

New Jersey SkillsUSA Friday Flash 5/24/24

Message from the Desk of the State Director

Hope you all had a great week!

I would like to congratulate everyone who was in attendance for our Kickoff to Atlanta! You made it a big success.

Congratulations to this year's State Officer team for being the best State Officer team within the last fifteen years. I was very proud of you. Congratulations to the new officers and the executive council members. I look forward to working with you this year. Remember some things you must live by to be a good State Officer. Integrity, commitment, dedication and belief in SkillsUSA, along with truth and honesty. Advisors, please make sure you elected officers have an opportunity to read this. Within the next few weeks I will be reaching out to meet with the elected officers at your school to go over their responsibilities so we are all on the same page.

Have a good holiday weekend!

Ralph Starace

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

SkillsUSA's Five Regional Advisors of the Year Announced

SkillsUSA's five regional Advisors of the Year have been chosen through a competitive process that recognizes outstanding advisors for their work with student-led local chapters.

Congratulations go to:

- **Angel Mead**, Broome Tioga BOCES in Binghamton, N.Y., Region 1
- **Allison Terry**, York Technical College in Rock Hill, S.C., Region 2
- **Tiffany Beard**, Morton (Ill.) High School, Region 3
- **Benjamin Applegate**, Waverly-Shell Rock High School in Waverly, Iowa, Region 4
- **Joshua Ronstadt**, Canyon del Oro High School in Oro Valley, Ariz., Region 5

These five amazing SkillsUSA advisors will be recognized at the National Leadership & Skills Conference on Tuesday, June 25 at the Opening Session, where one instructor will be named SkillsUSA 2024 Advisor of the Year.

Share Your Chapter Successes

The end of the school year is an excellent time for students to reflect on their SkillsUSA growth during the year. Some reflection questions to discuss in your classroom might be:

- What specific Essential Elements did you practice through SkillsUSA chapter activities?
- How did you demonstrate and grow your leadership skills this year?
- How did SkillsUSA help you learn more or make decisions about your future career path?

Involvement in SkillsUSA can make a positive difference in a student's life, and the answers to these questions and examination of their accomplishments can help students reflect on their growth. For inspiration, encourage your students to check out the [SkillsUSA Champions digital hub](#) for more and [submit a SkillsUSA story for consideration](#). Share a few stories with your students and ask them to write their own story from their SkillsUSA experiences.

Sharon Melton Myers Memorial Scholarship Winners

The Sharon Melton Myers Memorial Fund and the McMinn County Vocational Center SkillsUSA Alumni Association awarded two SkillsUSA high school seniors in any pathway a one-time \$1,000 scholarship to support further education in college or a technical school. The 2024 Sharon Melton Myers Memorial Scholarship recipients are:

- **Stuart Robinson**, Davie High School, N.C.
- **Giovanna Masson**, Greater Lowell Technical High School, Mass.

Presidential Volunteer Service Award Winners

SkillsUSA members from 16 states have been recognized for their outstanding community service this year. SkillsUSA is an official certifying organization for the Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) and recognizes its members for individual or team service efforts. This national honor is issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation on behalf of the President of the United States. The award recognizes the best in the American spirit and encourages all Americans to improve their communities through volunteer service and civic participation. Gold, silver and bronze awards are based on the number of documented volunteer hours served over 12 consecutive months. Participants receive a lapel pin, personalized certificate of achievement and a congratulatory letter from the president. [See this year's PVSA recipients](#).

EXTENSION: Skills Jam Casting Call Still Open!

The 2023 Skills Jam cast and docu-series were amazing! Now, we're ready to do it again, bigger and even better, with Skills Jam 2024! Skills Jam needs your help to find the best **student** stories around the country — **and you don't need to be an NLSC competitor**. Skills Jam is offering two **chapter** grants of \$2,500 **just for entering a video**. Even if your students aren't cast **for Skills Jam**, entering a **video gives your chapter** a chance to win a grant. Find the details in the [Skills Jam Casting Overview](#) and the [student flyer](#) and [presentation slide](#). If you missed the 2023 docu-series, you can still [catch last season's Skills Jam episodes on YouTube](#). The tide is turning when it comes to the perception of skilled trades across the nation. Don't miss this great

opportunity to build that momentum for your program and your students! For questions, contact Maria@SkilledCareers.org.

SkillsUSA Store Hours at NLSC

We are just a few weeks away from the National Leadership & Skills Conference and the SkillsUSA Store will be fully stocked and ready for members in Atlanta. The SkillsUSA Store will feature a showcase of over 90 new SkillsUSA products including 12 new T-shirt designs, seven new drinkware pieces, six new polo shirts and much more. Receive a free gift with every purchase. Be sure to shop early if you need competition attire, souvenirs for your supporter back home or the latest fashion gear to show your SkillsUSA pride. Store hours at NLSC are:

Monday, June 24: SkillsUSA Store Grand Opening 1-6 p.m.

Tuesday, June 25: 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Wednesday, June 26: 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Thursday, June 27: 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Important Note: This year, the store is **CASHLESS!** Payments accepted on-site include all major credit or debit cards and Apple Pay.

Volunteers and Judges Needed at NLSC

The National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) — the largest gathering of America's future skilled workforce — will be held in Atlanta from June 24-28, 2024. The Office of the SkillsUSA Championships is looking for unpaid volunteers who can serve as competition judges or assist the management team to support various NLSC programs and experiences.

Volunteers should be available to serve at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC) in Atlanta on both Wednesday, June 26 and Thursday, June 27 (schedule TBD). Some of the areas where volunteers are needed include judging Leadership and Occupationally Related competitions including:

- Chapter Business Procedure
- Chapter Display
- Community Service
- Extemporaneous Speaking
- Job Skill Demonstration A & Open
- Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- Promotional Bulletin Board
- Quiz Bowl

If you are an educator or partner who will be at NLSC but you do not have student competitors and would like to assist, please complete the [SkillsUSA Volunteer Interest Form](#) and indicate your expertise and the area(s) in which you are interested in volunteering. If you have questions, contact [Brandon Hudson](#). Thank you for your interest and support of SkillsUSA!

