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Spanish/Business 38



Breaking Away From the Struggle of Starting a Business



Business Students Today, **Business Leaders Tomorrow** by Jayme Bigger

Students gathered with the ambassadors of Fort Madison to celebrate their participation in the Entrepreneurship Challenge sponsored by Fort Madison's downtown business partners. Students were given the opportunity to start their own business and operate it for six weeks,

while competing against other groups in the high school who were running their own businesses.

"I ran the business of QuinBrehnJarvis. We made paracord bracelets. We advertised by putting flyers up around town and put an ad in the daily announcements. It was difficult because we did not have time to get together all the time and we did not keep good records, but running the business has taught

Front Row (from left to right): Shayla Loffler, Jayme Bigger **Second Row:** Allison Bailey, Rebecca Wolfe, Alyssa Martinez, Quinten Whitlock, Jacob Jarvis Not Pictured: Lauren Leibrecht, Brehn Brown

> me that not everything is as easy as it seems and you have to go with the flow. It was a fun learning experience and now I know I have the knowledge to operate a business in the future. My advice to other students who want to run their own business would be to do a lot of research before starting it and figure a way to keep good business records," said Whitlock.



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Taking DECA to the Next Level

Fort Madison High School DECA has always been one of the smallest chapters in the state, but that hasn't stopped them from making FMHS stand out from the other schools.

"Coming from a small school in a town no one has ever heard of has its disadvantages. We definitely put a lot of time and effort into the things we do in DECA so that our chapter isn't overlooked. We may be small, but we have just as much skill and knowledge as the bigger schools," said Jayme Bigger.

The 2013-2014 has been a big year for FMHS DECA. Due to their creation of a promotional video and their participation in community service, Fort Madison made a name for themselves.

"Our chapter's promotional video sparked a statewide competition. We also decided that we wanted to make an impact on the Ronald McDonald House pop tab donations. We collected a foot locker full of tabs. We had the most pop tabs of all the chapters in Iowa," said Bigger.

FMHS DECA worked hard for their competitions, building their reputation. At districts, Fort Madison brought home one fifth place and three honorable mentions. At state they brought home one honorable mention, one second place, and one first place.

"It may not seem like much to some people, but our DECA chapter has improved in so many ways since my freshman year. I'm so incredibly proud of every single person involved in the Fort Madison DECA chapter, how far we've come and how far I know we will continue to grow in the coming years," said Melanie Meierotto.

The biggest leap FMHS DECA took this year was the state officer candidacy of two FMHS students. Fort Madison has never had any members run for positions until this year. Shayla Loffler was elected District III Vice President, while Bigger was appointed an Online Communicator position. They were both accepted as a part of the lowa DECA state officer team.

"A state officer, along with their team, operates a particular state association of DECA. They plan the state and district conferences. They manage all state activity including membership and service projects. When it was announced that I was elected for my position, a sense of pride, excitement, and disbelief hit me at the same time. I couldn't believe that I could have done this, but I did. Everything I had been working for during the last year had finally paid off, and it continues to," said Loffler.

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