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State Director's Flash Friday Report Every 2nd and 4th Friday of the Month

Dear Advisors:

Pin Design Contest

This is a good time to encourage your students to participate in the NYS pin design contest. This contest not only gives us the state pin and t-shirt for our State Conference it is also a national contest and our first-place winner can go on to compete at nationals for the best overall State Pin.

The contest standards can be found in the Fall Leadership packet on our website under the Conference tab. This contest is open to all NYS Members.

Becoming a State Officer:

We hope that when students leave Fall Leadership they will have the desire to become a State Officer for 2018-19. This is not only a commitment for the student it is also a commitment for both the school, advisor and the parents. We encourage as many as possible to take the step and run for an office. The application can be found in the Fall Leadership packet on our website under the tab conference. Please take the time to look it over.

Please NOTE: The Fall Leadership registration site will open Monday Oct 30th to Wednesday Nov 1st, 2017 for name changes only.

Fall Leadership Conference: November 5-7, 2017

This event will begin November 5th.

"State Officers: Prepared and Focused on Serving Members"

Content Discussions

1. It all starts with group leader introductions and members group assignments (Sunday)
2. Monday begins the breakout room training with State Officers.
3. Monday is also the Capitol Tour
4. Statesman Award rules will be given.
5. Break out rotation will take place for other learning.
6. There is much more but it all comes together so that the students can answer this question:
How do you provide leadership at home? In school? In SkillsUSA? In the workplace?

Monday (11/6/2017) We welcome any teacher and administrator to join us for a day of informative sessions. We will have Debbie Peabody from National SkillsUSA and she will train us on the Career Essentials, Career Essential Foundation and Career Essential Experiences. This is all new and worth learning about. Please let us know if you will be joining us on Monday. We would like to know so that we can be set up for those who travel in for the day. Just send a short e-mail as to how many will attend to bpotter@nysskillsusa.org

Fall Leadership Community Service Project

For our community Service project, we are working with Cindy Hamel who was working with Melody Burns from Veterans Miracle Center Albany. She said they are stocked with enough coats for the season.

They told Cindy they could use **personal hygiene items, laundry products, paper towels, toilet paper etc. and small appliances.**

Please in place of coats we are asking that you bring these items or similar items. If you already have coats please bring them also.

They will bring a large truck Tuesday morning to pick up the items. She will briefly thank the organization that morning.

Membership:

Now is the time to work on membership, providing the opportunity for more students to become part of this great organization. Too often I hear about a student who did not join and was too late to take part in the great opportunities and events we offer. Please do what you can to get them signed up now so this is not an issue later.

We are looking for a Cluster Manager for Computer Contests for our State Conference. If you are interested or know of someone that might. Please contact Ellen Coughlin

Register Yourself as a SkillsUSA Member to Receive Valuable Benefits

Now that you have officially established your SkillsUSA chapter, you can begin to register yourself and your students at: www.skillsusa-register.org.

Why is it important to register yourself as a professional member of SkillsUSA? It's one of the best ways you can demonstrate to your students the importance of the organization and the opportunities that membership will provide.

As a professional member, you will receive online access to the following:

- *2018 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards*
- *Jump into STEM! curriculum*
- *SkillsUSA Career Essentials: Foundations*

SkillsUSA professional members, as a free member benefit, receive the aforementioned items when they have submitted a current and accurate email address along with their membership details. The *2018 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards* is available online to professional members as part of their paid membership. Once membership has been submitted, an email will be sent to the address on file that will include a PIN to access the items electronically.

- As a special membership incentive, register at least 15 student members in your training program plus one or more professionals by Nov. 15, and you will receive a free educational resource item, *Impact: Experiential Activities that Launch Productive Teams* (value \$9.95).
- Instructors who register with 100-percent membership plus one or more professionals will also receive a SkillsUSA Program of Work calendar (value \$5.95).
- SkillsUSA national dues for student members are \$8 plus state dues, which vary. For instructors, national dues are \$20 plus state dues, which vary. Student members must meet both the state and national deadline to be eligible for national competition, serve as voting delegates or national officer candidates. The national membership deadline is March 1, but many state deadlines fall earlier. The complete listing of state dues and deadlines are available [here](#).
- To enjoy full membership services, submit names by Nov. 15 to receive all membership services for the current school year, including free teacher items when applicable. Student membership runs from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31 each year.
- Your Membership Kit contains 24 membership cards for students. For more cards, call 844-875-4557 or email operators@skillsusa.org.
- Call the SkillsUSA Membership Hotline if you need help in starting a new chapter, engaging chapter members, or discovering strategies to strengthen an existing chapter. If you have questions or need assistance with online membership registration, the hotline operators can take care of that, too. Call toll free: 844-875-4557.



Free Access to Autodesk Software for SkillsUSA Instructors

Autodesk, a SkillsUSA sponsor for over 20 years, is once again providing SkillsUSA students and educators with free access to its software. Autodesk shares our goal of preparing students in STEM-based careers and creating an industry-ready workforce. To register, visit the Autodesk Education Community at: www.autodesk.com/education

Focus Your Students on Safety

CareerSafe sponsors a National Youth Safety Video Contest, in which students across the country are challenged to create a two-minute video demonstrating safety in the workplace. All submissions should be sent to CareerSafe by **March 1**. The winning students will receive a SkillsUSA prize pack as well as a scholarship up to \$2,500, and the winning school will receive a prize up to \$5,000. For more information, visit the CareerSafe website at: www.careersafeonline.com. The site will be open on Oct. 16.

