



Christopher Brockhoff National President

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.” President Obama used these words to describe the initiative that we *all* must take. Christopher Brockhoff, a senior at Winner High School, did just this when he accepted the challenge to develop his leadership skills. Christopher didn’t *wait* for the opportunity to be a leader; he set his leadership potential in motion by joining FCCLA as a seventh grader.

For six years, Christopher has immersed himself in the organization at all levels, slowly working his way into ultimate leadership on the National Executive Council as President of the organization. After being elected the District VI Junior High Representative in South Dakota, Christopher knew he could handle more responsibility and ran for a state officer position. In the months leading up to April of 2005, this young man practiced until he knew the organization better than he ever had, developed interviewing skills unparalleled by his peers, and perfected his public speaking to the best of his seventh-grade ability. When the South Dakota State Leadership Meeting rolled around on that aforementioned April, Christopher ran and was elected the youngest Junior High Representative in the state association’s history.

In his year as a state officer, Christopher had the opportunity to inspire many individuals, and he knew he had a passion to help others by serving. Since this initial leadership role, Christopher has also held positions on the Family State Peer Education and Career State Peer Education teams in South Dakota. Additionally, Christopher took advantage of FCCLA’s ability to provide youth with tools for career success when he excelled in the organization’s competitive STAR Events such as Career Investigation and Job Interview. These STAR Events allowed Christopher to gain planning proficiency skills while developing a layout for his future.

As a result of hard work and determination, Christopher was elected the South Dakota FCCLA State President in 2008 and had the opportunity to network with more individuals than ever before. This office was ultimately the thing that led him to run for a national officer position. Furthermore, this young man is influencing members of his school, community, and state in significant ways even outside of FCCLA. Christopher was voted the M.V.P. and Most Inspirational Athlete by his team mates on the WHS Varsity Cross Country team and continues to excel in all areas of athletics and academia. Along with his extra-curricular activities, Christopher has been an on-air radio personality at KWYR AM & FM Radio since the summer of 2005.

In conclusion, Christopher is thankful for all that he has, but he didn’t simply *wait* for it to happen. Leaders create their own success. “A ship in a harbor is safe, but that is not what ships were built for.” We all must risk leaving our comfort zones and exploring the unknown. Only then can we grow, and only then can members of the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America benefit the greatest from the most dynamic student-led organization in the country!