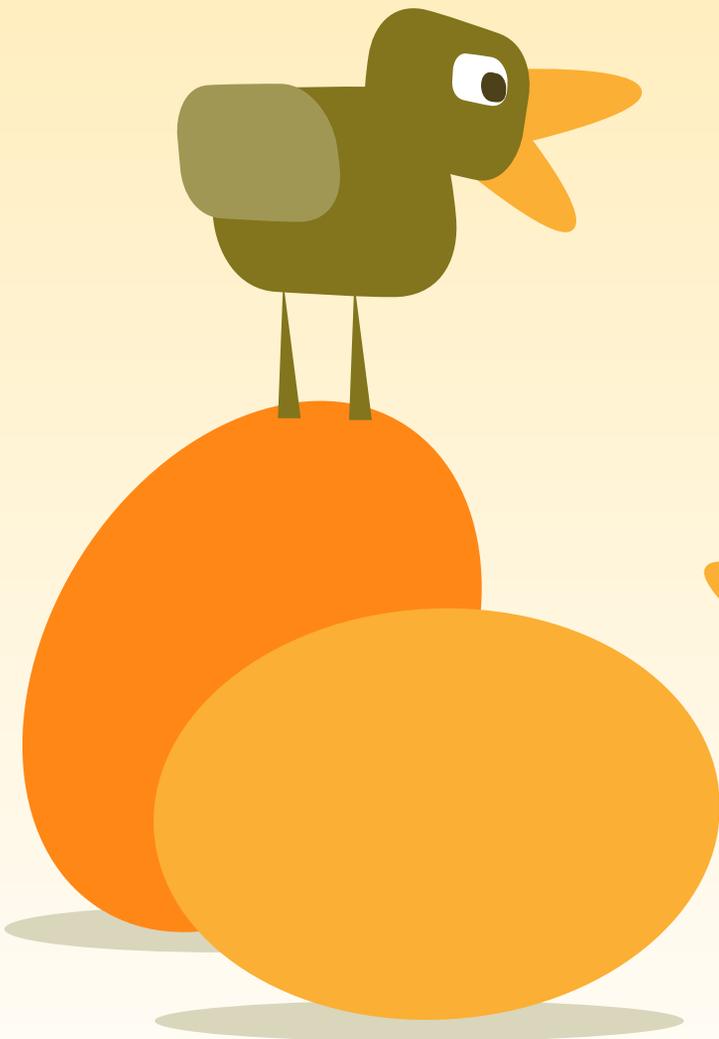


# Creating the Leaders OF TOMORROW Today



## BY SUSAN REESE

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.” Those words from one of our founding fathers, John Quincy Adams, could perfectly describe the advisers and students of our Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs). Students who participated in CTSOs have gone on to become leaders in business, education and public service in our nation. Among former CTSO members are university presidents, governors, U.S. Congressmen and Senators, and a former President of the United States, FFA member Jimmy Carter. Who are the students of today’s CTSOs, and what great destinies are in store for them? Just learning a little about the national officers of our CTSOs brings hope for the future of our nation.

### Business Professionals of America

Business Professionals of America (BPA) National Secondary President Brian Kelleher is a freshman at the University of Delaware, where he is studying political science and economics with a minor in legal studies. He previously served as the national treasurer of the Secondary Division. For the past six years, he has been an active member of BPA from the middle level all the way to postsecondary. He has served as an officer on the local and state levels as well. He is a three-time Ambassador Torch Award Recipient, two-time Member Recruiter of the Year, a BPA Merit Scholar, and a WeSeed Social Circle Challenge winner.

In high school, Kelleher served as class president and president of Students Against Destructive Decisions. He was also involved in the National Honor Society, Math League, and Mock Trial. Kelleher is majoring in political science in hopes of attaining a joint MBA/JD, and one day becoming a successful corporate lawyer. Kelleher says, “Through BPA I have gained the ability, knowledge and know-how to appropriately conduct myself

in a professional setting while exceeding the expectations of those I am serving.”

