

## **Career and Technical Student Organizations**

### **Testimony Presented to the New NY Education Reform Commission on Behalf of the Career and Technical Student Organizations of NYS**

**Presented by Victoria Dell, NYS FCCLA President  
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Members of the Education Reform Commission, I am Victoria Dell, member and President of the New York State Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), from South Jefferson Central School. I've come here today to share with you some thoughts on how we can make the education system in New York better without having to focus on new, untested programs, or having to spend a lot of money. The foundations for strengthening career readiness for our students are already in place through career and technical education (CTE), which offers this unique blend of skills through comprehensive programs of study. One of the most critical components of strong CTE programs is student participation in related leadership organizations, known as career and technical student organizations (CTSOs).

I am pleased to be here to represent the seven Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), that are an integral part of Career and Technical Education programs in schools and BOCES across New York State. These organizations are my own organization, FCCLA; the Association of Marketing and Management Students (DECA); Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA); Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA); New York State Association of FFA; Technology Student Association (TSA), and Skills USA. At the national, state and local levels, CTSOs offer diverse programming that is designed to enhance classroom instruction and four common organizational goals: leadership development; academic and career achievement; professional development; and community service. .

At a time when advocates are requesting billions of dollars in new funding for new educational programs, a far smaller investment of \$200,000 into time tested and proven programs of the CTSOs seems like an easy alternative. An amount of as little as \$30,000 for FCCLA alone would cover the cost of the all statewide leadership activities and student competitive events.

Research shows that participation in CTSOs has a positive impact on students' overall career readiness:

- Students who participate in CTSOs demonstrate higher levels of academic engagement and motivation, civic engagement, career self-efficacy, and employability skills than other students,
- Students who participate in school organizations in 10th grade have higher high school grade point averages and are more likely to be enrolled in college at age 21 than other students.

Personally, because of my participation in FCCLA community service activities and competitive events, I have developed public speaking skills and an awareness of the needs of others in my school and community. My experiences motivated me to become a state officer where I am developing responsibility, leadership and organizational skills as well as learning how to be a positive role model. Other skills I learned through FCCLA, such as team work and time management, will benefit me in any future career.

Can you imagine how great it would be if all students in the state could have that same opportunity...and they can, if only the organizations had more support to reach out into every school.

Thank you for your attention.