



# The Buzz

JANUARY/  
FEBRUARY  
2017



## Thomas County Board of Education Monthly Newsletter



Thomas County School System Elementary Curriculum Coordinator Robin Shaver distributes gold coin mementos to Cross Creek Elementary teachers Lacey Howard (left) and Summer Perry during an after school celebration of Cross Creek Elementary being named "Gold Award Winner."

### Governor Deal Names Cross Creek "Gold Award Winner"

#### CC ranked among Georgia's Highest-Performing Schools

Governor Nathan Deal, along with the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA), has named Thomas County's Cross Creek Elementary School as a "Gold Award School" for being one of the highest performing elementary schools in the state for the 2015-2016 school year with a student academic growth rate as measured by standardized tests in the top 97th percentile statewide.

The school awards, developed by GOSA and approved by the State Board of Education, are part of Georgia's Single Statewide Accountability System.

The "Gold Award" designation indicates that Cross Creek students exhibited high growth in student achievement by earning a three-year

average growth score in the 97th percentile in the state, meaning that Cross Creek scored better than 97% of the other elementary schools in the state.

The Governor's awards help parents, students, educators and communities have clear and concise information about school performance to better understand the strengths and challenges of their local schools.

"I congratulate all of the students, teachers and administrators in Georgia's award-winning schools who worked tirelessly toward these accomplishments," said Deal. "We must continue to equip Georgia citizens with

*Gold Award Cont. on Page 3*

### Hiers and Hickey to Lead Thomas County Board of Education

The Thomas County Board of Education held its first meeting of the new calendar year Tuesday, January 10. After the devotion, outgoing chair Mark NeSmith declared the positions of chair and vice chair vacant and asked for nominations.

Board member Charles Evans made a motion that Nancy Hiers be elected chair and that Derwood Hickey be elected vice chair. Dan Stewart seconded Evans' motion. NeSmith called for any additional nominations. There were no additional nominations. Hiers and Hickey were elected to their respective roles unanimously.

Employed at John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, Hiers is a registered nurse who works in the operating room. She began her service on the board in 2007.



**HIER**

"It has been an honor serving on the Thomas County Board of Education and being a voice for the students and parents of Thomas County," Hiers said. I look forward to being chairwoman alongside Dr. Dusty Kornegay and Vice-chairman Derwood Hickey

to help with decisions that will support our students and continue to improve our school system. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to serve this year."

Hickey owns B & D Insurance Agency, Inc. in Meigs, Georgia. He is an independent insurance agent with more than 37 years of experience in his field.

Hickey said, "I have had the pleasure of serving on the Board of Education for four years. We have had great leadership from the chairperson's position in the past with Mr. Morgan, Ms. Streets, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Nesmith. I know Ms. Hiers will continue the trend, and I look forward to working with her as vice-chairman."



**HICKEY**

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*The Buzz* is a monthly publication of the Thomas County Schools. Send suggestions or comments to Melanie Hester, 200 North Pinetree Blvd., Thomasville, GA 31792; 229.225-4380, ext. 115; mhester@thomas.k12.ga.us. *The Buzz* is available online at [www.tcjackets.net](http://www.tcjackets.net) under the News and Events tab.

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**BOE Cont. from Page 1**

"The board has a great working relationship and shares the common goal of being able to offer to the children the best curriculum we possibly can in our schools," Hickey said. "As we set this curriculum, we must not only support our teachers and staff, but also must keep in mind getting a student prepared for the world entails more than computer knowledge. I look forward to another four years on the Thomas County Board of Education."

Dan Stewart assumed Scott Morgan's vacant seat serving for the first time at the January meeting. Stewart is employed as building maintenance supervisor at the Southwestern State campus where he has worked for more than 27 years. He previously worked for the Georgia Department of Corrections.

He and his wife, Sheri, reside on a family farm outside of Ochlocknee.

"I'm looking forward to serving the students, parents and tax payers of Thomas County," said Stewart.