BPA College/Postsecondary President Micah Hopper joined BPA in 2008 and has been active in leadership ever since. He has served as local chapter president, state president and now the national president. He has received the Ambassador Award and has placed in the top 10 each year at Nationals in his competitive events. He has been active in his community as an assistant speech coach, volunteer assistant football coach, youth group leader, advisory member of the Economic Development Authority and through Big Buddies.

In addition to being a father of three small children as well as a foster daughter, Hopper is a business owner and attends Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Jackson as a full-time student. He will have numerous computer degrees after graduating, as well as a business degree, all of which will help him in his computer consulting business. “BPA has given me the opportunity to make a difference in people’s lives by helping them grow as leaders,” Hopper says. “It has also given me the leadership experience that I was looking for to be a successful business owner.”

### DECA

DECA High School Division President Kurtis Conkel, a graduate of Lincoln East High School, in Lincoln, Nebraska, began his DECA involvement during his freshman year. He was the vice president of public relations for East DECA and won the state conference in restaurant and food service management (RFSM) during his junior year. He served as the vice president of alumni collegiate DECA services for Nebraska DECA, also winning at the state conference in RFSM at the beginning of his senior year. At Lincoln East High School and in the community of Lincoln, Conkel has been involved in the Lincoln East Student Council, the

Kelleher says, “Through BPA I have gained the ability, knowledge and know-how to appropriately conduct myself in a professional setting while exceeding the expectations of those I am serving.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF BPA

▲ Brian Kelleher, Business Professionals of America, National Secondary President

“BPA has given me the opportunity to make a difference in people’s lives by helping them grow as leaders,” Hopper says. “It has also given me the leadership experience that I was looking for to be a successful business owner.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF BPA

▲ Micah Hopper, Business Professionals of America, National College/Postsecondary President

PHOTO COURTESY OF DECA



▲ DECA High School Division President Kurtis Conkel makes a presentation at the Muscular Dystrophy Telethon.

National Honor Society, Youth Leadership Lincoln, Varsity Track and Field, Varsity Swimming and was an East Ambassador. He is an intern for *Strictly Business Magazine*.

Collegiate DECA President Josh Shankle is a student at Northwood University in Cedar Hill, Texas. After taking a year off to serve the members of Collegiate DECA, Shankle will continue pursuing his bachelor's degree as a marketing major with a minor in finance. He began his DECA career in 2004 at Haltom High School in Haltom City, Texas, where he served as chapter president and won competitions at the state level in five different events. He highlighted his high school DECA experience by serving as the state vice president for Texas DECA. As a student at Northwood University, in addition to his DECA activities, Shankle has served in the Student Government Association and was selected to serve as a Royal Ambassador for the university. He plans to graduate in 2012 and continue to pursue his passion for DECA as a high school marketing teacher and DECA adviser.

"Collegiate DECA has offered me countless leadership opportunities," says Shankle. "Whether working with my chapter, state officer teams, a partner in competition or now the national of-

"Collegiate DECA has offered me countless leadership opportunities," says Shankle. "Whether working with my chapter, state officer teams, a partner in competition or now the national officer team, I have grown as a leader in numerous ways."

PHOTO COURTESY OF DECA



▲ DECA Collegiate President Josh Shankle (center) stands with his team.

ficer team, I have grown as a leader in numerous ways. I've learned the values of cooperation and delegation, initiative and decisiveness, and communication and understanding. As a leader in Collegiate DECA, I'm constantly asked to tackle tasks that may not be familiar to me, but if I've learned one thing in this organization, I've learned that it never hurts to ask for help."

