

New Jersey SkillsUSA Friday Flash 5/19/23

Message from the Desk of the State Director

Congratulations to the new State Officers! I am very proud of all of the students who ran for our NJ State Office. You did a fantastic job on your speeches and presentations. I'd like to also thank this year's past officers. We needed to get back to where we were and you helped us to accomplish our goal...

Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTI)

WLTI pricing has arrived. The hotel room is \$184.00 per night, and the Registration is going to be either \$500.00 like last year or a slight increase to \$525.00. The National Office will make a decision within two weeks. *Please encourage your local chapter officers to attend this conference.* It's a great educational experience. As I mentioned in my previous message, *NJ Skills will pay for the transportation to and from Washington*, but we need at least 20-25 attendees. Advisors, please have your students apply for the Student Leadership WLTI 23 Scholarship it is located on the National Website under scholarships and grants, or here: <https://www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/scholarships-financial-aid/>

Kickoff to Atlanta Survey

If you are an advisor who attended the Kickoff to Atlanta, please fill out this quick survey to let us know what you enjoyed, and what needs improvement:

<https://forms.gle/aB1aE8U7hmP8TYDb6>

Please continue to check contest updates for information pertaining to your contests for Atlanta. Have a great weekend!

Ralph Starace

Troubleshooting With Sheila!

Important Info for the First Time National Conference Advisor

An ALert from Nationals on 2023 NLSC Internet Access Update

The Wi-Fi Internet access in GWCC is predominately available only on the 5GHz band. Please ensure your participants know that the device they are bringing for a competition needs to be capable of connecting to a 5GHz band. It is recommended that competitors test their device prior to arriving for NLSC, and if applicable, bring an appropriate 5GHz adaptor.

- **National Technical Standards**

Prepare your National Competitors for their Atlanta experience by giving them a copy of the 2022-23 National Technical Standards for their contest. Procedures and Contest

Details that were in effect for the NJ State Event may not be the same for the national contests. Contact our office if you need help finding that info for your students.

- **National Contest Updates**

Some of the National Events offer additional contest info to the Technical Standards. Be sure your students and instructors are checking the posted updates for their contests. They can be found at :

<https://www.skillsusa.org/competitions/skillsusa-championships/contest-updates/>

- **Clothing Requirements**

Each of the National Technical Standards specify the clothing requirement for each event. The requirements are very specific and in many cases require purchase of official SkillsUSA logo apparel. Scoring Point deductions will result for competitors who do not follow the specified apparel. Clothing can be ordered in advance at

<https://skillsusastore.org/> There will also be a pop-up SkillsUSA store at the conference site if you need items once you get to Atlanta.

- **Professional Development Test Study Guide**

National competitors that are required to take the professional development test, will complete the test online prior to the National Leadership and Skills Conference. Dates for the online testing window will be published here by May 1. They can prepare for the state and national Professional Development tests with this study guide. [Download the guide.](#)

- **Resume Requirement**

All national competitors must create a one-page resume to submit online unless otherwise specified in their competition's technical standards. On May 1, 2023, the link for resume submission will be published. At that point, SkillsUSA national competitors should submit their resume by June 1, 2023. Failure to do so will result in a 10-point penalty. Resume must be saved as a PDF file type using file name format of "Last Name_First Name." For example, "Amanda Smith" would save her resume as Smith_Amanda. If you need assistance with saving your file as a PDF, visit [the Adobe website](#) for more information.

- **Competition Scorecards**

Previously used national contest scorecards are available to view as a *reference only* with the understanding that this year's current scorecards will likely have changes. [They are available here as a download.](#)

- **Questions? Call our office 908 526-8900 X 7249**

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

SkillsUSA Students Named Presidential Scholars

SkillsUSA congratulates our four members recently named 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholars in career and technical education: Tej Sandeep Desai, a student at Paradise Valley High School in Phoenix, Ariz.; Katherine Jordan Little, a student at Thomas Jefferson High School in Denver, Colo.; Henry C. Knox, a student at Upper Cape Cod Regional Vocational High School in East Falmouth, Mass.; and Alijandro Ian Mendoza, a student at Worcester (Mass.) Vocational High School. The 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholars are comprised of two students from each state along with 20 scholars in the arts, 20 scholars in career and technical education and 15 additional scholars chosen at large. [See the complete list of this year's scholars online.](#)

Deadline is May 22 for NLSC Travel Scholarships

In partnership with Harbor Freight Tools for Schools, SkillsUSA is proud to announce a travel scholarship opportunity for SkillsUSA high school members in selected trades and leadership events who are competing in the 2023 SkillsUSA Championships. Eligible members can apply to receive up to \$1,500 to assist in attending the 2023 National Leadership & Skills Conference. [Applications will be accepted](#) through May 22. Recipients will be announced on May 25.

