

For Immediate Release

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Date: April 24, 2019
Photo attached: Four members attending conference



ALASKA BPA DELEGATES FROM CAREER TECH HIGH AND MAT SU COLLEGE

Local Area Business/IT Students Travel to Anaheim, California to Participate in the Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference

Students from Mat Su Career and Technical High School (CTHS) and Mat Su College (MSC)/Alaska Statewide Post-Secondary Chapter will be attending the Business Professionals of America (BPA) 2019 National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, CA, May 1-5, 2019. CTHS chapter members, Shannon Hill, Robert Molina and Landon McDowell and the Alaska Statewide Post-Secondary Chapter member, Engen Sundberg, will join nearly 6,000 other conference delegates from across the nation to participate in national level business skills competitions, workshops, general sessions, and national officer candidate campaigns and elections. Besides having the opportunity to excel, they'll experience the city of Anaheim, CA and the surrounding areas.

"Each year, the National Leadership Conference offers our students the opportunity to showcase their skills and compete against other students from across the country, and be recognized for the dedication and hard work they have put forth through the year," said chapter advisor Amy Riddle, who teaches in the Business Pathway at Mat Su Career and Technical High School.

Each of the members from both chapters have qualified at the Alaska BPA State Leadership Conference to compete in their competitive events. These include: College Accounting, Fundamental Word Processing, Fundamental Spreadsheet Applications, Visual Basic/C#Programming, PC Servicing and Troubleshooting and Systems Administration Using Cisco. Third-party certifications will be made available to members attending the conference. These members will be taking Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) and Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA) certification exams in: MOS Word, MOS Access, MOS PowerPoint MOS Excel, MTA Networking Fundamentals, MTA Security Fundamentals, and MTA Administration Fundamentals.

Members will participate in the following leadership training workshops through BPA University: (1) Go MAD: Make a Difference in your School, Community and Beyond, (2) The Incredible College Exchange,

(3) Roadmap to Your Future, (4) Mastering the Art of Photography, and (5) National Alumni Division Panel.

The National Secondary and Post-Secondary Officer Campaigns and Elections will be held. All of these members will be Alaska Association Voting Delegates and will participate in the campaign/election process.

The BPA Torch Awards Program is designed to promote professionalism and leadership in both career development and personal growth. Students complete activities in the seven Torch categories-- Leadership; Service; Cooperation; Knowledge; Friendship; Love, Hope, Faith; and Patriotism--then log their activities in an online Torch Résumé. The highest level in the BPA Torch Awards Program is Ambassador. Three of the members, Landon McDowell, Robert Molina and Engen Sundberg, have earned their Ambassador Torch Award and will be recognized at the National Honor Awards Session. In addition, Antonio Colyar, a member of the CTHS BPA Chapter, will be recognized for earning his Ambassador Torch Award.

BPA Cares is a program that shines a light on and recognizes BPA chapters and their members who participate in community service. As part of the BPA Cares Program, the BPA Marketing and Public Relations Award is designed to promote the image of Business Professionals of America and its members; to inform the public of the meaning and objectives of BPA; to encourage the creation of media promotions and to encourage organized local chapter membership recruiting efforts/activities. The CTHS chapter has completed the requirements for the BPA Marketing and Public Relations Award and will be recognized at the BPA National Leadership Conference.

The BPA National Center provides a wide variety of opportunities to our members for continual leadership development training. The BPA Student Certification series is one of those leadership development opportunities. Shannon Hill, Landon McDowell and Engen Sundberg have completed all of the requirements in this program and will be recognized at the National Honor Awards Session. In addition, Amaya Hervey, a member of the CTHS BPA Chapter, will be recognized for earning her BPA Student Certification.

Business Professionals of America is a national organization for high school, college, and middle school students preparing for careers in business, finance, management information systems and other related fields. The organization's activities and programs complement classroom instruction by giving students practical experience through application of the skills learned at school. BPA has the ability to enhance student participation in professional, civic, service and social endeavors. Members participate in these activities to accomplish goals of self-improvement, leadership development, professionalism, community service, career development, public relations, student cooperation and safety and health.

Business Professionals of America acts as a cohesive agent in the nationwide networking of education and business and industry. The mission of Business Professionals of America is to contribute to the preparation of global professionals through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills.

Business Professionals of America is aided in this endeavor with financial support from companies, institutions and organizations such as: Association of International Certified Professional Accountants, Certiport, Northwood University, Precision Exams and Capsim. The generous support by BPA's many partners facilitates scholarships, educational resources, professional development workshops, webinars and other opportunities for our students and educators and helps make BPA's National Leadership Conference possible and successful.

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