

New Jersey SkillsUSA Friday Flash 3/24/23

Message from the Desk of the State Director

Good morning! I hope all is well with everyone. I want to thank everyone for their hard work this past Saturday. Thanks to your dedication, the competitions were a huge success. I thank you for everything you have done to make this possible for our kids!

Ralph Starace

Judging Sheets and Scores

Advisors: please refrain from calling or emailing about judging sheets and/or scores for your contests. Even though we know you are eager and excited for the results, we will handle **all** of these inquiries after the competitions are done. This is crunch time for us and we are preparing for our two biggest weekends of the year. I would like to address some concerns about some questions in regards to the recent execution and judging of some contests. I assure you that our office is fully aware of the concerns and we will be addressing them after all of the competitions are complete. Again, I want to thank all advisors for your hard work, because in conjunction with teaching, you are the ones making NJ SkillsUSA a great State Association.

April 1st Awards Ceremony at Bridgewater-Raritan High School

Advisors: Please send the total number of students and advisors attending the Awards Ceremony as I am working on seating charts. *Note: Floor seating is for parents and guests only.*

Mercedes Auto Competitions (Maintenance and Light Repair and Auto Service Tech)

Please have your students bring multiple copies of their resumes with them on Thursday!

Chapter of Excellence Applications

Please submit these to our office no later than **Tuesday, March 28th**. We know you have all been busy and working hard on various projects, but we are pressed for time and we want to be sure that everything is properly assessed before our own deadlines. Thank you!

Bus Schedule and SCVTS April 1st Map

The April 01 bus schedule and the Somerset Campus Map are posted under the State Championships tab on our website OR....

Sheila's quick link:

https://www.nj-skillsusa.org/_files/ugd/9fa9c9_14bf09d2592b4dc1bc2e50d900f7bef2.pdf

News from the National Office

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

SkillsUSA Scholarship Application Open until April 1

SkillsUSA students can now apply for multiple scholarships by completing just one SkillsUSA scholarship application. Most scholarships are available to both high school and college/postsecondary members. Eligibility criteria for each scholarship is noted on the application so that students know which ones they are eligible to receive. The [SkillsUSA scholarship application](#) is open until April 1. The following scholarships are included under this application:

AHRI Clifford T Rees Scholarship

Bob Westphal Memorial Scholarship

Fieldpiece #MasteroftheTrade Scholarship

#KeepCraftAlive Scholarship

Larry Rash Memorial Scholarship

Marsha Daves Scholarship

NTHS Scholarship

SkillsUSA students can also [apply for the Sharon Melton Myers Scholarship](#) until April 1 or the [Student Research Foundation \(SRF\) Community Contribution Scholarship](#) until July 26. For scholarship resources and tips on how to submit a quality application, visit the [scholarships page on the website](#). If you have questions, contact Megan Flinn.

Apply to Earn Recognition and Presidential Honors

SkillsUSA will recognize advisors, students and registered alumni for their community service through the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA). To qualify, SkillsUSA members must submit a record of their service hours. With SkillsUSA's focus on community service, you may have already met the requirements. For details on how to apply, [visit the website](#). Applications must be received by April 1. For questions, contact Megan Flinn.

Register Now for the "Your Place in Space Challenge"

The U.S. Department of Education has launched a [Your Place in Space Challenge](#). This is the first challenge in [CTE Momentum](#), an annual challenge series to prepare high school students for rewarding careers and increase access to career and technical education (CTE). The "Your Place in Space Challenge" invites high schools to submit designs for a product or service that will contribute to space missions and exploration. Submissions are due by 6:00 p.m. ET on Oct. 30, and up to 10 winners will receive at least \$5,000 each! The department anticipates announcing the winners and launching the next annual challenge in early 2024. Learn more about the

challenge [on the website](#). For updates on all CTE Momentum challenges, [sign up for the series newsletter](#).

Applications Open for Harbor Freight Tools for Schools 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 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 (NLSC). [Applications will be accepted](#) through May 22. Recipients will be announced on May 25.

Join the Career Z Challenge

The U.S. Department of Education has launched the new [Career Z Challenge](#). This multi-phase competition is designed to expand high school student access to high quality work-based learning (WBL) to prepare them to contribute to today's workforce and propel them into careers of the future. The Career Z Challenge supports the Biden-Harris Administration's [Raise the Bar: Unlocking Career Success](#) initiative. Semifinalists and finalists are eligible to receive targeted technical assistance, including professional development support, webinars and training, participation in a community of practice (CoP) as well as a portion of a \$2.5 million prize pool. Learn more on the [Career Z Challenge website](#). Submissions open at 8 a.m. ET on April 12 and close at 6 p.m. ET on May 24.

Check out this [message from Secretary Cardona about the Career Z Challenge](#), as well as this [Career Z Challenge video](#).

Apply for the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teacher Excellence

Applications are now open for the [Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence](#) awards. The prize recognizes outstanding instruction in the skilled trades in U.S. public high schools and the teachers who inspire students to learn skills to prepare for life after graduation. In 2023, Harbor Freight will award more than \$1.5 million in cash prizes to 25 skilled trades teachers and their programs. In 2022, the prize recognized 12 SkillsUSA instructors as winners. Applications must be received by May 5. Winners will be announced in October.

Big Scholarship Opportunities for College/Postsecondary Students

The Horatio Alger Association is offering 500 career and technical education scholarships at up to \$2,500 each to students who've overcome obstacles and wish to pursue a career and technical education at an accredited, nonprofit college/postsecondary institution. The deadline to apply is June 15. Scholarships will be awarded on a rolling basis throughout the spring and summer. [Visit their website](#) for full information and to apply.