New NLSC Microsite for SkillsUSA's Biggest Event

There's nothing "micro" about SkillsUSA's upcoming National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) in Atlanta, [but our new NLSC microsite](#) will help you stay up-to-date on the biggest event of the SkillsUSA calendar. This new site includes conference schedules, event information, maps, parking details, airline discounts, safety and security resources, local attractions and more.

Got Story-Worthy Champions?

At the national conference in Atlanta, the staff of SkillsUSA Champions digital magazine will be on the lookout for interview subjects. If you know of a SkillsUSA student, advisor, industry representative or alumnus who will be at national conference and whose story would be motivating and inspirational, please email SkillsUSA's director of communications Tom Kercheval. A member of the communications team will then set up a specific time during conference week to meet these individuals. You are also invited to stop by the Media Room in GWCC B-204 anytime on Monday, June 19, through Thursday, June 22, to share story ideas and contacts. We look forward to meeting your champions!

The SkillsUSA Store — Free Shipping

With the National Leadership & Skills Conference approaching, now is the perfect time to take advantage of FREE SHIPPING on all orders at the [SkillsUSA Store](#) to stock up for all of your pre-conference needs, including gifts, polo shirts, uniforms or official SkillsUSA blazers.

Next-Level Skills for Educators at NLSC's Academy of Excellence

If you are planning to attend the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC), don't miss the Academy of Excellence professional development training, featuring more than 30 sessions for new and experienced teachers, administrators and counselors. These trainings will

take place June 20-22 at the Georgia World Congress Center and feature session topics such as classroom management, teacher burnout prevention, effective learning strategies, neutralizing student arguments, best practices and effective communication. Preregistration is not required. [View the schedule of sessions.](#)

NLSC's SkillsUSA University Offers Invaluable Training

At this year's National Leadership & Skills Conference, the 2023 SkillsUSA University will feature 24 free educational seminars on a variety of topics. This is a chance to learn directly from industry expert practitioners and gain field-specific skills to incorporate into classroom instruction. Workshops will be held June 20-22 at the Georgia World Congress Center and feature SkillsUSA programs, the latest trends in technology, career opportunities, safety programs and technical skills demonstrated by career cluster experts. All participants receive a certificate of participation, and many sessions include handouts, software, curriculum previews and other resources for teachers, students and parents. SkillsUSA University is included with your registration and you do not have to sign up for sessions in advance. [View the schedule of sessions.](#)

Changes to SkillsUSA Technical Assessments Coming

SkillsUSA began offering technical assessments nearly 15 years ago to provide SkillsUSA schools and state associations with additional ways to measure students' technical skills and knowledge. These assessments have been used as beginning-of-program pre-assessments, end-of-program post-assessments, state competition assessments and even graduation requirements.

As an organization, we engage in ongoing analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of all programs and how we can best serve students and teachers. The vision for SkillsUSA is to always accelerate the student experience, and that sometimes requires program adjustments. Effective Dec. 15, 2023, these are the only assessments that will be available through SkillsUSA:

Career Ready

Customer Service

Digital File Preparation/Digital File Output*

Digital Production Printing*

Graphic Design*

Introduction to Graphic Communications*

Offset Press Operations/Binding & Finishing*

Screen Printing*

* Print [ED] assessments

The 39 currently offered assessments will be available to order until Dec. 15, 2023. SkillsUSA will honor the one-year expiration date of all assessment purchases. After the assessments are disabled, teachers and students will still have access to performance data, certificates and

transcripts. No refunds for previous purchases will be made. SkillsUSA recognizes that this announcement may generate questions, and we ask that you [submit questions via this form](#) so we can send out additional communication to include answers helpful to all. The responses will be monitored daily and if your inquiry is urgent or specific to only you, a staff representative will contact you directly as soon as possible.