Showcase Your Program's Amazing Work

Advance CTE encourages schools to apply for the 2018 Excellence in Action award to showcase the work of their students and instructors at the national level. This award honors innovative and high-impact programs across the 16 career clusters that prepare students for the real world. Applications are open to both high schools and postsecondary institutions. To apply, go to: <https://careertech.org/excellence-action-award>. The deadline for applications is **Nov. 15 at 5 p.m. ET**. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered. If you have questions, email **Katie Fitzgerald** at awards@careertech.org.

New Public Relations Challenge Opens

A new online challenge encourages local chapters to demonstrate how they showcase SkillsUSA to the news media in ways that highlight CTE and student success. The purpose of the challenge is to help students grow in their communication and teamwork skills while promoting SkillsUSA to a wider audience. The SkillsUSA Public Relations Challenge will be open to **March 30**. The media coverage period must be three months to six months.

Student officers and advisors, state officers and state staff can join the new SkillsUSA Public Relations and Advocacy Facebook group, "Must Love Red." This is a closed group that will provide resources for your public relations and advocacy efforts. We encourage your students to join this site at:

www.facebook.com/groups/421237134924875/

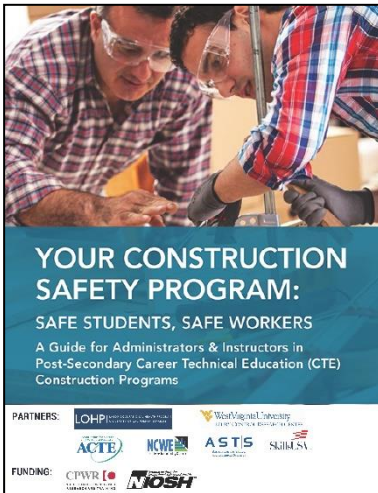
Three schools will be selected as winners. One state officer team will also be recognized. Winners will receive a check payable to their school or state association.

- SkillsUSA Media Champion (first-place school or section): \$900
- SkillsUSA Media Boss (second-place school or section): \$300
- SkillsUSA Media Whiz (third-place school or section): \$200
- State Advocacy Award (first-place state officer team): \$900

The SkillsUSA Public Relations Challenge entry application is located on the "Must Love Red" Facebook page. You must complete an application and document all news coverage. For details, contact Karen Kitzel at kkitzel@skillsusa.org or 703-737-0607. For complete rules, go to: www.skillsusa.org/competitions/skillsusa-pr-challenge/

Service Grants Spread Kindness

To support high quality, youth-led community projects, Youth Service America and Hasbro will award "Be Fearless Be Kind" grants of \$500, \$1,000 or \$2,000 to K-12 schools and U.S. nonprofit organizations. Projects must take place between Sept. 18 to Dec. 15. Applications will be accepted, and grants awarded on a rolling basis until **Oct. 31 at 5 p.m. EDT**. To learn more and apply, go to: www.YSA.org/BFBKGrants



Free Occupational Safety Resources Available for Postsecondary Educators

Every day, two to three workers die on construction sites in the United States. New and young workers are at high risk for injury. But through quality safety and health education, career and technical programs can help keep future workers safe.

Free resources are now available at: <http://bit.ly/cte-guide>. These will help postsecondary instructors and administrators to:

- Assess your program using the online assessment tools to determine how it's doing in the areas of Safety and Health Management Systems, Instructor Qualifications and Support, Effective Teaching and Learning, and Offsite Learning
- Learn how to better prepare your students to work safely in changing, hazard-filled environments
- Spread the news about these resources by downloading an informational handout that can be used at your meetings

SkillsUSA has advised and supported this effort, based on research conducted in 2015-16 by the University of California Berkeley's Labor Occupational Health Program and West Virginia University's Injury Control Research Center. Other supporters include the Association for Career and Technical Education, the Association for Skilled and Technical Sciences, and the National Council for Workforce Education. Funding came from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), through CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training.

This Video Contest is in the Bank

To encourage financial responsibility, the American Bankers Association Foundation has a "Lights, Camera, Save!" video contest that calls on students to educate themselves and their peers about saving and using money wisely.

Contest judges are looking for creative, innovative concepts — your students' imaginations are the only limit to coming up with unique savings scenarios. Winning videos will be posted on YouTube and viewed across the globe. The contest is free and open to all students age 13-18, with the videos of local winners moving on to the national competition.

The entry period is Oct. 1-Dec. 1. The top three national winners will receive awards of \$1,000, \$2,500 or \$5,000 to fund their saving goals. Equally rewarding, if one of your students is a top-three national winner, your school will win a scholarship to attend the 2018 Jump\$tart National Educator Conference. Winners will be announced in March.

Visit www.LightsCameraSave.com for additional contest information and to locate a participating bank in your area.