

VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Leading Businesses.
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Local Entrepreneur Encourages Future Business Leaders

Approximately 40 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Chapter members at Hahira Middle School gathered to learn about entrepreneurship, leadership and work-ethic from local business owner Jason Bellflowers on Thursday.

Bellflowers, owner of Virtual World Technologies and former HMS student and FBLA member, shared his experience as a young entrepreneur, describing how he started his business at 17 years of age with merely \$100. Bellflowers turned his inability to find a job after high school graduation into a business venture known as Virtual World Technologies. Bellflowers grew his company by supplying computers for technology classrooms in Lowndes County Schools.

Although Bellflowers has experienced success, he also shared his many failures as an entrepreneur. "If you want different results for your business, you must come up with new ideas and never be afraid to try them," he stated. "Perseverance, creative problem solving and innovative thinking are important traits to have."

The FBLA president responded to the presentation, stating "It is always beneficial for us to hear from business owners. After listening to Mr. Bellflowers I have the courage and belief that I can be a successful business owner."

Mrs. Sharon Walker, faculty sponsor, expressed her appreciation to Mr. Bellflowers by stating, "This is a great way for business leaders to connect and give back to the community. To have business owners from our community reinforce the importance of work-ethics, along with leadership characteristics is invaluable—the students listen and really process the information."

The Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber is committed to assisting with the development of necessary job skills and work ethics in the Valdosta area. If you are a business leader interested in volunteering to help motivate students in the Valdosta-Lowndes County community contact Keyara Hamilton at the Chamber at 229-247-8100 or khamilton@valdostachamber.com.

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Jason Bellflowers, owner of Virtual World Technologies, shows a FBLA member one of his company's microchips at a presentation at Hahira Middle School on Thursday.



Jason Bellflowers, owner of Virtual World Technologies, shares his story of entrepreneurship to Hahira Middle School's Future Business Leaders of America on Thursday.