

Connecticut State Board of Education
Hartford

To Be Proposed:
June 5, 2024

Whereas, Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) are a co-curricular, integral part of the local, state, and national career and technical education programs; and

Whereas, the development of individual student leadership skills is the keystone of these organizations; and

Whereas, all CTSO chapters were asked to identify an outstanding service project; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Connecticut State Board of Education recognizes the following CTSO Outstanding Service Award Recipients:

- Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Southington High School;
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Newington High School;
- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Windsor High School;
- FFA (formerly known as Future Farmers of America), The Sound School; and
- Future Health Professionals (HOSA), Central High School;

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of _____ this fifth day of June, Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

Signed: _____
Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Secretary
State Board of Education

**Connecticut State Board of Education
Hartford**

To: State Board of Education
From: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education
Date: June 5, 2024
Subject: Recognition of Career and Technical Education Student Organizations

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) are a co-curricular, integral part of the local, state, and national career and technical education programs. The development of individual student leadership skills is the keystone of these organizations. In Connecticut these organizations can be found in the comprehensive high schools and the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS). These organizations are committed to providing students contextualized learning through hands-on applications; recognition through competitions and awards for achievements; real-world experiences; and other personalized learning experiences. The CTOSs build bridges between the school, family, and community that give students powerful, positive experiences in civic responsibility.

Every year, each of the Connecticut CTOSs advisors identify one CTOSs Chapter to be reviewed and considered by the Connecticut State Board of Education (Board) for recognition as a CTOSs Outstanding Service Award recipient.

Recommendation

The CSDE presents the following CTOSs Chapters and summaries of their service projects for review and consideration of recognition as CTOSs Outstanding Service Award recipients:

- Southington High School’s Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) Chapter, under the guidance of Chapter Co-Advisors, Teresa Brooks and Jaclyn DeVlyder-Gadish, focused on supporting the first-ever Winter Fest as their service project. The students raised over \$400 and collected 75 new toys for the Olive Branch non-profit organization. The festival involved over 100 DECA members who hosted booths, pictures with Santa, and ornament and cookie decorating stations. Several local businesses donated in-kind supplies, materials, and prizes to make Winter Fest a special event for all participants.
- Newington High School’s Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Chapter, under the guidance of Chapter Advisor, Julia Dennis, engaged in a community service project of

coordinating the annual Stuff-A-High-School Gift Drive. The project sought to raise awareness of the hardships that people in the community face during the holiday season. Over \$1,400 in gift cards and 565 gifts for all ages were donated, with the 63 FBLA members coming together to make a difference. Eighty-seven members, including those new to the CTSO, also made personal contributions.

- Windsor High Schools' Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Chapter, under the guidance of Chapter Advisor, Kathleen Taranto, focused on working to assist the Simon Foundation in Bloomfield. The Simon Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated to preservation and adoption of dogs and cats. The FCCLA members collected and donated much needed linens to be used to care for the animals living in the shelter. The students also worked together to bake homemade dog biscuits for the shelter's canine residents which provided them with delicious treats.
- The Sound School of New Haven's FFA (formerly known as Future Farmers of America) Chapter, under the guidance of Chapter Advisor, Pebbles LaCross, selected a "Day of Service" as their project through the National FFA Organization. Working with the Dan Cosgrove and New Haven Animal Shelters, members worked to design and create animal rescue blankets. The need for blankets was identified by students after researching the issue with the Connecticut Humane Society. This endeavor ensured that the rescued animals were warm and comfortable at the shelter.
- Bridgeport Central High School's Future Health Professionals (HOSA) Chapter, under the guidance of Chapter Advisor, Carmen Marietta-Francisco, created an interactive oral hygiene presentation for 270 kindergarten and first grade students at Geraldine Johnson Elementary School in Bridgeport. The presentation involved reading an age-appropriate book about using a toothbrush, toothpaste, and dental floss. After listening to the story, the young students were able to practice these skills on a mannequin. It was such a positive experience for the students, that the HOSA members are now working to raise additional funds to expand the presentation to 2nd and 3rd graders at the school.

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