"I'm also excited about the opportunity to serve alongside all the other members of the board, Dr. Dusty Kornegay, and the entire staff to be the best school system we can be."

The board also set meeting dates for 2017. The school board meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Thomas County Board of Education, 200 North Pinetree Boulevard.



**STEWART**



**MORGAN LEAVES SYSTEM AFTER EIGHT YEARS** - Scott Morgan completed his second four-year term on the Thomas County Board of Education in December. Morgan chose not to seek re-election last November. Morgan stated that he felt that he was leaving the school system "better than he found it." Board Chairman Mark NeSmith praised Morgan's service to the school district stating that Morgan had served the board as chair through a difficult period and noted that Morgan's father who served on the Thomasville City Board of Education would have been proud of his service. Morgan led the board through the deepest budget cuts of the recession and saw the system rebound by growing enrollment, restoring many personnel positions, and rebuilding fund reserves. Superintendent Dr. Dusty Kornegay thanked Morgan for his service and presented Morgan a small gift on behalf of the school district. Dan Stewart will assume Morgan's seat in January. Pictured is Dr. Dusty Kornegay, right, presenting a gift to Scott Morgan.

## Fourth Annual Techno Expo Expands System-Wide



Clayton Woodfin taught a course on Study Island at TCCHS. The session included a refresher for those who regularly use it, as well as a lesson on formative assessments and Rtl.

On January 2, the Thomas County School System held its annual "Techno Expo." This year the Techno Expo was extended district-wide giving all teachers the opportunity to learn how to

integrate technology into their classrooms.

"It is important to remember that integrating technology into instruction is only one aspect of the learning process," said Erin Rehberg,

Instructional Technology Coordinator for the Thomas County School System.

"Technology cannot be a substitute for well-trained teachers. However, this event allowed teachers in our system to share their knowledge of various instructional technology tools so that fellow educators will be able to use more engaging strategies during instructional opportunities," Rehberg said.

Middle school and high school teachers met at Thomas County Central High School while elementary school teachers attended sessions at Cross Creek Elementary.

Kristi Keve, seventh-grade Language Arts teacher at TCMS, led a session on Plickers and Quizlet Live.

"Techno Expo allows us to make use of our best

resources, our teachers," Keve said. "Each and every one of us has strengths and weakness, and I love that this program allows us to learn from each other. Students love technology, and making that technology accessible in the classroom allows our instruction to be more relevant and interactive for the students."

Some of the 21 sessions offered at the high school were on Padlet, Moby Max, Wizer, Kahoot!, and EdPuzzle. Elementary teachers chose from 16 different sessions including Everyday Math, ReadWorks Digital, Dojo, and Glogster.





Gold Award Cont. from Page 1



Cross Creek Principal Clay Stanaland serves cake to teacher LaSaundra Cohen in celebration of the school being named "Gold Award Winner."

updated information and tools like the Georgia School Reports website in order to allow parents and students to better understand school performance. The bright minds of Georgia's students are the state's most precious resource, and I commend the schools that are exceeding expectations in preparing their students for future success."

Thomas County School Superintendent Dusty Kornegay announced the award to Cross Creek faculty Tuesday afternoon. Teachers were treated to cake and punch. School board member Charles Evans provided golden covered chocolate coins for the teachers in recognition of the "gold" award. Cross Creek won the "Silver" award recognition last school year for student academic achievement during the 2014-2015 school year.

"I am extremely proud of the students, teachers, and leadership of Cross Creek in achieving this designation," Kornegay said. "During the 2015-2016 school year, nearly 100% of Cross Creek students showed a full academic year's growth or more."

"The faculty and leadership of Hand-In-Hand Primary School and Garrison-Pilcher Elementary School which do not have grade levels in which students take state exams also deserve credit for this award because they have laid the foundation for the students' continued progress at Cross Creek," Kornegay said.

"I also want to thank Associate Superintendent Melanie Chavaux and our entire curriculum department for their hard work in supporting what the state now considers to be one of the best elementary instructional programs in the state," Kornegay said.

