

New Jersey SkillsUSA Friday Flash 11/10/23

Message from the Desk of the State Director

Good afternoon. I hope everyone had an excellent week. Here are a few announcements:

Competition Booklet and Contest Updates: Please keep checking for contest updates. We are currently working on the competition booklet and it will be posted on our website sometime over the next two weeks.

Advisor of the Year: If you would like to nominate an outstanding advisor who has gone above and beyond for their students, please go to the SkillsUSA National website to nominate them.

Quality Chapters and Chapters of Excellence: Last year we had fifteen Quality Chapters, and we are hoping to double that! Please reach out to me if you need assistance with either of these, and I will assist you.

SkillsUSA Opportunity from LifeSmarts

LifeSmarts is proud to support the SkillsUSA Health Knowledge Bowl and invites SkillsUSA students and teams to compete in LifeSmarts monthly [TeamSmarts Challenges](#). The top-scoring SkillsUSA team earns a \$100 cash award each month now – February. Teams work together to complete a 100 multiple-choice question quiz.

Get started:

- [Instructions for chapter advisors to register their team.](#)
- [Additional information for SkillsUSA advisors.](#)
- [Download PDF.](#)

Have a great weekend!

Ralph Starace

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

Tips From Top Advisors

SkillsUSA's latest SkillsUSA Champions feature profiles 2023 Advisor of the Year Andrea Barallardos and four other dedicated regional finalists for the award. Great insights into the advisors' methodologies are shared in the story, which includes their tips on incorporating the SkillsUSA Framework into the classroom. "I can see that students actually understand the Framework when they can articulate it to somebody else," Barallardos explains, "or when I see them automatically training someone else without me even asking them." [Learn more from Barallardos and other top advisors in the article.](#)

Watch the New SKILLS JAM Docuseries, Featuring SkillsUSA Students!

In partnership with SkillsUSA, the Skilled Careers Coalition has launched SKILLS JAM, an exciting, heart-pounding, show-stopping, skill-dropping docuseries. SKILLS JAM takes viewers on a thrilling journey alongside some of SkillsUSA members from around the country as they compete in filmmaking, construction and video game development at the 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 ... and 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 in your own publications or social media! [Visit the SKILLS JAM page](#) on our website for more information. Please visit, like and comment on the SKILLS JAM social media channels to show we value this content and brighter spotlight on the skilled trades. Schools are encouraged to host a SKILLS JAM watch party at a chapter meeting, in your classroom or with family and friends and be sure to bring out the popcorn! To celebrate the release of the docuseries, the Skills Jam crew invites you to participate in SKILLS JAM BINGO! To sign up, simply [like this post on the SKILLS JAM Instagram page](#). Two challenges will be released each week. Complete all challenges by Nov. 27 for a chance to win \$500 and other prizes!

SkillsUSA-Aerotek “Make Your Mark” Scholarship

SkillsUSA members nationwide are encouraged to apply for the SkillsUSA-Aerotek “Make Your Mark” scholarship. The scholarship is for SkillsUSA members who expect direct educational costs for the Spring 2024 term at a community college, apprenticeship or technical college. All applications must be submitted by Nov. 27. Selected applicants will receive up to \$5,000 toward tuition, books, tools, on-campus housing and other approved direct educational expenses. Applicants must be engaged in continuing education/career training in one of the pathways below:

- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics
- Telecommunications Cabling Training
- Electronics Technology or Industrial Engineering Technology

[Review all eligibility criteria and apply online](#). For questions, contact Megan Flinn.

Give to the New Prevail Scholarship Fund for #Giving Tuesday

This #GivingTuesday (Nov. 28), we are asking our supporters to be a part of establishing the new SkillsUSA Prevail Scholarship Fund. This fund will provide scholarship awards to SkillsUSA high school juniors, seniors and college/postsecondary students in any pathway who are facing significant income instability. The objective of this fund is to support SkillsUSA members by

removing substantial financial barriers to attainment of education and career goals. [Help us jumpstart this fund by making a gift and become a founding donor of the Prevail Scholarship Fund.](#)

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 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.

The SkillsUSA Store Featured Collection

Hats off to the holidays! Get ready for winter and shop the [Hats and Accessories](#) collection, featuring both classic and trendy caps, beanies and more. These make a great holiday gift for advisors, student leaders and supporters. The SkillsUSA Store has everything from scripted luxe embroidery to custom patches, curved visors and cozy knit pieces!