game world. Bindr has already hit the top ten spots for online search terms, including the number one spot for “lesbian dating,” and continues to rank highly for “LGBT dating” and similar search terms. The app now boasts more than 30,000 users. Richardson said. “Things are moving quickly, and we are so excited for what the future holds for Bindr. Without the resources provided to us by Penn State York and Penn State, Bindr would not be where it is today.”



Brandon Teller, Mary Richardson, and Allan Lehman, left to right.

More Photos from Alternative Spring Break



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