

## February is Career & Technical Education Month

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) was considered to be a hidden gem throughout my high school experience. As I was encouraged to become a class representative for FCCLA at Southside High School, I had no idea what being a part of the organization entailed. Little did I know that by dedicating a small portion of time each week to help raise awareness, money, or organize a project, I was being molded into a leader within my community. The organization pulled me out of my comfort zone as I ran, and was elected District 1 parliamentarian in 2013-2014, and eventually District 1 president in 2014-2015. FCCLA opened up doors for me as I was speaking at STAR Events on the UAFS campus when the Chancellor of the institution approached me to offer me a scholarship. Honored to accept such a wonderful opportunity, I have carried what I learned through FCCLA to my college campus. Last summer, I was given the opportunity to travel to Japan with UAFS to speak at a leadership conference at Doshisha Women's College where I spoke of the importance in getting involved in organizations within their school. I cannot thank FCCLA enough for shaping me into the woman that I am today.

- ***Madison Needham***



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