



President's Message

■ By Ryan Paul, PBL National President

Creating value-interaction Getting others on board for success

It is common knowledge that technology plays a significant role in today's society. With each day that passes, people are using these advances to make life more efficient. E-mails and instant messages have replaced letters and phone calls, while Web-based systems and computer programs have transitioned learning from the classroom to your own home.

As a PBL member or adviser, you may have noticed many new technological advances within our organization this year. We are proud to offer membership and conference registration completely online, the Career and Membership Achievement Program available electronically, and a new resource center full of sample documents for you to download.

Living in an era where technology is so important may have many perks, but it is also important to remember that the "old school" practices are still sometimes more appropriate. In the business world, for example, you will stand out if you send a handwritten thank you note rather than a quick e-mail.

This idea also can be applied to membership recruitment in your chapter, and as we approach the end of the year, now is a critical time to get those last few members on board. Walking around campus inviting fellow students to a meeting or asking faculty members to promote PBL in their classes will work much better than creating a "John Doe College PBL" group on facebook.com and inviting random people to join.

The concept is simple: people like interaction. Luckily, this is a very busy time for many PBL members because of the high number of local, regional, state, and national events. These all

provide an excellent opportunity to have that interaction and get more involved while networking with students, campus and government leaders, or even a future employer.

Whether it is by recruiting a new member or attending a conference, take advantage of every opportunity. The hard work and efforts put forth throughout the year all lead up to the National Leadership Conference (NLC) and Institute for Leaders (IFL), which will be held this summer in Chicago.

The NLC not only recognizes top students in the PBL Competitive Events Program, but also it is a chance for you to meet people from all over the country, help save babies at the March of Dimes MiniWalk, and build your skills through a number of fun and informative workshops. To get the most out of this experience, plan to also attend IFL immediately prior to the conference. This intense, two-day training focuses on specific leadership and career tracks that will truly help you excel in the future as a business leader.

Whatever the future may have in store for you, I wish you the best of luck. Your membership in PBL will provide you with skills and opportunities to help you excel in your endeavors. We'll see you in Chicago for an awesome NLC!

Emergency Relief Fund helps local chapters

It sometimes takes a disaster beyond belief to bring out the best in people, yet FBLA-PBL members are always willing to lend a helping hand to others. The Adopt a Member/Adopt a Chapter was last year's Hurricane Relief Program. This year's national officer teams have decided to take this relief program a step further.

The Emergency Relief Fund will include Katrina and other natural disasters that have directly affected any FBLA or PBL program nationwide, although we realize many chapters in Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi have never recovered. The Emergency Relief Fund is a great way for members in unaffected areas to help members who would like to continue to participate in a chapter, despite financial adversity.

Forms and further information on how to donate or how to request funding can be found on the national Web site at www.fbla-pbl.org. Donations should be sent to the FBLA-PBL National Center and will be distributed to chapters or members who request emergency support. All donations to this program will go directly to helping FBLA-PBL chapters or members that are in need to recover from a disaster or emergency.

The FBLA-PBL Emergency Relief Fund is an opportunity to work together, build mutual growth, and create valuable experiences among the respective chapters involved in this project. Let's all work together to ensure the continued success of members across the nation, united as one to make up the world's largest student business organization.