

**CONTACT:** Christopher J. Hughes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Phone:** (570) 961-7856

Sept. 10, 2013

**Email:** hughesc@lackawanna.edu

## **LACKAWANNA COLLEGE STUDENT NETS NATIONAL AWARD**

### **Jason McLain recognized at FBLA-PBL national conference**

SCRANTON, Pa. – The decision to head back to school has earned one Lackawanna College student some national recognition.

Jason Alan McLain, 33, of Scranton, Pa., received national honors at the Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL) Awards of Excellence on June 25 during the organization's National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, Calif. McLain competed in Information Management and brought home a fifth place award for his score in a 100-question test on various topics.

"You really need a breadth of knowledge in everything that field encompasses," McLain said of the test.

McLain was eligible to travel to the national conference after earning second place honors in Pennsylvania during the state's conference in April 2013. Lackawanna College supported his trip to California.

"It was my first time west of Pennsylvania and the first time I've ever flown," he said. "It was an amazing experience, one that I'll remember for the rest of my life."

The 1998 graduate of West Scranton High School returned to school after several years in the work force, taking his first classes at Lackawanna last fall. He joined FBLA-PBL in the Spring 2013 semester. The proximity to his Scranton home and reputation of the business courses led him to Lackawanna.

"I've heard a lot of good things about the business courses here, in general, and a lot of good things about the professors," he said. "There are some really great people here that are super passionate about what they do, and there are some really brilliant minds in this building."

"Another thing is affordability," he continued. "It's a huge factor. It's such a good idea to go here and transfer to wherever you want to go. You're saving so much money, especially now that college students are facing historic levels of student debt."

McLain is due to graduate with an associate's degree in May 2014. He hopes to transfer his degree to another institution and pursue a bachelor's degree in business, but he's open to other opportunities.

According to club advisor Beverly O'Hora, about a dozen students are currently enrolled in the Lackawanna College Chapter of FBLA-PBL, a nonprofit organization focused on preparing students for careers in business and related fields. The organization meets Thursdays from 12:15 to 1 p.m. in the Green Room on the ground floor of Angeli Hall, 501 Vine St., Scranton. All majors are welcome to participate.