

# The Informator

December 2023

## MEET THIS YEAR'S IL BPA STATE OFFICER TEAM!

In February 2023, during our state conference, our new State Officer team was elected during the closing session. This year's all-female team is comprised of our President Raeya Shah from Waubonsie Valley, Secretary Maya Penaru from Glenbrook South High School, Treasurer Aleksandra Stanojevic from Glenbrook South High School, Vice President of State Projects Anna Meng from Hinsdale South High School, Vice President of Special Recognition Anjali Bhawnani from Neuqua Valley, Vice President of Torch Awards Serene Bose from Neuqua Valley, and our Vice President of State Newsletter Samhita Subramanian from Waubonsie Valley School. These elected State Officers have been working diligently throughout the year to plan our Fall and State Leadership Conferences, as well as various other aspects of our state's events. The officer team is excited to lead this year's State Conference on February 27th - 29th and is looking forward to seeing all BPA members work hard at their events while enjoying a fun weekend in Oakbrook!



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## FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

On November 3rd, 2023, the College of Dupage hosted Illinois BPA's annual Fall Leadership Conference. Our in-person conference was a day filled with wonderful speakers and leadership activities. Illinois BPA hosted two guest speakers who gave students both leadership and career advice. Mr. Sam Anthony, a professional speaker, author, and personal trainer spoke on his mental health journey through inspiring anecdotes and lessons he learned throughout his life. Our next speaker was Ms. Uma Mulakala, an enterprise director at LinkedIn working with Fortune 200 companies, and a former IL BPA state officer. Sharing her past internships and current job experience at LinkedIn she was able to teach our students the intricacies of using the LinkedIn app to make various important connections to benefit their future careers. After listening to both our speakers, students participated in a state officer-led activity called Disruptus. In this activity, students practiced creativity, leadership, advertising skills, and teamwork through building business proposals of new inventions that they created in their teams. Finally, as part of the conference, BPA members participated in service through the College of Dupage's annual food drive by bringing in non-perishable items for those in need. Overall, the 2023 Fall Leadership Conference was an amazing start to the year for BPA members.

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## WAUBONSIE VALLEY SERVICE EVENT

On October 19th, 2023, Waubonsie Valley High School BPA in Aurora IL hosted a service event in collaboration with the Operation Christmas Child Organization. Students from Waubonsie Valley's chapter were joined by students from both Neuqua and Metea Valley BPA chapters to pack and box gifts for children in need. With amazing support from the Operation Christmas Child team, students were able to pack around 200 boxes of necessities and toys for the children. A great way to get involved, serve others, and kick off the holiday season!

## GLENBROOK SOUTH CANDYGRAMS FUNDRAISER

During the week of December 11th-15th, 2023, Glenbrook South's BPA chapter sold candygrams during lunches. Those who chose to buy the candygrams had the option of adding a note for a friend to generate some holiday cheer when they were delivered to people during the week of December 18th-22nd. All funds from the candygram sales went towards the support of Special Olympics. Students at Glenbrook South had a wonderful time sending candygrams to their friends while supporting an organization very close to BPA as a whole.

