



National Association of Secondary School Principals Conference

Members of HOSA attended the NASSP conference in San Antonio, Texas in February of 2008. On Friday, February 22, 2008, Ms. Rose Ann Seale and her students, Tiffany Bunner and Diana Rascon, were the local HOSA representatives that helped with this initiative. Lorin Moton and Luis Baez from the National HOSA Executive Council also arrived on Friday to help with the booth.

This conference was a great opportunity to introduce HOSA to schools that did not have Health Science Programs. There was much interest exhibited by schools unaware of HOSA.



My NASSP Conference Experience

*Statement by Luis Baez,
National HOSA President-Elect*

I believe that the most beneficial conversation a National Officer can have with an advisor or educator; or even someone who has never heard of HOSA before, is a conversation about how professional our organization is and the benefits that are a result belonging to a professional organization. That being said, I believe that the NASSP Conference gave me the chance to have this conversation, and paint a picture of a student organization that goes full circle, that is 'co' and not 'extra' curricular.

First, the conference gave us the chance to talk to higher administrators within schools, and I particularly enjoyed how in some instances we even spoke to people who worked in the school's district office. There were many cases when administrators and principals who were not aware of HOSA said that they knew exactly who to get in touch with, and exactly who would more than enjoy utilizing HOSA. We also heard of situations and reasons why schools did not have HOSA to begin with, which gives us more insight to handling that problem.

Secondly, we were able to speak with teachers directly. The word of HOSA was spread on a grass roots level, and again, we often saw more than enthusiastic teachers tell us how they know of 5, 10, even 30 students in their school who could benefit from the organization. Even then, we spoke with plenty of private school educators who do not have a program related to HOSA - which should be addressed in the future as another area of potential growth.

Lastly, and most importantly, I believe that the conference was an ideal venue to address the mindset that HOSA is solely a technical education program, and that it may not appeal to certain schools because that 'technical ed' label. I specifically remember a man telling us that "[they] do things higher up". Although he intended to walk off right after that comment, I mentioned Academic Decathlon to make him stay a bit longer and then turned the conversation back to HOSA. What I got from the conversation with him was that the students in his school are AP level, and even the students who are not in AP classes still focus on academic activities. To paint a more balanced picture, I told him that as a student I took AP Chem and AP Bio and more than half of the students who were in my HOSA chapter were in those classes with me. The



level of expectation in HOSA events is just as high, if not higher, than AP standards.

Although the first two reasons may have been general, I think the conference, and others like this gave us the opportunity to learn of roadblocks that HOSA has that maybe we were or were not already aware of. We were able to address the problems that were presented to us there, but it shows that there are things to be addressed on a larger level.

- 1) How to lay a foundation with private schools.
- 2) How to combat the 'technical ed' tag.
- 3) How to more efficiently make educators across the US aware of HOSA and its benefits.

NASSP Report

By Lorin Moton, National HOSA Region I Vice President

Everything that I have done so far with HOSA has been a great learning experience. And this conference I would have to say has also taught me a lot, while at the same time I received the chance to inform others about our wonderful organization.

If anything I believe that being at this conference was very beneficial for both HOSA and the principals who participated. We meet new incoming principals, old principals, health education teachers, district administrators, potential partners, and the list can go on. Many of these individuals were very welcoming in letting us inform them of the many wonders of HOSA.

Having the flyers and large display posters helped us tremendously. They grabbed the attention of so many. And I believe without them we wouldn't have had as much attention as we did.

I never knew how oblivious so many school administrators are about our organization, and I felt that between everyone at the conference we did an excellent job at spreading the word of HOSA. Throughout the weekend I had many thoughtful conversations with Mrs. Regina St. George from National HOSA and Luis Baez. I believe we all look for the same thing in HOSA- wanting it to grow and expand to new great heights, and I believe this conference helped us tremendously in that future goal.

One of our officer goals for this year is to increase membership. Being at this conference, I believe that we took one more step at achieving this goal. Being a first time exhibitor I believe we did an excellent job, and I would strongly encourage HOSA to participate in this type of event more often.

Everything that I have done so far with HOSA has been a great learning experience.