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Cascade High School junior places among top ten in the nation Max White places ninth in Future Business Leaders of America national competition

Cascade High School junior Max White took ninth place in Computer Problem Solving at Nationals for Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). This is the first time an Everett Public Schools student has finished in the top 10 in the Nation since FBLA was re-established three years ago at Cascade. White took first place at both Regionals and State in this event, while

also finishing fifth in Parliamentary Procedures and eighth in Business Calculations at the state level.



Max White proudly wears his FBLA medals

FBLA is a national organization and an optional club activity that provides an opportunity for students to compete in authentic business situations without having to take a particular class. Club Advisor and Business, Finance & Manufacturing teacher Bree Youngberg re-established the club at Cascade three years ago and has since helped establish clubs at both Jackson and Everett high schools.

According to Youngberg, there are more than 100 different FBLA competitions available for students that include objective only tests (no presentations), individual presentation events, team presentation events and role-play events. Competition is not required, but she has never had an FBLA student participate in

FBLA without competing at least at the Regional level. She relies on project-based learning where students "choose the event they would like to compete in and work with their team or individually to research the requirements and put together a presentation based on their background knowledge and research," explains Youngberg.

The Computer Problem Solving competition is an objective test where students demonstrate content knowledge. According to White, this year's test included questions on identifying parts of computer operating systems, solving specific computer problems and many networking and server questions. White, a full-time running start student, heard about FBLA from a few other students in the club.

The club has weekly morning "donut meetings" where Youngberg supplies donuts and members talk about a variety of business topics. She explains that FBLA is truly a student-led organization where students are free to "create their own authentic business experience" by demonstrating their current understanding of or learning about topics of interest on their own. Even though White doesn't attend daily classes at Cascade, "he would still drive over for the weekly meetings," said Youngberg.

"FBLA was a really great experience which challenged the things that I have learned as I needed to really apply them," explained White. He enthusiastically added, "it's not going to be an experience I ever forget."

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is the high school division of Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda, Inc. (FBLA-PBL), the largest career student business organization in the world. The mission of FBLA-PBL is to inspire and prepare students to become community-minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences. To learn more about FBLA, please visit https://www.fbla-pbl.org/about/.

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