



President's Message

■ By Ryan Paul, PBL National President

All Aboard The ticket to the future begins with you

It is that time of year again. The leaves are beginning to change colors, the beaches are getting less populated, and millions of students are headed back to another year of learning and growing.

Perhaps you've spent hours in line at the bookstore or smiled beautifully for your new student ID photo. Whether you are a freshman experiencing college life for the first time or this is your last term before graduating, you have made the rewarding choice to join Phi Beta Lambda (PBL).

PBL is all about preparing today's students for tomorrow's careers, but it is sometimes important to pause and look back at our rich history to appreciate where we are today. This year marks FBLA-PBL's 65th anniversary of bringing business and education together. In that time over ten million people have been a part of our exciting competitive events, leadership development, and community service programs. Today, you are part of this history as a member

of the world's largest student business association!

Just like in business, the effectiveness of our organization comes from both quantity and quality, so it is very important that our opportunities are shared with as many people as possible.

Your national officer team is issuing a challenge in celebration of our 65th anniversary: let's work together to bring our total membership numbers up to 10,650! You can easily make a difference and help us achieve this year's goal by simply bringing one friend to a meeting or talking for two minutes about PBL in one of your classes. I encourage you to take advantage of the many benefits of membership! Attend a regional, state, or national conference and network with hundreds or even thousands of other members, advisers, and businesspeople. Plan to attend one of the four exciting National Fall Leadership Conferences and make arrangements to compete at the National Leadership Conference in

Chicago this summer.

Participate in one of over 50 competitive events or earn individual recognition with the Career and Membership Achievement Program. Apply for a scholarship and earn your way to a conference or school. Get involved with our national community service partner, the March of Dimes, and help millions of people worldwide fight premature birth. The possibilities are endless and there's something for everyone.

With so many dynamic programs, PBL is a unique experience for those students who want to succeed in their future careers.

It is fitting that our theme this year is "FBLA-PBL: Your Ticket to the Future." Your education and personal experience will take you far, but by joining PBL you have already booked your ticket and been upgraded to first class. It is up to you to get "All Aboard!" I look forward to seeing all of the great things you will accomplish as future business leaders!

Celebrate your freedom: American Enterprise Day

As future business leaders we hold the right to free enterprise very close to our hearts. It is the American enterprise system that allows us to buy, sell, or exchange goods and services without governmental control; and as members of PBL we have learned to protect this freedom.

That is why FBLA-PBL proclaims and celebrates American Enterprise Day on November 15, 2006. Make plans to be a part of the celebration in your local chapters and communities.

Local FBLA-PBL chapters are encouraged to sponsor activities that create awareness about the free enterprise

system. This can be done through an American Enterprise Project. Here are a few examples, but get creative and design a project that will benefit your chapter and community.

Business Panel: Put together a panel of experts to address the advantages and disadvantages of owning a business.

Sponsor a Forum: Have a forum on American enterprise, covering issues from manufacturing, entrepreneurship, and banking to international business.

Women/Minorities in Business: Sponsor a seminar featuring women and minorities in business.

Business Appreciation: Sponsor a

business appreciation day in the local community to thank businesses for being entrepreneurs. Members can deliver thank you cards with cookies, candy, or a piece of fruit.

Host a Breakfast/Luncheon: Invite area business leaders or the chamber of commerce to join members in a breakfast or business luncheon.

Business Tour: Encourage chapter members to tour a local business.

Proclamations: Have local government officials sign a proclamation declaring November 15, 2006 American Enterprise Day in your city.