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*SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT*

**PRESS RELEASE**

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October 21, 2020

Five Santa Maria High School Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter officers virtually attended Region 7's Chapter Leader Officer Training (COLT) on Saturday, October 17.

Chapter officers included: Gail Victoria Demition, Cristal Gomez, Maria Nolasco, Norah Reynes and Yosuni Rodriguez. The officers were given the opportunity to network with other FCCLA leaders from around the area, receive training regarding their chapter office position, and advance their leadership skills.

"I liked the atmosphere that was created between all of us at our meeting and what FCCLA stands for in general," Gomez said.

"I personally really liked how everyone was really kind and respectful during the entire meeting," Rodriguez said. "All rules were followed and I think everyone had a good time because it was a meeting to get to know each other depending on the position we want. They made fun games for us to play to get to know each other. I think it was awesome that everyone participated."

"I like how everyone was having a great time and I learned what some of the responsibilities the leaders have are," Nolasco added.

Three chapter advisers, Mary Foley, Erin Pearson, and Nicki Pedeliski, attended an adviser update session regarding competitions and future conferences.

"I am so glad that we were still able to conduct this training under these unique virtual circumstances," Pearson said. "It was a great opportunity for our students to be involved and learn skills that will last a lifetime. Watching these students step up and want to be better leaders makes me very excited for this year and our future."

The FCCLA is a dynamic and effective national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through Family and Consumer Sciences education. FCCLA has over

150,000 members and over 6,500 chapters from 50 state associations, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The organization has involved more than ten million youth since its founding in 1945.

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