



Today's students. Tomorrow's business professionals.

MICHIGAN DELEGATES SPREAD THEIR WINGS AT THE 2017 NLC

The 2017 Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida was a magical experience and full of excitement. Students traveled to Disney World to participate in an educational and professional development conference for students in business education programs throughout the country. This year's conference was held on May 10-14, 2017 and all conference participants enjoyed themselves.



Michigan students participating in Disney YES Leadership Experience

The conference kicked off with 47 students from Michigan participating in a Disney YES (Youth Education Series) leadership seminar. Students attend a three-hour training session and learned about various leadership styles and also heard about some of the "magical" ways Disney conducts business and provides first-class service. During the three-hour seminar, students were engaged with various Disney YES seminar leaders at Epcot Center. They participated in various group activities throughout the theme park.

During the conference, there were 6,000 conference attendees representing 18 states and Puerto Rico. Michigan had 616 participants in attendance (471 students, 82 advisors, 3 alumni, and 60 chaperones/guests). There were 98 delegates from our Postsecondary Division, 481 from our Secondary Division, 3 from our Alumni Division, and 37 from our Middle Level Division making our delegation one of the largest at the conference.



Sharon Wyble receiving the Outstanding Service Award

One of the exciting moments was Sharon Wyble, from Stephenson High School, receiving the Outstanding Service Award. During the Honors Awards General Session, she also received an award for 40 years of service as a chapter advisor. Mrs. Wyble has made significant contributions to the organization and has produced a significant number of regional, state, and national years throughout her career as a BPA advisor. She has also served numerous terms as a regional advisor and has involved in making some key decisions for our organization.



Jacob Taylor (left) and Jon Perrault (right) will serve on the 2017-2018 national officer teams

Words cannot begin to describe how excited Michigan is to have two students elected to serve on the national officer teams. Jacob Taylor, our 2014-2015 State Parliamentarian and a student at Northwood University, was elected to serve as the 2017-2018 National Postsecondary President. Jon Perrault, our 2016-2017 State Secretary/Treasurer was elected to serve as the 2017-2018 National Secondary Vice-President. Jon is graduating from Escanaba High School this year and Jacob is also a graduate of Escanaba High School.



We are very proud of the 114 students who earned their Ambassador Torch Awards. Participation in this program is extremely rewarding because it provides opportunities for the participants to give back and to get more out of their BPA membership. This is the highest level of recognition in the Torch Awards Program. Collectively, all 114 students earned 59,625 points this year. The 2016-2017 accomplished their goal of increasing the number of torch awards recipients by 52% from last year.

The students in Michigan kept our tradition alive by rising to the top of the pack by continuing to win the most awards than any other state during the 2017 Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference.

Michigan also continued its tradition of sweeping at least one event. We continued this tradition by sweeping the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place slots in three competitions.

Michigan's Postsecondary Division put on a stellar performance in the competitions. During their awards session, Michigan dominated all the events. Our Postsecondary Division won 122 in the top 10, with 38 of those in the top 3. Of those 38, 22 were 1st place finishes.

Michigan's Secondary Division won 126 awards (the same number as 2016) in the top 10, 39 of which were in the top 3. Of the 39 in the top 3, 15 were 1st place finishes.

In its second year of existence, Michigan's Middle Level Division increased its number of award recipients and had its first 1st place winners. Our Middle Level Division won 17 awards in the top 10, 4 of which were in the top 3, with 2 of those being 1st place winners.



Farmington High School students attending the Awards Session



New Chairman of the Board of Trustees Patrick Schultz with his students from Bay-Arenac Career Center

In addition to the success of our students, Patrick Schultz will begin his third year on the BPA Board of Trustees serving as Chair of the Board. He was elected Board Chairman at the board meeting at the conclusion of the conference. In addition, our very own Michigan BPA Technology Coordinator and 2003-2004 Michigan BPA State President Dr. Nathaniel W. Cradit was elected to the BPA Board of Trustees. He will serve a three-year term. Michigan will have three representatives on the board; in his role as Postsecondary Division President, Jacob Taylor will serve a one-year term of the board.

Many students from Michigan earned industry certifications during the conference. The certifications ranged from networking and security fundamentals to Microsoft Office products. In addition, many students served as conference interns.

In addition to the excitement of competing and professional development, the trip was also fast paced due to the wonderful tours and outdoor excursions to Disney World, Cocoa Beach, Kennedy Space Center, and much more.

Michigan congratulates all our NLC participants and award winners!



Mona Shores High School enjoying the Florida sunshine between events



Van Buren Technology Center Denis Huffman and students attending the conference



Hillsdale High School students meeting Donald Duck



Tuscola Technology Center student Troy Maust with his \$750 award from placing 2nd in the Virtual Business Challenge



John Maier, Middle Level National Champion in Financial Literacy, from Hillsdale Middle School



Sault Area Career Center preparing to participate in the Walk for Special Olympics



Students taking certification exams



Northwood University celebrating their numerous victories after the Postsecondary Awards Session



**2017-2018 Postsecondary Division
National Officer Team**



**2017-2018 Secondary Division
National Officer Team**