Cross Creek Principal Clay Stanaland commented on the award, "This award confirms that our system and school offer a quality educational program that promotes the academic achievement of all students. The efforts of our staff and the implementation of research-based intervention strategies that help close learning gaps as well as the acceleration of those ready to move on are key factors to our success."

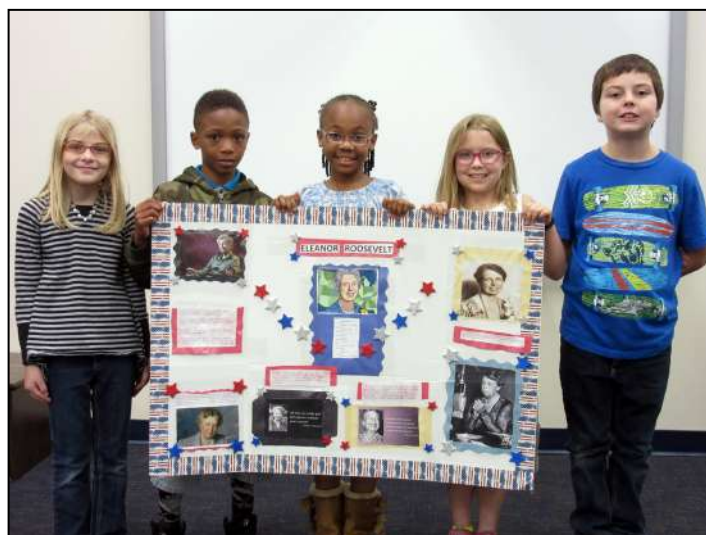
Associate Superintendent Melanie Chavaux who serves as the school system's Chief Academic Officer stated, "When the three-year average of students making typical or high growth places a school in the top 97% of elementary schools in the state, it ensures that the students at Cross Creek Elementary School are receiving sound instructional practices on a daily basis that builds the foundational skills needed for the middle and high school years."

"Congratulations to the teachers and administrators at Cross Creek for having consistent and high expectations for all students and spending countless hours learning about new and challenging programs," Chavaux said. "We are very proud of all the students at Cross Creek Elementary School and appreciate the continual support we receive from parents and the community."

Following the announcement, Priscilla Register, who teaches third grade at Cross Creek, got emotional.

"As teachers, there are times when we question the impact we have on our students," Register said. "It's this kind of recognition that gives us the drive to continue to be passionate about teaching."

Third-grade teacher Delisa Barrow said, "I am so proud to be a part of the Cross Creek team. My fellow teachers have made learning fun and enjoyable for their students. I believe we achieved the gold level by figuring out our students' strengths and weaknesses, and working hard to enrich the education of every child. We are blessed with the very best students who work hard and think their education is important. They understand that their future will be amazing if they work hard."



**INFLUENTIAL WOMEN PROJECTS** - Third-grade students in Lauren Tillman's classes at Cross Creek Elementary studied influential women and their impact on national issues. Students created posters or wrote essays outlining what they learned about the lives of these significant women. Pictured from left to right are Faith Zike, William Guilford, Johnaye Wells, Melina McElhaney, and Jonathan Crowell.

## TCCHS Recognizes Its GHP Nominees



The GHP nominees pictured are Sierra Stephens, front row from left, Hailey Ferrel, Haley Newman, and Marion Rose Young. Second row includes C'lee Kornegay, from left, Brett Hendricks, Brentley Odom, and Ivey Parrish. Not pictured are Tori Stringer and Kennedy Ward.

Thomas County Central High School held a reception for its 2017 Georgia Governor's Honors Program nominees in December.

The event included a welcome by Principal Trista Jones, introduction of nominees by assistant principal and GHP coordinator Dr. James Rehberg, and a speech by GHP alum Christina Maggitas. Refreshments were served after the ceremony.