### Family, Career and Community Leaders of America

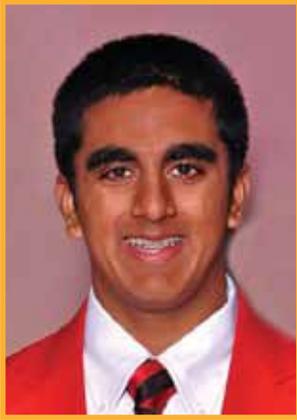
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National President Ravi Karia joined FCCLA because after watching his sister serve as the Texas state president, he wanted to know what "The Ultimate Leadership Experience" felt like. "FCCLA has helped develop my leadership skills by improving my communication skills with my peers, adults and my family members," says Karia. "FCCLA has also helped develop my leadership skills by giving me the opportunity to connect and learn from other leaders from across the United States." He will use those skills in achieving his three very impressive life goals: to attend a prestigious college and medical school, to become a cardiologist and to start his own chain of hospitals that specializes in cardiology.

### The National FFA Organization

National FFA President Riley Pagett attends Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, where he majors in agricultural communications and religious studies. While in high school, Pagett was a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish National Honor Society and he served as class president. In 2008, Pagett was elected the Oklahoma FFA Association's state vice president. He has also been involved actively in his college through the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, the Oklahoma State President's Leadership Council, and Collegiate FFA.

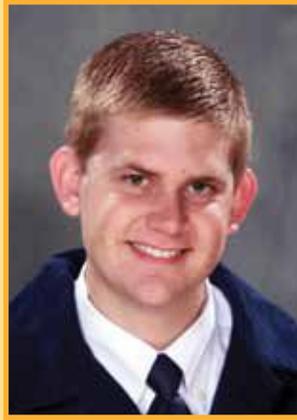
As an FFA member, Pagett participated in the Public Speaking Career Development Event, attended the Washington Leadership Conference and had a diversified livestock operation, which included swine, beef and goats. Pagett says, "My membership in FFA has allowed me to experience real, tangible leadership—looking others in the eye when spoken to, shaking hands firmly, holding the door open and practicing manners, recognizing the potential of others and drawing on that potential, delegating work, using time efficiently, allowing others to occasionally take the lead, speaking confidently, remaining flexible, respecting others, remembering the past, making wise decisions, overcoming obstacles, and

PHOTO COURTESY OF FCCLA



▲ Ravi Karia, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, National President

PHOTO COURTESY OF FFA



▲ Riley Pagett, National FFA, President

PHOTO COURTESY OF FBLA-PBL



▲ Trever Eymard, Future Business Leaders of America, National President

PHOTO COURTESY OF FBLA-PBL



▲ Spencer Behrend, Phi Beta Lambda, National President

rising to the call of action when others need you to really serve them.”

### Postsecondary Agriculture Association

Postsecondary Agriculture Association (PAS) National President Courtney Peterson attends South Dakota State University (SDSU) in Brookings, South Dakota. She will graduate this month with bachelor of science degrees in agricultural business and agriculture and resource economics. Through her enrollment in the accelerated master’s program at SDSU, she was able to get a head start on her master’s of science in agricultural economics, and upon graduation will have 12 credits completed for her master’s, in addition to her undergraduate courses.

“The agricultural industry is full of outstanding individuals with incredible stories,” says Peterson. “I plan to continue making sure that those stories get heard. Assisting others to reach their full potential is a powerful thing, and the opportunities to do just that are abundant in agriculture.”

Serving as a national officer for PAS for two years taught her more than just the mechanics of becoming a great leader. As Peterson explains, “The day I realized the difference between perfection and excellence is the same day I realized the

impact that our stories can have on others. Perfection is practiced and rehearsed, but excellence comes from being authentic, knowing who you are and why you do what you do. That lesson is much more important than anything I’ve learned up until that point, and I have PAS to thank for it.”

### Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National President Trever Eymard, a senior at South Lafourche High School in Cut Off, Louisiana, has served as his high school’s FBLA chapter president and as Louisiana FBLA state president. In March of 2010, Eymard made history as the first LAFBLA state president to be re-elected to a second term in office. He currently retains that office, in addition to being senior editor of his school paper, executive adviser of the Math and Science Club, and vice president of the National Honor Society. He is also a Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY) alumnus and serves Louisiana Boys State as their 2010-2011 governor.

Eymard says, “FBLA has given me the tools to develop my sense of professionalism and active leadership; and by way of this incredible experience, I’ve learned to live a more passionate and successful life.”

---

**“The agricultural industry is full of outstanding individuals with incredible stories,” says Peterson. “I plan to continue making sure that those stories get heard. Assisting others to reach their full potential is a powerful thing, and the opportunities to do just that are abundant in agriculture.”**

---

Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) National President Spencer Behrend currently attends Brigham Young University in Utah. During the two years that he has been a PBL member, he has received seven first place awards and one second place award on the state level of competition. He was on the dean’s list for four consecutive semesters at Utah Valley University and was last year’s Utah representative for Who’s Who in PBL. He also served as Utah’s PBL state president during the 2009-2010 membership year. While serving in this capacity, he created new programs that helped the members of Utah PBL experi-

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOSA



▲ Claire Lucas, Health Occupations Students of America, National President

PHOTO COURTESY OF SKILLSUSA



▲ Katie Grimnes, SkillsUSA, High School National President

PHOTO COURTESY OF SKILLSUSA



▲ Sam Soto, SkillsUSA, College Postsecondary National President

PHOTO COURTESY OF TSA



▲ National Technology Student Association President Zachary Barnes (third from left) with his fellow national officers.

ence more success in the organization.

“My leadership role within FBLA-PBL has granted me countless professional learning opportunities,” Behrend says. “I have developed the abilities to build, lead and work with teams of people from diverse backgrounds. I have also strengthened my networking and communication skills while connecting with members from all over the country. These qualities will benefit me throughout my career—employers have already taken notice and consistently express how much they value my teamwork and leadership experience.”

## Health Occupations Students of America

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) National President Claire Lucas joined HOSA as a freshman at Mooresville High School, North Carolina. She competed in the Creative Problem Solving and Career Health Display; Lucas is also a National Recognition Service Project recipient for her contribution to her chapter for establishing an annual event to raise funds and awareness for those living with cystic fibrosis. Other experiences include The HOSA Internship in the Office of the Surgeon General and The HOSA Washington Leadership Academy.

Now a college sophomore, she attends North Carolina State University on the

Park Scholarship and as a University Scholar. Lucas is an industrial engineer concentrating in health systems engineering and biomechanics. She wants to enhance the efficiency of healthcare processes such as operating room scheduling or the fitting of prosthetic limbs. She also engages in service-learning as the associate director for Triangle Youth Leadership Services, an organization that encourages and prepares students to become leaders and effectuate positive change in the community through conferences run by students for students. She is also a member of the ShoeManity Team, a project dedicated to providing shoes to children in the Dominican Republic and Haiti so they can attend school.

Lucas says that throughout her journey, she discovered HOSA members share one thing in common—the desire to better the world at whatever cost. She sees these individuals as exemplifying John Maxwell’s words, “A great leader’s courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position.”

## SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA High School President Katie Grimnes is an industrial engineering student attending Weatherwax High School in Aberdeen, Washington. After

completing her studies, she plans to work as an electrician and eventually open her own business.

SkillsUSA College/Postsecondary President Sam Soto is a computer technology student attending Tennessee Technology Center at Knoxville. He hopes to work as an IT support technician after graduation, but eventually plans to become an educator. “Being a member of SkillsUSA has taught me that I do not have to have a position to be a leader,” says Soto. “I view leadership as helping people and building each other up. When we build up others, we build a better world.”

