What is it that keeps students joining FCCLA? Is it the new experiences around our district, state, and nation? Maybe it’s the split second right before you head into your competition with butterflies soaring around inside of you just hoping you make it through to Nationals. But most importantly, is it that FCCLA family that you hope to become a part of in your membership? Whether it is the traveling or the competing, members across Montana are joining our great organization, and FCCLA has a way to recognize all of them through the Go For Red Campaign and scholarships offered at State and National level, just to name a few.

One way to encourage membership is describing all of the benefits of FCCLA. There is always a personal connection that can be made. The Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America is the only student organization with family as its base, but of course, I imagine you already know that! By focusing on the multiple roles into which students can grow, thrive, cultivate, and develop, advisers are helping us in countless ways. Our FCCLA family has eight purposes that highlights all of the categorical benefits of FCCLA in our lives, including providing opportunities for personal development and preparation for adult life, and encouraging individual and group involvement in helping achieve global cooperation and harmony. FCCLA engages students by emphasizing career exploration and leadership development. Students learn to balance career and family responsibilities, enhance their STEM skills, and build technical skills in Family and Consumer Sciences related careers.

The Go For Red Campaign is a National Recognition of students and chapters across the nation. All you have to remember is: Recruit, Retain, and Recognize. Individuals that recruit three or more members to their chapter receive a special Go For Red T-Shirt. Additionally, chapters are awarded Bronze for recruiting ten new members, Silver for 15 new members, and Gold for 20 new members.

MT FCCLA and National FCCLA both offer many scholarships. State scholarships that we highly encourage our seniors to apply for include Say Yes to FCS Education, Marie Moebus, and the Montana FCCLA Leadership. The Say Yes to FCS scholarship is for students pursuing a degree in FCS education at Montana State University. Additional scholarship details can be found on the MT FCCLA website. National scholarships are awarded to members interested in many Family & Consumer Sciences content areas.

FCCLA is an incredible organization, and we hope that students across the state are working to recruit other members and exhibit the benefits of our organization in their everyday life. We highly encourage our senior members to apply for the many scholarships found on the FCCLA websites. Our State Executive Council is looking forward to seeing all the new faces at our State Leadership Conference this spring!

- Jenna Paul, VP of Membership