

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Chase County Schools junior Calen Griffin was voted vice president of the Nebraska State Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) at the state convention this past weekend.

The 16-year old was installed during a ceremony Saturday at the Ramada Inn in Omaha.

Griffin was elected by his peers. Sponsor Sandy O'Neil explained that he and his classmates campaigned for him, handing out brochures, stickers and "freebies," as well as maintaining a campaign booth.

Griffin then gave a speech before 2,300 students on Thursday, followed by a formal caucus that evening.

A delegate assembly on Friday gave chapters the opportunity to vote. Griffin had one opponent.

The son of Marsie Vetter of Imperial and Eddie Griffin of Omaha will waste no time getting to know his position. He will attend a leadership training program in Lincoln soon, followed by workshops and meetings with chapters in the state.

As vice president, it is his goal to provide information concerning FBLA via social media such as Twitter and Facebook.

Griffin joined FBLA during his eighth grade year. As a sophomore he ran unsuccessfully for state treasurer, but said he gained experience concerning making speeches.

His memorized speech this past weekend concerned CASH, or Chartering a chapter, Awareness, Social media and Help for local vice presidents.

Sponsor O'Neil said "He did a very good job. He did so well on his speech."

Results of the state FBLA contest will be printed next week, as some state qualifiers haven't yet been determined.