

Sophomore at Newbury Park High elected state officer for FHA-HERO

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A student from Newbury Park High School has been elected to serve as a state officer for the California Association FHA-HERO, a pre-professional organization for secondary students enrolled in home economics careers and technology programs. Madison Carr, 15, a sophomore, was elected as the state FHA-HERO reporter at the 64th annual FHA-HERO state leadership meeting in Fresno in April. She also was recognized with a Chapter Golden State Degree for her leadership and citizenship in her chapter.

Madison has just completed a year as president of the local region of FHA-HERO chapters that includes Ventura, Los Angeles and Orange counties. "In the past year, I have conducted two region meetings, for about 100 students last fall, and 350 students at the spring meeting," she said. "I wanted to be elected to the state level. I am so passionate about FHA-HERO and how it helps students." As state reporter, Madison will be responsible for writing monthly newsletters and submitting articles to the national organization known as Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America.

Madison said her goal is to attend the College of Culinary Arts at Johnson & Wales University in Denver, become a chef and own a restaurant. "I've always been interested in cooking and culinary arts. I like to cook, and I like to be in charge," she said.

The Newbury Park High School FHA-HERO program is focused on the food services and hospitality industries. "They earn a certificate of proficiency if they complete the whole course," said Leigh Ann Diffenderfer who teaches food and nutrition and culinary arts courses at the school. "That means they're employable at entry level in the restaurant business." Diffenderfer said about 200 students participate in the school's program, giving the school the largest chapter in FHA-HERO Region 9.

"FHA-HERO focuses on citizenship, leadership and career development. We conduct chapter meetings, fundraisers and community service," she said. "NPHS students compete in commercial food preparation contests judged by professional chefs. We conduct chapter meetings, fundraisers and community service."

The California Association FHA-HERO, which is sponsored by the California Department of Education, offers the Competitive Recognition Events program for students to apply skills learned in the classroom and to receive recognition for their accomplishments.

At the state conference in Fresno, senior Jasmine Polk placed second in the commercial food preparation competition, receiving a trophy, a professional knife kit valued at approximately

\$300 and a \$1,000 scholarship to Johnson & Wales University. "NPHS students have placed in the top three for three years in a row, and we're the only chapter to have achieved that," Diffenderfer said.

Eight of the school's students went to the conference, which was attended by about 800 students from across California. Senior Daniel Pond won the Pin Exchange competition, honored as the "friendliest student" at the conference. The school's chapter also was given a Superior Chapter Award at the Silver Level and three membership awards. Diffenderfer won recognition as a Silver Level Region Star Advisor.