

For Immediate Release

Contact Person: Christine Phipps, BPA State Advisor

Phone: 575-562-2188

E-mail: Christine.phipps@regionix.org

Address: ENMU, Cherry Street Station, #61

City, State, ZIP: Portales, NM 88130

Date: August 3, 2011

**Local Students and Teachers Participate in National Leadership Conference
In Washington, D.C. for Competition, Recognition, and Historic Opening Session**

Over 230 students, and advisors from New Mexico, participated in the May 4-8, 2011 National Leadership Conference of Business Professionals of America in Washington, D.C. Students demonstrated their business skills and problem solving abilities in finance, management, IT and computer applications. Twenty-nine High School students and 32 Middle Level students received Top 10 Awards in the Nation in various areas. (see attached) These students represented 13 different schools across the state of New Mexico. The Torch Awards and Special Recognition Awards recognize students and chapters, respectively, for their leadership and service to the community. Eight Middle Level and 24 Secondary students, received the Ambassador Torch Award while five awards were obtained by New Mexico in the Special Recognition Areas. These students from New Mexico have been active on the local level during the 2010-2011 school year participating in community service projects, leadership activities, and competitive events at their Regional and State level in order to earn the honor of representing NM at the National level.

Approximately 5,500 students and advisors from throughout the United States participated in Business Professionals of America's 45th National Leadership Conference. Activities included general sessions with keynote speakers, business meetings, leadership workshops, contests, election of national officers, and tours of Washington, DC. sights and attractions! The highlight of the conference was the presentation of the awards to the winners of the national contests. Our opening general session took place May 4 on the lawn of the Washington Monument.

Many of the New Mexico Chapters were able to meet with Senator Udall and Senator Bingaman as well as Congressman Ben Ray Lujan and Congressman Steve Pearce while in Washington, DC. The students were excited to see a friendly face from New Mexico and to share the importance of Career Technical Student Organizations.

Business Professionals of America is the leading CTSO (Career Technical Student Organization) for students pursuing careers in business management, office administration, information technology and other related career fields. Visit us at <http://www.bpa.org>.

###