Dear NY SkillsUSA Members and Stakeholders:

Please know that the health and wellbeing of our students, advisors and stakeholders is our steadfast and primary concern and that will be the foundation of every decision we make as an organization.

The staff has been in contact with many of our schools and partners and the information that came back lead us to evaluate of upcoming State event.

The fact that this COVID-19 was not going to be over by our event, on March 16, 2020 we made the decision that we cancel the State Event scheduled for April 22-24, 2020.

We know that many students have worked very hard for the contests and have developed many items for the contests but it was just not possible to hold it with the restriction that have been imposed by the state as to groups gathering.

SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) is scheduled for late June. While a decision on the status of the National NLSC has not yet been determined, they are looking at what is happening around the country.

One thing is certain: they will not be holding any event that would put students and communities in danger. SkillsUSA National plans to make an official announcement on the status of National NLSC by the week of April 13.

The Staff and I will continue to monitor this and will look at all our alternatives as they develop. With many schools not opening until mid and late April it may be difficult to develop alternatives.

This is unique challenging, ever-evolving situation for all of us, but I can assure you that we are doing our best make the right decisions for our members.

We will come out with updates as things develop and will post them on the website and in advisors update e-mails as needed.

The Staff and I wish you all are safe in this situation.
From National SkillsUSA:

SkillsUSA Coronavirus Response Updates
For the latest updates on SkillsUSA's response to the ongoing health crisis and how our national events might be affected, please make sure to check this link regularly: www.skillsusa.org/message-from-the-executive-director-regarding-skillsusas-response-to-coronavirus-concerns.

National Leadership and Skills Conference Update
The status of the National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) is, as of this writing, still undetermined. The national office is working diligently to gather the most updated and relevant information available to help us make the best decision possible on the NLSC’s date and structure. That decision will be made with the health and wellbeing of our students and stakeholders as our primary concern, and it will be shared no later than the week of April 13.

Are the Career Essentials: Experiences Courses a Fit for Your Virtual Classroom Environment?
As the impact of the coronavirus spreads, many states have required school closures, and local administrators and teachers have quickly moved their courses to virtual/online environments. Consequently, SkillsUSA has received inquiries about how the SkillsUSA Career Essentials: Experiences curricula could be used to cultivate student learning.

Recognizing that the present circumstances put schools in a challenging position to make quick and unplanned decisions, SkillsUSA is extending a special offer of support to those schools. As such, we are offering two of our courses (exploratory and fundamental) for purchase in smaller, deeply discounted segments, allowing teachers flexible options during the uncertainty of this current health crisis.

An important point regarding this offer: SkillsUSA contracted with a third-party learning management system to house and deliver the Career Essentials curricula, and we incur a fee for every person who accesses it. Consequently, we were unable to offer this resource for free. Instead, we’ve chosen the next best option available to us: offering these resources at the lowest rate possible that would allow us to cover a portion of our associated organizational costs and remain fiscally responsible to our members. We are, however, working with our corporate partners on other fronts to deliver e-learning resources through the new CTE Coalition, a collaboration between SkillsUSA and other industry leaders. Look for an announcement on that and how to access those free materials very soon.
In the meantime, the SkillsUSA Career Essentials: Experiences courses

- Are available for middle school students (Exploratory – approximately 25 hours to complete)
  - Demo [here](#)
  - Read more and review a unit map [here](#)
- Are available for early high school students (Fundamental – approximately 35 hours to complete)
  - Demo [here](#)
  - Read more and review a unit map [here](#)
- Are available for upper high school students (Advanced – approximately 45 hours to complete)
  - Demo [here](#)
  - Read more and review a unit map [here](#)
- Are available for college students (Advanced or Adult Learner – approximately 45 hours to complete)
  - Demo [here](#)

If you or your stakeholders have questions about this special support opportunity, please direct inquiries to [careeressentials@skillsusa.org](mailto:careeressentials@skillsusa.org). If you are interested in participating in a one-hour overview of the SkillsUSA Career Essentials suite resources, sign up using the [online registration form](#).

**Lowe’s Sponsors New Chapter Resource Grants**

Lowe’s wants to ensure that new SkillsUSA chapters are ready to excel by providing them with a $1,000 grant for educational resources. The first 100 chapters that apply and qualify for the grant will receive a wealth of SkillsUSA resources (25 separate products, see list below). This opportunity is for chapters started in the past two school years (2018-2019 or 2019-2020). The application deadline is April 15. Grant selection will take place in late April and all resources will be shipped to recipients by mid-May.

For more information and a full list of the educational resources you could receive, visit: [https://www.skillsusa.org/new-chapter-resource-grant-sponsored-by-lowes](https://www.skillsusa.org/new-chapter-resource-grant-sponsored-by-lowes).

To apply, go to: [https://skillsusa.wufoo.com/forms/lowes-and-skillsusa-new-chapter-grants/](https://skillsusa.wufoo.com/forms/lowes-and-skillsusa-new-chapter-grants/).