Nominees and their chosen field of study are: Hailey Ferrel (science), Brett Hendricks (mathematics), C'lee Kornegay (science), Haley Newman (science), Brentley Odom (agricultural science), Ivey Parrish (dance), Sierra Stephens (social studies), Tori Stringer (agricultural science), Kennedy Ward (social studies), and Marion Rose Young (theatre).

"Our 10 nominees are among about 3,000 Georgia sophomores and juniors nominated to fill around 600 spots during the summer session in 2017," Rehberg said. "It is a highly competitive endeavor and to be nominated

is impressive even at this early stage. Thomas County Central High School takes great pride in its nominees and supports their efforts in obtaining a spot at GHP among the state's best up-and-coming citizens."

Rehberg explained the process from school nomination to selection as a GHP finalist. This includes completion of the online application, followed by the wait to learn which candidates will be chosen for in-person interviews, during which time nominees will take part in mock interview preparation. These interviews for semifinalists are expected to take place on February 25. Then, the school must wait until March 31 for the announcement of GHP finalists who will attend this year's program to be held on the Berry College campus.

"I wish the best of luck to our nominees, and I know they will put forth a great effort," Rehberg said.

Christina Maggitas, the school's most recent ambassador, then spoke about her "fulfilling" experience

attending GHP to study dance last summer.

"Having spent four weeks in an intensive, immersive learning environment studying dance and communicative arts made me a better student and prepared me for the adult world," she said. "Not to mention, it was an awesome experience. In short, my time at GHP was extremely fun, inspiring, educational, and humbling."

Maggitas adds, the experience allowed her to "grow as a dancer and as a person," prepare for the professional dance world, and helped her "identify strengths and weaknesses in technique and form." She urged school nominees to pursue acceptance to the program "with all your effort and vigor."

"If GHP were a college,

I would have already filled out my application packet and sent them a check," she said. "I wouldn't hesitate to attend it. You have the good fortune of having it in your future so please don't waste this valuable opportunity. Be sure to utilize the resources available to you here at TCCHS and give it all you've got."

Science nominee Haley Newman, who is specifically interested in biology, said she is "beyond ecstatic" to be nominated for this year's GHP program.

"It feels great to know my hard work has paid off, and I can't wait to see what my future holds in the field of science," she said. "I'm confident that Governor's Honors will prepare me for my future and help me reach my college and career goals."



**LIFE LESSONS AT GARRISON-PILCHER** - Jessica Duncan's second-grade class had the privilege of interacting with class pets, Sparkles and CoCo. The chicks were part of their study on life cycles. The class watched the chicks develop from eggs in an incubator for 21 days. Once the eggs hatched, the students observed their growth until they were a month old. Pictured above with the chicks are Conner Hayes, Kantreal Odom, Madysen Dupree, Yuna Johnson, and Tristen Cochran. CoCo went home with Conner Hays, and his mother sends the class photo updates.

**CPR will be offered from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
at Hand-In-Hand Primary on February 21.  
Please sign up on PDExpress to attend!**





## County Students Present K-12 Robotics Program at Kiwanis



**ANIMAL AVENGERS WIN OVERALL PROJECT AWARD** - Thomas County Middle School's LEGO League team, Animal Avengers, won the overall project award at the Albany Tech Regional Competition. They placed fifth for Robot performance qualifying them for Super Regionals at Columbus State University. The team's project was to design a turtle barricade for sea turtle nests to be placed at St. George Island, Florida. The group constructed a prototype and presented it to the Thomas University Science Department. They wrote and performed a skit in order to present their project for competition. Most recently, the Animal Avengers were invited to present their project at the January meeting of the Kiwanis Club. Team coaches are TCMS science teachers Kim Simmons and Dana Studdard. Pictured from left to right are (front row) Megan Clark, Abigail Beamon; (second row) Jacob Sellers, Brady Whatley, Joshua Williams, Phoebe Esra; (back row) Dana Studdard, Ashleigh Dodge, Keaton Stephens, Ethan Nicoll, John Singleton, and Kim Simmons.

