



By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Chase County Schools' chapter of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) racked up the awards at the 2013 state conference April 7-9 in Lincoln.

Two FCCLA members took the top gold and the second gold in separate competitive event entries. Advisor Cathy Hanna was the recipient of two awards, as well.

In addition, the CCS chapter as a whole earned recognition in four areas.

Hayley Vitosh, a CCS seventh grader, came home with the top gold for her health and wellness speech, "Jump Start to a Healthier You."

She was this area's district winner and advanced to state to present her speech along with 11 other district champions in grades 7-9, and won the top gold overall.

CCS senior Abby Polly, another district champion, took the second gold in the state's high school interior design competition in Lincoln, finishing in the runner-up spot from a field of eight.

Polly's project titled, "Reclaiming a Historic Downtown," redesigned the second floor of a historic building, converting into residential living space. Her project encompassed a new floor plan, furniture and all of the decorating, all of which she presented in front of the judges.

FCCLA Advisor Hanna earned the Master Advisor Award at the conference, the only one selected in the state.

From an application, she was judged on how her chapter's projects are planned, how she introduces FCCLA to students, how she works interest in FCCLA into the classroom, publicity of their projects and her other leadership roles in FCCLA.

Hanna also met the criteria for the ACE (Advisor Committed to Excellence) Award. It is given to FCCLA advisors who received 100 points in a combination of chapter activities carried out the previous year. She was one of 20 ACE award winners this year.

The CCS junior high team of Jasmine Dannar, Tagan Mays and Caitlyn Murillo, all eighth graders, earned a bronze for their group speech in the "Family Challenges and Issues" division.

The trio spoke on child abuse.

The Chase County chapter earned four awards:

Gold Chapter—To earn this designation, a chapter must meet all 15 activities on a chart, including such things as membership drive, volunteering, FCCLA Week activities and cooperative projects with another organization.

Score a Perfect 10—Chase County was one of two chapters in the state to meet the organization's membership challenge.

FACTS (Families Acting for Community Traffic Safety)—The CCS chapter placed third in the state for its efforts to place signs in the student parking lot at school reminding students to buckle their seat belts.

Feed Nebraska—CCS chapter was awarded for its cooperative pantry food drive with the school's FBLA chapter before Christmas.

Eighteen FCCLA members from CCS, Advisor Hanna and two adult sponsors attended the

state conference.

The local FCCLA chapter has 27 high school members and 25 in junior high.