

## **New Jersey SkillsUSA Friday Flash 3/10/23**

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

Good morning! I hope all is well. Yesterday we were at Cumberland and today we are at Hunterdon PolyTech. Good luck to all competitors and their hardworking advisors. Currently I am checking the Quality Chapter Applications, and right now I only have three schools that are Quality Chapters out of a total of fourteen chapters. It shows that eleven chapters are still working. Please check your application, as you may have forgotten to certify your officers, advisors, or admin. Be sure to check off total members competing. If you have trouble finalizing your application, please contact me. Have a great weekend!

### **News from the National Office**

*(Check out some of these new and exciting opportunities for your students!)*

#### **Learn to Leverage “The SkillsUSA Advantage” Report**

Join other advisors and stakeholders on March 21 at 3:30 p.m. ET for a webinar on the [new “SkillsUSA Advantage” report](#), which highlights how SkillsUSA experiences create purpose, passion and skill in every student. SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis and Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Ricardo Romanillos will discuss the report’s findings that SkillsUSA members consistently outperform peers who are not enrolled in career and technical student organizations (CTSOs). Attendees will receive resources, including two digital reports and a PowerPoint deck to help you share this information with school administrators, community leaders and others as you advocate for SkillsUSA and career and technical education. [Register by March 19](#) and participate in the session to be eligible for door prizes.

#### **New Skills Jam Docuseries**

We are excited to announce that SkillsUSA has partnered with the [Skilled Careers Coalition](#) to produce Skills Jam — a docuseries that follows SkillsUSA students on their journey to the national conference in Atlanta. We are searching for applicants with the following credentials:

- Must be a high school student
- A highly skilled student with the anticipation of doing well at the SkillsUSA state conference
- Skills represented in the entertainment industry (Special FX, Set Design and Production)

\*Do you know of an excellent student to nominate for the Skills Jam video series? [Submit your nomination form](#) by March 24.

\*For more information and to view the complete list of qualifying skills, [visit our webpage](#).

### **Focus Students on Safety**

The CareerSafe National Youth Safety Video Contest challenges students to create a two-minute video demonstrating workplace safety. Send submissions to CareerSafe by April 30. The winning students will receive a SkillsUSA prize pack and a scholarship of up to \$2,500, and the winning school will receive a prize of up to \$5,000. For more information and to submit your entry, [visit the CareerSafe website](#).

### **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 five years to community and technical colleges and community-based nonprofit organizations. Those funds will help prepare 50,000 people for skilled trades careers. This program will provide grantees with funding for two years, helping develop a community of skilled tradespeople. 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 April 10. [For more information about the Lowe's Gable Grants program and to apply go here](#). An informational webinar with the newly appointed Lowe's Foundation Director Betsy Conway will be held on [March 22](#).

### **#KeepCraftAlive Scholarship**

SkillsUSA, in partnership with [Fine Homebuilding Magazine](#), will present multiple \$2,500 scholarship awards to SkillsUSA members enrolled in 11th and 12th grades or in a college/postsecondary institution. SkillsUSA members in the home construction fields are eligible to apply. Eligible pathways include residential wiring, HVACR, masonry, carpentry, cabinetmaking and plumbing. Scholarship awards are paid out directly to the recipients' tuition balance for the term immediately following high school graduation. Selected recipients will be announced in the Spring of 2023. [Eligible students are strongly encouraged to apply via an online application](#) by March 31 at 11:59 p.m. ET. For questions, email Megan Flinn.

[Learn more about additional SkillsUSA scholarships.](#)

### **Seeking Musical Talent to Perform National Anthem at NLSC**

Do you have a musical gift to share with the SkillsUSA community? If so, apply to perform the national anthem at the opening session of SkillsUSA's National Leadership & Skills Conference this June. The chosen performer will be offered complimentary conference registration if their sole purpose of attendance is to perform the national anthem. [Apply by 5 p.m. ET](#) on Friday, April 28. For questions, contact Joey Baker.