## TCCHS CHROMEBOOKS ARE HERE!



Thomas County Central High School issued its student Chromebooks in the school's media center throughout the day on January 18. Students were lined up in the TCCHS Media Center to receive their Chromebook. TCCHS was awarded a grant from GOSA, the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, which provides a Chromebook to every student and training for teachers as they implement blended learning. Both teachers and students are excited to see how they are going to be able to implement this new technology into their daily work. To receive a Chromebook, students are required to turn in a permission letter signed by a parent or guardian. For more information, contact Lindsay Thompson, instructional technologist, at TCCHS.



After the presentation, Kiwanis members asked the students questions and walked around to see what the robots could do

Students in Thomas County School System's Robotics program recently gave a presentation to the Thomasville Kiwanis Club, educating members on the progressive robotics program that begins in first grade and spans through high school.

Team members from several grade levels brought their robots and projects with makeshift playing fields for demonstrations.

Thomas County Central High School students Hailey Ferrel, Ashlyn Quattlebaum, and Martin Medina led the presentation, going into depth about the program and sharing the importance of science and technology and how it is relevant to everyday life.

Ferrel started off the presentation by explaining the robotics program for grades first through twelfth.

"The programs are a part of the FIRST family of robots which stands for 'For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology,'" Ferrel said.

According to the FIRST founder, Dean Kamen, "FIRST is more than just robots.

The robots are a vehicle for

students to learn important life skills. Its mission and vision focus on exposing students to and celebrating the world of science and technology."

The Thomas County Robotics program is in its sixth year. It started with one FIRST LEGO League (FLL) team for students in grades 4-8. The program has grown to include seven Junior FIRST LEGO League (JrFLL) teams for grades 1-3, five FLL teams, and three FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) teams for high school students. These 15 teams represent more than 100 students working outside of class to learn about engineering, robotics, and computer programming, and to solve real-world problems. At least 25 adults volunteer time outside of their regular teaching duties to work with these students.

The JrFLL teams, first through third grades, explore a real-world scientific program such as food safety, recycling, or energy. Students from Garrison-Pilcher Elementary were on-hand with their Show Me posters that illustrate their

*Robotics Cont. on Page 6*



**LEARNING TEAMWORK AT HAND-IN-HAND** - Teamwork and cooperation are skills that children need to be successful. These students in Brooke Whittington's class were working, not playing, in the block area. Pictured on the left, Kemaury Copeland and Channing Crimley (back, L-R) built a wall while Zackary Fransiscoe (front, L-R) and Promyse Cromartie built a separate wall. In the second picture, the group figured out that if they worked together and pooled their resources, they could build a bigger, stronger wall. To build the wall they applied math, science, and social skills.

#### *Robotics Cont. from Page 5*

journeys of discovery. They also shared their motorized models of what they learned using LEGO elements.

Students from Cross Creek Elementary and Thomas County Middle School attended the meeting to represent the FIRST LEGO League teams designed for grades 4-8. The team from the middle school shared their project from the recent region competition where they brought home a trophy for their project and qualified to advance to super-regionals.

Like the JrFLL, FLL teams also research a real-world problem, but they are challenged to develop a solution. The teams must design, build, and program a robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS®, then compete on a table-top field. FIRST Tech Challenge, or FTC, is the level for high school students. Ferrel explained more about FTC and this year's theme.

"The theme for FTC this year is Velocity Vortex," said Ferrel. "Because of the complexity involved in designing, building, and programming our robot, we do not have a project component to our competition. We have three teams who started with the same materials, but when



Central High School students Martin Medina (L-R), Hailey Ferrel, and Ashlyn Quattlebaum led a recent presentation at Kiwanis about the Thomas County K-12 robotics program.

you look at our robots, you can see how we each used different designs, and we programmed them differently."

Ferrel explained how community outreach is a big part of their competition. After she thanked sponsors and identified volunteers, she introduced Quattlebaum.

Quattlebaum explained more about the competition.

