



Message to Chapter Advisors

From National HOSA President, Luis Baez

In September, Mike Brode, National HOSA President-Elect, and I had an opportunity to attend the HOSA State Advisor Leadership Conference (SAM). After the first SAM dinner, Mike Brode and I went back to our hotel room to rest and watch TV. Randomly, a commercial came on for the new 'Knight Rider', and I must say, it looked really bad.

As a fan of the older 'Knight Rider' television show it was easy to see why the new version would be a failure. For starters, they made changes in all the wrong places and where they were not needed. As I think about HOSA, I know we are frequently attempting to make changes to ensure HOSA's future. I know too that if anyone asked you the question "Why is it that HOSA will have a successful future?" you can say because HOSA makes changes where it counts and because HOSA members everywhere have Chapter Advisors to lead the way.

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The new take on 'Knight Rider' show was a failure because changes were made in all the wrong places. The car isn't even a Trans Am - it is a Ford Mustang. My father and I loved the old show because we would drive around in a white Trans AM GTA with Phil Collin's "In the Air Tonight" on the radio. When HOSA makes changes, the changes prepare for the future where it does count.

Mike and I and HOSA State Officers spent four days in Washington as a product of that positive change. The State Officers, who went through an amazing Washington Leadership Academy, were constantly acting on the changes had needed to be made.

The 2008 Washington Leadership Academy was simply amazing, and the HOSA Officers were extremely impressive. They practiced impromptu speaking, met with Congressmen, and prepared to share what they learned to their local members. The factor I realize is that HOSA Advisors are the ones who are giving these students the mediums through which to be successful. These new changes include partnerships with the MRC and State Advisors are the ones who do this work and we thank you for that.

HOSA has a successful model because Chapter Advisors serve as the example for HOSA members everywhere. The National Officer Team and I had to come up with an adjective to describe what we wanted our team to be known as by the end of the year. We came up with the word "legendary", and I know it might be a given that if you stick eight guys in a room and ask them what they want to be they would come up with something like 'legendary', but it was a genuine attempt to model the work we see in Chapter Advisors. We thought of

'legendary' because that is how we see HOSA Advisors living every day. Near the end of the movie 'Spider-Man' the Green Goblin is on top of a bridge facing Spider-Man. In one hand he was holding a boxcar full of children, students, and parents which was symbolic of the new responsibilities he wanted to take on as Spider-Man. In the other hand, the Green Goblin had Mary-Jane Watson hanging from a cable as well which represented Peter Parker and what made him happy as a person. The Green Goblin let both hands go and said "We are who we choose to be. Now choose."

HOSA Advisors live that situation every single day. In one hand there hangs what they like or what makes them happy in their personal lives. And in the other hand hangs the responsibility of HOSA and being a Chapter Advisor. The difference though is that HOSA Advisors do not need superpowers to save both. This is something all members are aware of and I thank you for serving as this example every single day.

I often catch some flack when I attempt to compare HOSA to things like Beowulf, Spider-Man, or even 'Knight Rider'. I do this though because it is the only way I can begin to truly show how much I appreciate all the work you do. Instead of just saying "Thank you. Thank you for being here." I have to show you how you are perceived to HOSA members by placing you on a level above even Spider-Man. And I know that because of your work if anyone were to ask you why it is that HOSA will have a successful future you can say because HOSA Advisors make the changes where they need to be made and because HOSA Advisors serve as role members for all HOSA members across the nation.

Luis Baez and Mike Brode are recognized for their leadership by Kristen Davidson, Chairman, HOSA, Inc. Board of Directors



Luis Baez, National HOSA President, speaks to state advisors at the State Advisor Management Conference in Washington, D.C.