

# MA BPA STATE MERIT SCHOLAR FACT SHEET

## General Information

### Mission Statement of Business Professionals of America

The mission of Business Professionals of America is to contribute to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills.

### Meaning of the Organization's Name

- Business:** The field for which we prepare our students; emphasizes that we educate our members to work efficiently, not only in an office setting, but also in a wide variety of business situations.
- Professionals:** Our students indicate they join Business Professionals of America to take advantage of a wide variety of professional development opportunities.
  - of America:** Symbolizes pride in our country and its free enterprise business system.



### Meaning of Official Colors

- Navy blue signifies the success achieved through leadership and professionalism.
- Tan represents the bountiful fields of opportunity in America.
- Red symbolizes the friendship obtained through teamwork in our organization.

### Use of the Acronym

Using an acronym (BPA) to identify the organization is acceptable in casual conversation and personal correspondence. Once the name is spelled out in full, the acronym may be used in text. Do not use the acronym for cover titles or headlines.

### Annual Theme

This year's theme is "Stand Out from the Crowd"

### BPA Pledge

We are met in a spirit of friendship and goodwill as we prepare for careers in a world-class workforce. We work together to develop professionalism and leadership through Business Professionals of America and pledge our loyalty to our nation.

### Tag Line

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Business Professionals.

### Emblem

- The purposes of Business Professionals of America are symbolized by the emblem and its meaning:
- The four points of the shield stand for ambition, leadership, sociability, and poise. The shield itself stands for honor, dignity, and the importance of business in America.
- The stripes represent the essential characteristics of a very successful worker-education, citizenship, loyalty, patriotism, dependability, and competency. The bar represents the service provided by those employed in business occupations.
- The quill and inkwell represent the stability of business occupation.
- Finally, the torch represents worthy goals pursued by the organization and its members. The emblem's use is restricted to BPA ceremonies.

## **BPA Attire**

- The name tag is worn on the right side of the jacket.
- The highest torch award pin earned is placed on the right lapel.
- The national merit pin is placed on the right lapel.
- The year membership pin is placed on the left lapel.
- The officer pin is placed on the right lapel above the name tag.

## **Membership**

Business Professionals of America has 45,000+ members in 24 states. There are four divisions of Business Professionals of America: secondary, post secondary, middle level, and alumni.

## **Communication**

National Website – [www.bpa.org](http://www.bpa.org)

Online Publication: *The Wire*

## **History of Business Professionals of America**

**1966** In July, the Vocational Office Education Clubs of America (VOECA) was formed by the states of Iowa, Kansas, and Wisconsin.

**1971** A national office was established for the Office Education Association in Columbus, Ohio, and the Board of Trustees approved the Alumni Division.

**1973** The first full-time Executive Director of OEA was employed.

**1982** The present national Center at 5454 Cleveland Avenue, Columbus, Ohio was purchased.

**1984** Board of Trustees commissioned the Market One firm of Columbus, Ohio to do a marketing study of the OEA. The resulting long-range marketing plan recommended reform of the national image of the OEA.

**1988** Image reform recommendations of the marketing study were implemented—**the OEA became Business Professionals of America.**

**1992** The National Center is paid off and the mortgage is burned in a ceremony at the National Leadership Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**2003** The Middle Level Program was approved by BPA Corporate. The BPA Middle Level Division is born.

## **National Center and the National Leadership Conference (NLC)**

The national association coordinates all national programs, conferences, publications, and the competitive events program. The National Association coordinates the National Leadership Conference (NLC) which is 4 days in length and is held annually during the last week of April or the first two weeks of May. It provides keynote speakers, election of national officers, national level competitive events, tours, entertainment, and award presentations

Several special recognition awards which are non-competitive are offered to encourage local member involvement in association and community activities and to provide recognition for the achievement of the member and/or chapter. The National Special Recognition Awards are as follows:

- 1. Environmental Action and Awareness Award:** awarded to chapters for raising awareness of and doing something about environmental issues.
- 2. Community Relief Service Award:** to encourage BPA chapters to provide volunteer services, to assist with disaster services, to provide health and safety community education, to participate in blood drives, and/or to raise and donate monetary support for relief organizations.
- 3. BPA Marketing and Public Relations:** awarded to chapters for recruitment, promotion, and public relations activities

