

New Jersey SkillsUSA Friday Flash 3/15/24

Message from the Desk of the State Director

I hope everyone is having a great week! Two competitions down...many more left!

Cyber Security Winners

The top three in the Cyber Security Contest were: Hunterdon, Somerset, and Passaic. Thank you to all of the competitors and Hunterdon Polytech for kindly hosting this competition.

Updates

Please check all updates daily.

Fantasy Manikin

Reminder for Fantasy Manikin Competition on 3/23 as per the Contest Guidelines

Mannequins may be pre-set with dry hair. Pre-set is defined as curled, straightened, crimped, in rollers or in a dried finger wave set. Pre-set is *not* hair that is braided or in any finished style.

Electricity will NOT be available the day of the contest.

Somerset County Votech Room Setup and Competition Needs Form

If you have any specific requests in regards to contest space and setup at SCVTS, please fill out the form below, and the administrators at SCVTS will help ensure that every contest has the materials and resources needed for your competition:

<https://forms.gle/Xg4Z6pSZYHivCQVe6>

Resumes, Codes of Conduct, & Advisor Assurances

Please remember that resumes must be turned in at competition site, unless arranged otherwise by the cluster coordinator. Advisors: please send us the advisors assurances and code of conduct forms, which can be found on our state website.

Lunches

Please remember to plan for your lunch needs at each site. All of the order forms for each location are posted on our website. NJ Skills will only be supplying lunches at Mercedes Benz and Lincoln Tech, and all judges and staff will receive lunch vouchers at all sites.

Food Drive

Please remember the food drive for the awards ceremony. It goes to a good cause that will help the community in Trenton.

Have a great weekend!

Ralph Starace

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

College Gable Grants from Lowe's

The Lowe's Foundation has launched Gable Grants: a commitment to preparing the next generation of skilled tradespeople. Through the Gable Grants program, the Lowe's Foundation will provide \$50 million over the next four years to community and technical colleges and community-based nonprofit organizations. Those funds will help prepare 50,000 job-ready skilled tradespeople to build a stronger infrastructure that supports communities for the long term. Lowe's is looking for community and technical colleges working to increase the number of young and diverse people in the workforce, especially from underrepresented and rural communities. [Lowe's is currently accepting unrestricted grant applications from community and technical colleges through March 31.](#)

Graduation Regalia on Sale at the SkillsUSA Store on March 18

With graduation season around the corner, the SkillsUSA Store will have a ONE-DAY ONLY FLASH SALE on Monday, March 18, featuring 20% off Tassels, Double Honor Cords, Honor Stoles and the Graduation Regalia Kit, which includes it all. Mark your calendars and visit the SkillsUSA Store's [Graduation Regalia](#) category on 3/18 to shop the sale! You must order that day only to receive the 20% discount — no exceptions.

Postsecondary Leaders Can Apply for a Fellowship at Advance CTE

Advance CTE is searching for state career and technical education (CTE) leaders working in postsecondary education, industry or workforce development for cohort 3 of the Postsecondary State CTE Leaders Fellowship at Advance CTE, sponsored by the ECMC Foundation. Learn more about the 15-month fellowship by attending an upcoming informational session with Fellowship lead and senior advisor at Advance CTE, Dr. Kevin Johnson, Sr., on March 28 from 1-2 p.m. [Watch the recruitment video and read more about the fellowship.](#) For questions, contact Amy Hodge or Dr. Kevin Johnson. Applications close April 5.

Calling Young Social Entrepreneurs for International Opportunity

WorldSkills, along with their partner, the HP Foundation, with support from UNESCO-UNEVOC, has announced that applications for [BeChangeMaker 2024](#) are open. BeChangeMaker is a series of social entrepreneurial skill training projects that enable youth between 18 and 35 years old with skills and great ideas to explore their career potential as a social entrepreneur. A total of 30 teams will be chosen to participate in three months of virtual coaching, training and online pitch competitions to select the top five teams that will present

during WorldSkills Lyon 2024 in September. The winning teams will receive cash awards plus additional customized post-program coaching. See the [Official Rules](#) and [apply here by May 25](#). For questions, contact WorldSkills Projects and Member Services Manager Oliver Dubois du Bellay.

NLSC 2024 Courtesy Corps Members Needed

SkillsUSA needs National Courtesy Corps (NCC) members to support the 2024 National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC). This much-appreciated group supports the technical committees and the overall conference experience, and it's a great way for students to network with industry partners and other SkillsUSA students from across the nation. NCC members receive free housing, local transportation, meals and free NLSC registration. NCC participants are housed at the Georgia Tech Woodruff Residence Hall in Atlanta. An advisor must also join the Courtesy Corps team and serve as a chaperone for their participating students. NCC candidates should seek approval of their [state SkillsUSA director](#). For eligibility and timeline requirements, visit the [National Courtesy Corps webpage](#). For questions, contact Boyd Hestand. The deadline for [nominations](#) is May 1. Candidate status notification will be sent to each NCC nominee by May 9. This email will include an acceptance form if a position on Courtesy Corps is available along with conference attendee information.

Advisor PD Opportunity: End-of-Year Recognition and Officer Elections

We encourage you to attend SkillsUSA's last two virtual professional development trainings for this school year. On Thursday, March 14, we will be presenting best practices and ideas for recognition and end-of-year ceremonies. On Wednesday, March 20, we will be reviewing the Chapter Officer Election Guide. We offer both trainings twice, so you can choose the time that works best for you. [Register](#) and spend an hour with our SkillsUSA professional development team!

Press Release Template for State Conference Participants

New on the [SkillsUSA Advocacy site](#) is a press release template for state conference participants and their advisors to share competition results with your hometown media. Parents, instructors, students or anyone can send these emails. Please spread the word about SkillsUSA in your community. Share this advocacy resource link at your school and at your state conferences. For questions, email Jane Short.

