



# President's Message

■ *By Ryan Paul, PBL National President*

## *It's not just a lanyard* Finding the value of your membership

If you haven't realized just how important your membership in FBLA-PBL really is, let me share a story with you.

Just the other day I was speaking with a friend when he saw my keychain attached to a blue and gold lanyard. With a huge smile on his face he said, "You're in FBLA-PBL? I was a member during school as well...that's so cool!"

We went on to discuss the many good times we have had at conferences, socials, and networking events over the years and how those experiences have benefited him (and me too).

I realized that millions of other people had a similar story to tell. Over the past 65 years, so many people just like you have joined FBLA-PBL to help facilitate their transition from school to work. As you can imagine, though, just paying your dues and showing up for a meeting isn't enough.

In order to take full advantage of your membership, it is important for you to get involved in a variety of activities. The good news is you are in luck—second semester programs are full of opportunities for you to get involved.

To kick off a season full of exciting events, the second week of February each year is designated as National FBLA-PBL Week. Join in the nationwide celebration and use this time to publicize your activities and successes, boost your membership, and gear up for the rest of your spring activities. Adviser Appreciation Day is Wednesday of this week, so be sure to use this day to pay special tribute to the dedicated individuals who make the

association possible on the local level!

This is also the perfect time to begin preparing for competitive events. As one of the most popular benefits of membership, the PBL Competitive Events Program draws thousands of participants each year.

Do you have your sights on competing at the National Leadership Conference this summer in Chicago? If so, you won't want to wait another moment to start studying for your written competitions or planning your team project presentation. Check out the national Web site at [www.fbla-pbl.org](http://www.fbla-pbl.org) for specific details on each of the competitive events offered this year.

The most important thing to remember is that even though you've already paid your membership dues and started getting involved, there is someone at your school who has not. By bringing friends or fellow students to just one meeting and getting them hooked, you could expose them to a world of opportunity and help them prepare for their future career.

As I have learned, this is a very small world and you never know who you will meet because of your membership in FBLA-PBL. I hope one day I will meet you and hear all about your great successes over the rest of this year and beyond!

Now, go discover the value of your membership. You can purchase your very own FBLA-PBL lanyard and see who you meet! Visit [www.fblamarketplace.com](http://www.fblamarketplace.com).

## Members and advisers remember Georgia PBL adviser



■ PAM HAWKINS

Pam Hawkins of Georgia Phi Beta Lambda (PBL), died Friday, Dec. 8, 2006, of natural causes at her home.

"Pam was a dedicated adviser and a true advocate for our collegiate division," said Jean M. Buckley, FBLA-PBL president and CEO. "We remember Pam for the contributions she made to FBLA-PBL and business education."

She was a graduate of Southern Union State Community College (A.S.) and Auburn University (B.S. and M.Ed.). Since 1992, she taught business education and served as the PBL adviser at West Georgia Technical College in LaGrange, where her efforts won her

recognition and awards at the college, state, and national levels. In 2006, she received the National Star of Education Award in Washington, D.C.

Pam actively served on the state and national boards of FBLA-PBL. She was honored as the Georgia PBL Adviser of the Year, and she served as Georgia's PBL Foundation president and as the state executive director.

Pam believed in the power of education to uplift and improve, and her teaching and advising leave behind a legacy of students whose lives she helped make better.