

Jeremy Spann
FBLA, Olympia High School
Phi Beta Lambda, Arizona State University

I'm 20 years old. I'm a real estate investor. Why? Because I understand business. How? Because I joined FBLA in high school. I don't know where I would be had I not joined FBLA. I do know that I am where I am in part because of the mindset I developed through FBLA and Phi Beta Lambda.

I didn't have a whole lot of motivation through high school. My senior year, I realized I need some activity to show colleges I did anything ever in my life. My accounting teacher, Mr. Fabritius, suggested FBLA. I joined and didn't think much of it until our first conference. I was somewhat of a natural in the business setting, surprisingly. More surprisingly, I even liked it! Sure, I mostly liked it because going to the conferences meant I could wear an argyle sweater, but I started to really enjoy competing. By the time we got to State and Nationals, I was determined to win. I won at the state level and attended Nationals but knew I had to place at Nationals as well. So I continued my FBLA experience to college.

I go to Arizona State University now. I didn't actually know my school had a Phi Beta Lambda chapter initially. Second semester I decided to get involved and found them. My experience with Phi Beta Lambda has been something like FBLA with no curfew. And it's a whole lot more social. It's not as competitive though, as there is less membership than FBLA. Getting to Nationals was easy, and I actually took 4th for Digital Video Production my first time, but I wanted that top 3 so I tried again this year and got 2nd place. The test events are alright but I've found the performance events to be the most challenging and rewarding.

My whole attitude towards business has shifted during my journey through FBLA and Phi Beta Lambda. I wasn't aware how enjoyable I would find it all. I thought Future Business Leaders of America was some sort of breeding ground for boring kids who would grow up to be even more boring adults. I actually made some of my best friends in high school through FBLA. And business in reality is so fast paced that it's really quite exciting.

I decided to get started in business for real so I got my real estate license and bought two investment properties just this past year. People constantly ask me how old I am and tell me, "if only I had started at your age..." I really am quite successful already, and I attribute a great deal of that to FBLA. Because of it, I discovered my potential, my passion and the mindset I utilize to constantly advance the lifestyle I lead. FBLA is a great program and should be in every high school, middle school, elementary, preschool, etc. in the universe.