

THE RIPLEY BEE

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FCCLA RETURNS FROM WASHINGTON, DC



Ripley Jr./Sr. FCCLA and Ripley Middle School FCCLA

RIPLEY—Youth from the Ripley Middle, Junior and Senior chapters of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) recently participated in a weekend leadership conference held November 13-15, in Washington, DC.

Attendees participated in a weekend of training and sessions that challenged, informed, and motivated members and their advisers to become leaders through FCCLA. Along with more than 1,300 other members and chapter advisers, Ripley's FCCLA chapter advisers, Michele Rau and Patricia Skaggs, accompanied 52 members and chaperones to the meeting.

The "Grasp Greatness" theme was reinforced in the Opening General Session by guest speaker Albert Mensah, who inspired attendees with his motivational message, "Leadership: We Are All Leaders," and encouraged attendees to make the most of their powerful leadership potential.

respect diversity and encourage individuals through positive actions. His energetic message "A Hero Within-Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders" was very well-received and empowered the attendees to leave a positive mark on everyone they encounter.

Taban Flores, Ohio State Vice President of STAR Events said the National Cluster Meeting in Washington D.C. provided pathways for youth to explore leadership opportunities available through involvement in FCCLA. Flores encourages youth to become diverse and explore their full potential through leadership involvement in the local community. Ripley FCCLA chapter members gained knowledge about projects and program opportunities at the 2009 National Cluster Meeting. The meeting provided the opportunity for Ripley FCCLA members to explore the city; members gained

Saturday's agenda included training in FCCLA national programs and competitive events and the opportunity to explore Washington D. C.

Keynote speaker Paul Vitale closed out the meeting Saturday evening by addressing how to

a sense of history, heritage and culture from their trip to the United States Capital.

Washington is one of three nationally sponsored training conferences this fall. The National Cluster Meetings are designed to allow regional students and teachers to take advantage of high-quality leadership training opportunities. Meetings were also held in Louisville, Kentucky and Salt Lake City, Utah.

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,



Speaker Paul Vitale with FCCLA members in Washington, D.C.

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.