4. **Chapter Activities Award of Excellence:** awarded to chapters for outstanding annual program of activities
5. **Community Action:** awarded to chapters for community/school service activities
6. **Entrepreneurship Exploration:** awarded to individual student members for outreach and research into local community free enterprise
7. **Member Recruiter:** awarded to individual members for recruiting five or more new chapter members during a school year
8. **Merit Scholar:** awarded to individual members for possessing exemplary Knowledge of Business Professionals of America
9. **National Center Capital Improvements Campaign:** Awarded to chapters, individual members, and state associations for monetary contributions for the capital improvement of the BPA National Center
10. **Safety Awareness (including Drug Awareness/Anti-Violence Awareness):** awarded to chapters for safety education activities
11. **Special Olympics (Business Professionals of America's national service project):** awarded to chapters for volunteer service or fund-raising for Special Olympics
12. **The Professional Cup** is awarded each year to one State Association in each division that has the highest weighted percentage of chapters involved in the Special Recognition Awards program.
13. **Quality Chapter Distinction Award:** Quality Chapter Distinction means being designated as a chapter that has met the requirements of being an actively involved in Business Professionals of America.

## Programs

### Workplace Skills Assessment Program

This program is conducted on regional, state, and national levels and tests competency in various areas of business/office occupations. There are over 50 (including Middle Level) competitive events in four different categories. The four categories include: Financial Services, Administrative Support, Information Technology, and Management/Marketing/Human Resources.

### Special Recognition Awards

The Special Recognition Awards Program is open to participation by all chapters. Each Special Recognition Award is outlined in the Special Recognition Awards handbook.

### Special Olympics

Special Olympics is our national service project. The National activity is the Chain of Love.

### Torch Awards Program

The Torch Awards Program recognizes outstanding actively involved members on the local, regional, state, and national levels. There are nine torches in seven activity divisions. The torches are leadership, service, cooperation, knowledge, friendship, love, hope, faith, and patriotism.

Local Award	Executive	10 pts in each category
Regional Award	Diplomat	30 pts in each category
State Award	Statesman	50 pts in each category
National Award	Ambassador	70 pts in each category

## MASSACHUSETTS BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA FACTS

### **State Officer Team**

The State Officer Team includes President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Officers at Large.

The 2010-2011 officer team consists of Andrew George, President; Madeline Bianchi, Vice President; and Rachel Matthew, Secretary; Courtney Woods, Treasurer; and Olivia Barrett, Officer at Large.

### **Running for State Officer Team**

- have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher,
- be a member in good standing by February 15
- complete documentation listed in the State Officer Handbook
- speak at the State Leadership Conference
- interview with the Officer selection committee

### **State Officer Team Responsibilities**

- represent MA BPA at conferences, meetings, etc.
- plan and manage the Fall Leadership Conference
- present Leadership Development workshops
- provide input and assistance in all areas at the State Leadership Conference
- serve as voting delegates at the National Leadership Conference

### **State Officer Staff**

Judith McKinsty, State Director

Kristin McManus, Assistant State Director

### **Current Chapters**

There are 13 chapters in MABPA.

Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School	Lower Pioneer Valley
Bristol-Plymouth Regional High School	Marlborough High School
Greater New Bedford High School	McCann Regional Technical High School
Hudson High School	Natick High School
Joseph P. Keefe Technical High School	Shawsheen Regional Technical High School
Longmeadow High School	Taconic High School
Lowell High School	

**State Website** – [www.mabpa.com](http://www.mabpa.com)

### **State Conference**

***Fall Leadership Conference (FLC)*** is an opportunity for local chapter officers and leaders to meet together in a professional business setting working together to develop leadership skills. The Massachusetts State Officer team prepare presentations and interactive workshops dealing with

communications and team building skills, competitive events and the theme for the year. In past years the themes have centered on financial literacy, civic responsibility and business ethics. Advisors meet together to discuss state and national trends in the business education, review the Workplace Skills Assessment Program and available member opportunities as well as share the best practices. Also, planning begins for the State and National Leadership Conferences.

**State Leadership Conference (SLC)** is a 3 day event in March.

Students have the opportunity to

- compete in the Workplace Skills Assessment Program
- attend workshops presented by the State Officer Team and alumni
- intern with the State Association
- elect the State Officers for the upcoming year
- attend a Special Event and a dance
- attend the Awards Brunch

**State Contests** (details of all contests are available at [mabpa.com](http://mabpa.com))

- Cover Contest** – members enter designs for the SLC program cover. The winning design is used.
- Writing Contest** – members compose essays based on a specified topic. The winner reads a portion of their essay at SLC.
- Pin Contest** – members enter design for the state pin to be traded at the NLC.
- Community Service** – members prepare reports on their chapters community service projects.