"Once the challenge is released in September, we begin following the engineering process to meet the challenge so that we have a robot that will score as many points as possible," Quattlebaum said. "It's hard to do this because we want to get in there and start building, but we first have to set goals and decide what

tasks we want our robot to do. We design our robot around our plan, but as we build it, we sometimes have to rework our plans many times to accomplish our goal."

The high school robotics team has a Makerbot 3D printer which allows them to create custom parts for the robots. Once the robot is built, she explained that the programmers take over because "these robots won't do anything unless they are programmed to do it."

Before Medina explained what is involved during the competition, Quattlebaum shared the many new programs offered in Thomas County Schools.

"Starting in kindergarten,

students learn the process of engineering," Quattlebaum said. "Students begin learning computer science skills in first grade, and by the end of second grade, students are able to work in groups to design a game on a tablet. In third and fourth grades, students are learning how to think computationally about how a computer works. These students code an Ozobot to bowl and knock down pins!"

Computer science classes begin at Thomas County Middle School and continue at Thomas County Central High School. High school students can take several levels of computer science where they learn how to develop apps and code in several computer languages.

Quattlebaum added, "With this classroom instruction, we hope that our JrFLL, FLL, and FTC teams will not only grow, but will be even more competitive. We are excited about what we get to learn both inside and outside the classroom, and we appreciate the support of the teachers, administration, and community so we can have these opportunities."

After the presentation, Kiwanis members asked questions and walked around to see what the robots could do.



## State Superintendent Lunches and Learns with County Students and Teachers



Woods visited Cindy Griner's nursing class and quizzed students on how they plan to use the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification that they were earning. He was impressed that students would earn the same credential at the high school that many students have to go to a technical college to obtain.

When State School Superintendent Richard Woods visited Thomas County Central High School, he declared, "Now that would be a first," as he watched agriculture students on Central's mobile classroom riding out to the system's on-campus farm. "I have been all over the state, and I have never seen a school with a working farm," Woods said.

Central's on-campus farm is a laboratory for the system's expansive agriculture program. From row-crops, to greenhouses, to chickens and other animals, agriculture is one of eight CTAE programs at Thomas County Central High School.

"During the visit, we were excited to show Mr. Woods all of the career technical options students could pursue in the PREP Academy," said Thomas County's CTAE director Beth Adams. "Our teachers were able to talk with him about the certifications students could earn, potential post-secondary opportunities in their career fields, and the benefits of

having our programs industry certified," she said.

While visiting a nursing class, Woods quizzed students on how they planned to use the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification that they were earning. He was impressed that students would earn the same credential at the high school that many students have to go to a technical college to obtain.

Woods referenced recent data that shows the graduation rate for students involved in Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) has risen to 94.9 percent in Georgia.

"We were pleased to highlight the eight CTAE programs at TCCHS which help students see the connection between school and career success," Adams said.

Following a tour of the school, Woods lunched with a group of Thomas County Central faculty and students along with district office and school administrators.

Woods praised the



Georgia's School Superintendent Richard Woods met Buzz during his visit to Thomas County Central recently. Woods toured the school, visited various classrooms, and ate lunch with county students and teachers.

diverse offerings at Thomas County Central. "It is not often that you see a school with so many fully developed programs under one roof," he said. "From the fine arts with studio art, band, chorus and dance, to sixteen Advanced Placement offerings and on-campus college courses and a Career Academy all under one roof, Central students have many great choices and opportunities," Woods said.

Junior Shivani Patel was one of the students who ate lunch with Woods.

"During the lunch I shared some of the successes of our school, Patel said. "I mentioned college classes, school clubs, sports, and school spirit. I wanted Mr. Woods to know how unique and different our school is from other schools," Patel said.

Social Studies Department Chair Leigh Barwick was one of the teachers whose classroom Woods visited, and she also had lunch with him.

"I found him to be very personable and enthusiastic,"

Barwick said. "He shared his thoughts about our school and about the future of education. He also made it very clear that if we ever needed help or had questions, he would be more than happy to offer the support that we needed. Superintendent Woods appeared to be a champion for both the student and the teacher," she said.

