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Judy Reynolds, Executive Director  
Future Business Leaders of America, Washington State  
5622 Pacific Avenue SE, Suite 3  
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Judy:

You can imagine my excitement upon hearing that you're still at the helm of Washington State Future Business Leaders of America. It seems like yesterday I was representing Washington State in the Video Production Category at the 2007 National Leadership Conference in Chicago, IL. In cities all across this state, Bellingham, Yakima, Seattle, Spokane, I can vividly recall competing for that trip to Chicago, Orlando or Nashville during the summer.

Now, I find myself as a member of the same community I grew up in, but this time as a business leader. To this day, I contribute my professional successes to my experiences in FBLA. The events that I excelled in were job interview, future business leader, and video production. In all three events I was able to practice what I believe to be the most important skills I use as the chief decision maker at the business I run—patience, confidence, poise, and management styles.

Being a leader at my local chapter allowed me to hone in my skills of being a team leader, and how to manage unique and at times conflicting personalities. The Burlington Edison High School Chapter, during my tenure there, was advised by Jean Hyde. Mrs. Hyde was not only knowledgeable in her skills to advise us, but also cared about the students, her students, more than any other advisor I've seen. Her warmth, guidance, and support allowed not only me, but other students to experience all that FBLA, and WA FBLA have to offer.

The family that I was a part of for just a short amount of time was something that has shaped my life in the long term. The practical experiences I received from FBLA can never be reproduced and helped shape my business practices today. Washington State Future Business Leaders of America played a pivotal part in making my decision on what college to attend and profession to enter. Thank you, Judy, for shaping my FBLA experience into one that has affected literally, every aspect of my life.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Barnett  
General Manager—Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Burlington  
WA FBLA '07