

When most people hear you are a member of FBLA they assume your goal is to one day pursue a career in business; it makes sense. A business career was never my goal. I was interested in a career in communications. However, I attended a small high school that did not offer communication classes. Instead I saw the potential in the business skills classes my school did offer. Those classes provided the opportunity to build on my organizational and social skills.

I was lucky to serve as Washington State FBLA Vice President for the Capital Region. In this capacity I assisted in planning two regional conferences and the state conference; served on the executive committee attending quarterly meetings; and represented FBLA to students and business members from all over the state. I had no idea how valuable these experiences and training would be or how they would translate into my eventual career in politics.

I put those organizational skills to use in my professional career when I managed a State Senate campaign and served as Hospitality Coordinator for the 2004 National Governor's Association Summer Conference in Seattle. I have also been afforded the unique opportunity to serve on the staff for five elected officials ranging in levels from local state elected positions to the US Congress. In all these positions I was responsible for organizing public meetings and representing the Official to the public. Each responsibility required me to utilize skills born from my participation in FBLA.

While I may not have pursued the usual career path of a FBLA member, my experience had a genuine impact on my successes. The true success is that to this day I continue to utilize the organizational and social skills gained through being a member of Washington State FBLA.

*Kasey Schiewe (Crimmins) – 1994-1995 State Vice President Representing Capital Region*