Principal Trista Jones accompanied Woods as he walked through the TCCHS campus.

"Superintendent Woods spoke highly of our teachers and students and was impressed with our facility and the wide variety of opportunities afforded to our students," Jones said. "He was open to listening to our teachers and students and praised the enthusiasm and passion for our school that he witnessed during his visit."

Upon his departure, Woods noted Principal Trista Jones' passion for the school.

"She is a fireball, she lights up the whole place," he said.

## TCCHS FBLA Retains Region Title for Sixth Consecutive Year



TCCHS FBLA chapter retained its region title for the sixth consecutive year. The club won top honors over 25 other counties in the FBLA Region 1 Leadership Conference and Competition held in Moultrie.

Thomas County Central High School's Future Business Leaders of America chapter continues to dominate its region's competition.

For the sixth consecutive year, the TCCHS program won the region title. It competed against 25 other counties in the FBLA Region 1 Leadership Conference and Competition, held January 13 in Moultrie.

TCCHS FBLA members received top honors in the areas of publication design, graphic design, video, and various testing and business events. They took home 29 first place medals as well as placement medals in a variety of other categories.

"The feeling is truly overwhelming and incredible at the same time," club president Tyler Williamson said. "As president, you never want to be the one to lose the region title after all these years. However, it wasn't me winning the crown; it was the whole chapter. They're (the members) absolutely outstanding and worked incredibly hard for this. As president, I am absolutely thrilled over the success, and I am so proud, but I was proud of everyone before they ever

passed out awards. It's an honor to lead such brilliant minds."

Williamson adds the club's repeat success "shows how tremendously talented our chapter is," proves how "long hours of hard work" pays off, and how the club works together as a "family."

Member Brock Reid agrees. He said TCCHS FBLA is "like a second family."

"We all get along very well and work with each other even better," he said. "There's always someone in our FBLA that will be there for you and will make sure to make you feel like you're a part of something more than just a high school club. I'm extremely blessed and honored to be able to be a part of an organization that takes such pride in doing the best they can and proving themselves to others around them no matter the obstacle."

Adviser Nicholas Haskin said, without a doubt, this could not have been done without the help of the club's group of dedicated advisers as well as support from school and system administration. But, he adds, Friday was about the kids' accomplishments.

"I could not be more proud

of a bunch of students," he said. "This day is about these students and what they were able to accomplish by putting in the work."

This is Caleb Moore's first year in FBLA. He joined due to his "yearning to become a better leader."

"I feel that our FBLA chapter is the most proficient chapter and that's why we earned and received a six-peat winning streak," Moore said. "I say this not out of boastfulness but from facts and experience."

Haskin said the yearly region event reminds him of past students' successes, as well as how much the program has grown.

"I remember taking 10 or 15 students to region and hoping to qualify three or four of them for state," he said. "Now, we arrive at Region 1 Leadership Conference and Competition with 72 competitors with expectations of moving at least 50 of them on to state."

Gabby Hoffs placed first in intro to business presentation and advanced to state, an accomplishment she is very proud of considering it was her first competition.

"I will prepare by looking over the feedback from the judges to make sure it (her presentation) is the best it can be," Hoffs said.

Reid placed first in banking and financial systems and second in future business leader. He chose these areas because he "had a firm understanding of what was required" and knew he would enjoy participating in them. Reid is "extremely happy" to qualify for state in both events and promises to work "several times harder" to ensure he qualifies for national competition in California.

Vice president Anna Jense said the chapter's success "comes from the hard work of each and every individual."

"It takes a ton of time and dedication to prepare for events and without the hard work of the students we definitely would not be the top chapter in the region," she said. "We see other schools that outnumber us with 100 plus members, but because of our members' desire to be the best, we come out on top."

State competition will be held March 12-14 in Athens.



TCCHS FBLA Membership & Recruiting Vice President Huntley Rodgers hoists the first place trophy over his head as he and fellow club members celebrate their victory.