

## **New Jersey SkillsUSA Friday Flash 5/5/23**

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

Thank you to all advisors for getting your student applications in for State Office! At this time, we have fourteen students running for an office position, so thank you for supporting the State Officers. To all advisors attending Atlanta, please continue to check on the National website for updates. It is very important you don't miss any updates. Please send in your application for the Kickoff so I can let them know how many will be attending.. Also, we will have SkillsT-shirts available for sale at the Kick off. I've been working on the schedule for next year I am in the process of confirming dates. When this is complete, you will have the schedule before your summer break, so you can plan for next year.

Important date for next year: The Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTI) is from Sept 23rd to Wednesday morning the 27th. I would like to have our new officers attend and any local officers that you have. The training they go through is a tremendous asset for them in understanding their roles as officers for NJ SkillsUSA. If we have at least twenty-five students along with their advisors we can provide transportation there and back. Have a great weekend.

*Ralph Starace*

### **Kickoff to Atlanta**

Please note: All officer candidates and officers who are attending must arrive in blazers and professional dress. (They may bring comfortable clothes to change into later when they are having fun!)

### **Advisor Feedback Form**

Please fill out this brief survey in order to help us make positive changes for next year. We want to know our strengths and weaknesses, and your opinions and observations from this year are important to us.

Advisor Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/YyY59oi8BzMPZns5A>

### **Troubleshooting With Sheila!**

#### **National Conference Details**

Your Travel Arrangements to the National Conference should have been completed this week with Blue Panda/Frosch Travel. That package price includes the cost of a Full Conference Pass.

Don't forget to register for the conference on the national website for your conference credentials.

Deadline is May 10 to get your info into the national website: [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org)

Call Customer Care if you need assistance: 844 875-4557.

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

#### **Applications Open for Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Travel Scholarships**

In partnership with Harbor Freight Tools for Schools, SkillsUSA has a travel scholarship opportunity for

SkillsUSA high school members in select trades 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.

### **Aerotek Scholarship Opportunity Closes April 30**

SkillsUSA has partnered with [Aerotek](#) to create the “Make Your Mark” scholarship, which will deliver multiple awards of up to \$5,000 to qualified applicants. SkillsUSA members must be high school seniors or college/postsecondary students planning to attend a community college, technical college, certificate program or apprenticeship next year in one of these career pathways: Arts, A/V and Communications (Telecommunications Cabling only); Architecture & Construction; Information Technology; Manufacturing; STEM (Electronics Technology or Industrial Engineering Technology only); and Transportation. [Learn more online](#) and apply by April 30. Questions? email Megan Flinn.

### **Data Dive: Understanding “The SkillsUSA Advantage”**

Everyone is welcome! Join other SkillsUSA partners and supporters on May 10 at 3 p.m. ET for a webinar on [“The SkillsUSA Advantage”](#) report and learn how SkillsUSA experiences help create purpose, passion and skill in every student. SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis and Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Ricardo Romanillos will review data from “The SkillsUSA Advantage” report recently released by the Student Research Foundation and discuss how SkillsUSA members across all groups consistently outperform peers who are not enrolled in career and technical student organizations (CTSOs). SkillsUSA national officer Lili Valencia will also share her personal perspective on how participation in SkillsUSA and work-based experiences have informed her future. [Register now](#), and we encourage you to share this invitation with your school and state partners and supporters. For questions, contact Ricardo Romanillos.

### **Contest to Promote the “Water Workforce”**

To celebrate the 2023 Earth Day on April 22 and Water Week on April 23-29, the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs (IWGYP) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are partnering on a digital activation/contest to raise awareness of water use and water careers among youth ages 13-24. To enter, students need to explain the ways they rely on water on a daily basis OR why they would consider a career in the “water workforce.” Submissions — accepted until May 8 — can be in the form of a video, essay, photos or other artwork. Three winners will each receive a \$100 Amazon gift card. [Visit the Youth Engaged 4 Change website](#) for full information.

### **The SkillsUSA Store — Official SkillsUSA Competition Apparel**

With SkillsUSA competition season in full swing, visit the SkillsUSA Store and set yourself up for success! We have all of your SkillsUSA competition attire needs, from the newly redesigned SkillsUSA blazer and official white polo to work uniforms, safety goggles and everything else your event requires

### **Spotlight Your Community During SkillsUSA National Week of Service**

SkillsUSA is asking all chapters to conduct and promote a community service project during the [National Week of Service](#), May 7-13. This event helps commemorate the founding of SkillsUSA on May 8, 1965. Connect with SkillsUSA on social media by posting photos of your activities on social media. Chapter advisors or officers should email a brief description of their chapter events to Gayle Silvey. In return,

we'll send a SkillsUSA logo gift item valued at \$15. We encourage participants to publicize your projects locally. To locate your local newspapers, [use our SkillsUSA Advocacy Site](#). On the site, click on "Media," enter your ZIP code, and choose up to six outlets. Then, click on "Send a Message." To see the full contact information for each outlet, click on the name of the newspaper.

**SkillsUSA Activate Registration Now Open for Student Leaders**

Registration is now open [for SkillsUSA Activate](#), a two-and-a-half-day, high-energy leadership conference offered to all middle school and high school SkillsUSA student members ready to take their leadership to the next level. The conference focuses on developing SkillsUSA Framework skills for use in achieving the SkillsUSA Program of Work, including Leadership; Planning, Organizing and Management; and Teamwork. Activate will be held June 17-19 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta prior to the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference, and advisors should register their members now. The registration deadline is May 16. For questions, contact Taryn Erminio.