

## New Jersey SkillsUSA Friday Flash 10/27/23

### **Message from the Desk of the State Director**

I would like to thank all who were in attendance on Wednesday for our Fall Leadership and advisors meeting. I hope that you all understand the changes that are taking place are in the best interest of NJ SkillsUSA, and they were not made lightly, but were implemented due to the continued growth and change of the organization. If you have any questions or concerns, you can always reach out to me and we will discuss them. Thank you again for the tremendous support that you showed yesterday for NJ SkillsUSA.

**Construction Cluster Meeting:** The construction Cluster Meeting is rescheduled for Jan 17th along with our advisors meeting at the NJPSA from 9:30am- 1:30 pm.

**Potential Roofing Demo Contest:** We recently received information about the potential Commercial [Roofing Demo Contest](#). Please see attached and pass on the following information to your instructors:

[Careers in Roofing](#): (national job board for the industry)

[Recruitment Toolkit](#) (flyers, salary information, etc.)

[NRCA's TRAC: Thermoplastic](#) (recommended to prepare for SkillsUSA Commercial Roofing)

[NCCER's Roofing](#) (written in partnership with NRCA, 6 selected mods will prep students for CR and TeamWorks) Used by 17 ABC chapters as their roofing apprenticeship program.

**Sponsors:** Advisors, if you know any industry professionals, please try to find one sponsorship for our career fair contributions.

**Guidance Counselors:** It came to our attention at WLTI that many states that have incredibly competitive and successful chapters also have a large number of guidance counselors involved as advisors. Since they are a department which has critical and meaningful interactions about future aspirations with their CTE students, it makes sense that they are involved! If you know a guidance counselor or department that would like more information about the organization, please reach out to Courtney, so that she can arrange a meeting or information session with the guidance or career department in your district.

Thank you and have a great weekend!

*Ralph Starace*

**News from the National Office** *(Check out some of these new and exciting opportunities for your students!)*

**Building a Stronger Workforce Takes ALL of Us**

Beginning in November and continuing throughout the year, SkillsUSA will be celebrating

various Heritage Months that have been recognized by current and past U.S. presidents and that match communities identified explicitly in career and technical education (CTE) legislation. This step signals our deeply held commitment to spotlight various community groups that make our diverse workforce strong, dynamic and productive. In November, we'll be celebrating "National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month" and "National Veterans and Military Families Month." Look for posts recognizing these months on our social platforms, websites and e-newsletters. For more on SkillsUSA's commitment to diversity and our Heritage month recognitions, [visit our website](#). By expanding our vision of career and technical education, we increase the economic prosperity of our students, communities and nation.

### **Join as a Professional Member by Nov. 15 for Extra Benefits**

Becoming a professional member of SkillsUSA is one of the best ways to demonstrate to students the opportunities that membership provides. As a benefit of membership, professional members receive [many resources and benefits](#) including online access to the Framework Integration Toolkit, Program of Work Toolkit, "Jump into STEM!," SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards, opportunities for professional development and more. As an incentive, instructors who register at least 15 students in one technical program plus one or more professionals by Nov. 15 will receive a free SkillsUSA resource. National dues for professional members are \$20 plus state dues, which vary. Visit the [registration site](#) and [check for your state's dues and deadlines](#).

### **Watch the New SKILLS JAM Docuseries, Featuring SkillsUSA Students!**

In partnership with SkillsUSA, the Skilled Careers Coalition has just launched SKILLS JAM, an exciting, heart-pounding, show-stopping, skill-dropping, episodic docuseries. SKILLS JAM takes viewers on a thrilling journey alongside some of our own student members from around the country as they compete in filmmaking, construction and video game development at our National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta. Watch and experience the emotional rollercoaster as these talented students use their skills to chase their dream careers. This is their story ... this is our future! View the videos on the [SKILLS JAM YouTube channel](#), and access the [SKILLS JAM Partner Amplification Toolkit](#) to help spread the word about the power of skills and opportunities in skilled trades careers! [Visit the SKILLS JAM page](#) on our website for more information.

### **New "SKILLS JAM" Docuseries Offers Chance to Win \$500 and More!**

To celebrate the release of "SKILLS JAM," the all-new docuseries inspired by — and featuring — SkillsUSA members, the Skills Jam crew invites you to participate in SKILLS JAM BINGO! All you have to do to sign up is [like this post on the SKILLS JAM Instagram page](#). Two challenges will be released each week. Complete all the challenges by Nov. 27 and be entered for a chance to win \$500 plus other fun prizes! Don't forget to watch and share the docuseries, which released Oct. 17 on the [SKILLS JAM YouTube channel](#)! Hold a SkillsUSA watch party at a chapter meeting, in your classroom or with family and friends and bring out the popcorn!

### **SkillsUSA Week T-shirt Design Challenge**

SkillsUSA is seeking student designs for the official T-shirt of [SkillsUSA Week 2024](#), which will be celebrated Feb. 5-9, 2024. One design will be selected and produced by the SkillsUSA Store. The contest is open to all paid student members. Only one entry per SkillsUSA member is permitted. Designs should follow the specifications outlined in the [Challenge Guide](#). The deadline for submissions is Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. ET.

### **Career Essentials Support for Instructors**

If you are beginning your journey with SkillsUSA Career Essentials, support is available every step of the way! Instructors can call 844-875-4557 or email [customercare@skillsusa.org](mailto:customercare@skillsusa.org) for assistance with ordering Career Essentials for your students, developing an implementation plan, creating administrative accounts for new instructors, logging into your account, using the dashboard to monitor progress, learning more about the Absorb learning management system and recent course revisions. If you are interested in learning more about using Career Essentials with your students to define, implement and measure the development of career-readiness skills in your classroom this year, please email your questions to Megan Flinn at SkillsUSA.

### **SkillsUSA Member Benefits for Students**

Participation in SkillsUSA can be life-changing for students. Membership offers new opportunities, the encouragement of an advisor and increased confidence through engaging in conferences, competitions and SkillsUSA Framework development. Here are just some of the benefits your students can receive:

Recognition for individual or chapter achievement through SkillsUSA Career Essentials suite, the SkillsUSA Chapter Excellence Program (CEP), and the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA)

Opportunities to build valuable skills through an annual Program of Work that allows members to grow within the classroom, workplace and chapter

Opportunities to form meaningful relationships with other students who share common interests and come from diverse backgrounds

Access to a broad array of SkillsUSA programs where they can grow personal and professional skills while having fun

Ability to advocate for career and technical education and SkillsUSA

Opportunities to earn and practice real-life application of leadership skills through chapter initiatives and programs

Application of leadership skills as a committee leader or chapter, district, state or national officer

Recognition for individual achievement through local, state and national career competitions. [Learn more on the SkillsUSA website.](#)

**Register Now for Pour the IndusTEA**

On Wednesday, Nov. 15, at 2 p.m. ET, SkillsUSA will host [Pour the IndusTEA](#), a free event that allows classrooms and chapters to engage directly with industry professionals. This high-energy, informative experience will connect students with business and industry panelists in your career cluster right from your classroom — and, best of all, everyone can participate! Register your chapter leaders or your whole classroom and participate as a group. [See the flyer with details and a registration link.](#) Sign up now, as registration closes Nov. 10.

**Show Off Your Construction Projects!**

High school career and technical education students and postsecondary construction trainees or apprentices are eligible to enter the NCCER and Build Your Future's annual "I BUILT THIS!" video contest. The nationwide competition invites construction craft students and trainees to showcase their building projects. [Entries are due by Nov. 12.](#)