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My name is Samuel Smith, and I currently hold the position of National Secretary in the organization Future Business Leaders of America. As former Washington State Secretary and National Western Region Action Council Secretary, I have served in leadership positions at all levels of the organization and can tell you that the experience gained by being a part of FBLA is not only educational, but a way for students to find themselves and confidently plan for their future.

Future Business Leaders of America offers a beneficial experience for all those who participate. Some find success in competitions, gaining valuable knowledge of the business world and professional community. Others find the opportunity to network with peers, business professionals and educators to be their key to success. And others, like myself, see the endless opportunity to grow as a leader and as a person.

Throughout my four years of FBLA I have traveled the nation and seen things that some adults have not had the chance to see: The Grand Ol' Opry in Nashville, Wrigley Field and the Seers Tower in Chicago. I have developed relationships with peers and adults, people who have impacted my life forever, people that I look up to and recognize as role models. FBLA has given me the chance to learn what it is that I want to do with my life and given me the confidence to say that I will some day be a great journalist and a successful human being.

If it wasn't for FBLA, I could not have explored my skills as a leader, been able to evaluate my strengths and identify my weaknesses. FBLA has given me so much more than a general education in business; FBLA has given me life knowledge that will help me to become the person that I want to be, the person that I know I can be.

Serving at both the State and National levels of this organization, I have learned what it is to be a representative for something more than myself. A lesson I am sure all of you are very familiar with and can recognize the importance of! FBLA gives students the opportunity to experience this! I now know what it means to delegate and accomplish goals as a team for the betterment of a large group of people. To take things on, not necessarily because I think it will be fun, but because I know that it will help others to be successful and it is in that, that I find my own success.

I can't even begin to tell you how much I have benefited from this organization and what an honor it has been to represent the amazing group of students that make up FBLA. I am so thankful for this opportunity and for the support from people like you! FBLA really does offer an amazing experience for those who participate. Students can obtain success and knowledge that will help them for life! It is because of FBLA that I know where I'm going. It is because of FBLA that I see the direction of my future. It is because of FBLA that I know whole-heartedly that I have the potential and someday in the future will be a Business Leader of America!