## Technology Student Association

National Technology Student Association (TSA) President Zachary Barnes is from Laurel Hill, North Carolina, and attends Scotland High School where he is a senior. After high school he plans to double major in religion and political science. He is involved in many activities and is a great representative of the ways in which TSA fosters personal growth, leadership, and opportunities in technology, innovation, design and engineering.

## The Role of Advisers

Behind every great student leader is a great adviser, and CTSO advisers are of-

ten unsung heroes who devote their time, energy, knowledge and skills to their students. They instill in these young people the confidence to take on leadership roles in their chapters and in their national organizations. This confidence, along with the academic knowledge and the technical and life skills that are taught in career and technical education classrooms, will help create the leaders of tomorrow. **T**

## Explore More

For more information about CTSOs and how they foster leadership skills in career and technical education students, please visit these Web sites.

Business Professionals of America  
[www.bpa.org](http://www.bpa.org)

DECA/Delta Epsilon Chi  
[www.deca.org](http://www.deca.org)

Family, Career and Community  
 Leaders of America  
[www.fcclainc.org](http://www.fcclainc.org)

The National FFA Organization  
[www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org)

National Postsecondary Agricultural  
 Student Organization  
[www.nationalpas.org](http://www.nationalpas.org)

Future Business Leaders of  
 America-Phi Beta Lambda  
[www.fbta-pbl.org](http://www.fbta-pbl.org)

Health Occupations Students of America  
[www.hosa.org](http://www.hosa.org)

SkillsUSA  
[www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org)

Technology Student Association  
[www.tsaweb.org](http://www.tsaweb.org)

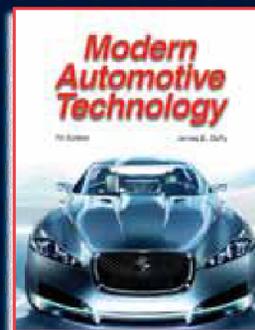
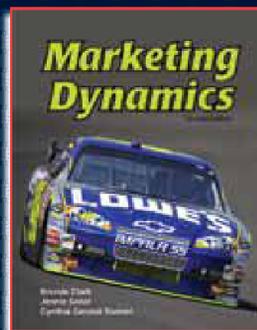
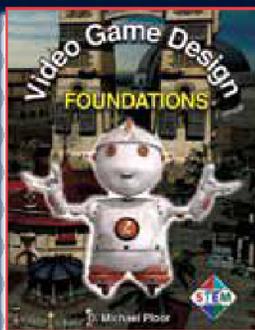
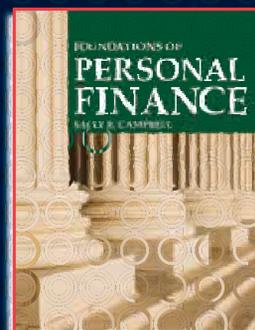
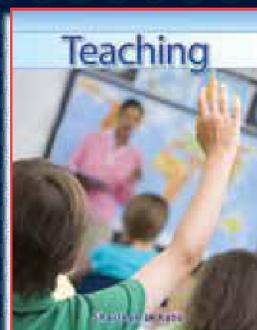
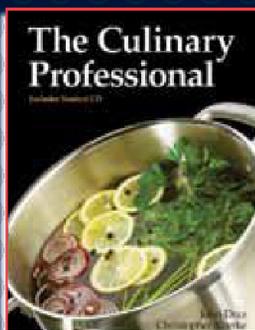
Susan Reese

is a *Techniques* contributing writer. She can be contacted at  
[susan@printmanagementinc.com](mailto:susan@printmanagementinc.com).

**ACTE** Interested in exploring this topic further? Discuss it with your colleagues on the ACTE forums at [www.acteonline.org/forum.aspx](http://www.acteonline.org/forum.aspx).

# Content for **SUCCESS**

Accurate | Authoritative | Dynamic



Choose **G-W**, the best products  
for Career and Technical Education



Goodheart-Willcox Publisher  
[www.g-w.com](http://www.g-w.com) • 800.323.0440