

## Swink FCCLA 'Grasps Greatness' in Salt Lake City



In November, Swink students traveled to Salt Lake City for the FCCLA National Clusters Meeting of more than 1,000 people. Christopher Brockhoff, national president, Ryan Rhodes, national vice president of development, Luke Schroeder, Krystal Crow and Stephanie Graham, back row. Cassie Walter and Shasta Kenley, middle. Leilani Mullins, national vice president of membership, and Abbie Sudtelgte, national vice president of programs shown in front.

### SWINK, COLORADO —

Members from the Swink High School chapter of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America attended a weekend leadership conference on Nov. 20-22, in Salt Lake City.

This weekend was jam-packed with trainings, sessions and fun that motivated members to "Grasp Greatness with FCCLA." Along with more than 1,000 other members and chapter advisers were five of Swink FCCLA's chapter members: Krystal Crow, Stephanie Graham, Shasta Kenley, Luke Schroeder and Cassie Walters.

Also at the conference, helping to lead the members through the excitement of the National Clusters Meeting was Leilani Mullins, who is serving as the 2009-2010 National Vice President of Membership.

Members were encouraged to "Grasp Greatness" during the opening general session with guest speaker Paul Vitale, who inspired attendees with his motivational message, "A Hero Within

– Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders," and encouraged attendees to make the most of their powerful leadership potential. The national officers of FCCLA also presented tons of information with their "Superhero" presentation.

Once transformed from officers to heroes, the diabolical, evil Dr. VonDurkelheimer and his plan to bring down FCCLA with the help of superheroes was under way. However, the superheroes are actually misfits, who don't have any actual powers. Comedic humor and insight into FCCLA made this Opening General Session quite a hit.

Keynote speaker Heather Schultz closed out the meeting by addressing how to possess a positive attitude and understand that decisions are critical in everyday life, and guest speaker Patrick Perez got members on their feet and dancing with his motivating break-dance presentation. Swink FCCLA members attended workshops that addressed everyday life, including one put on by the National Executive Council. Mullins and the rest of the national officers presented a workshop about taking FCCLA beyond the classroom with public relations. Other workshops included learning about Indian cuisine and how to avoid peer pressure.

"This conference had to have been one of the most exciting things I've ever done. The thrill of speaking on stage in front of 1,000 people and getting their sights turned towards greatness

was immensely gratifying," Mullins said.

The conference from her viewpoint was a little different from the viewpoint of other members. Arriving a day early and beginning rehearsal immediately set the pace for the national officers.

Introducing new FCCLA events, acting as superheroes, presenting a workshop and getting members pumped up were a few of the activities in which Mullins participated. Going from dawn to dusk each day made for an exciting, as well as tiring, conference for everyone.

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America is a dynamic and effective national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work and societal issues through family and consumer sciences education.

FCCLA has more than 219,000 members and more than 6,500 chapters from 50 state associations, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The organization has involved more than 10 million youth since its founding in 1945.

Featured speaker Paul Vitale with the 2009-2010 FCCLA National Officers in Salt Lake City

