



Officer/Position

Report for the Month of: August 2025



Xavier Williams
President
Advisor:
Mrs. Probst

Over the past few months as a SkillsUSA New York State Officer, I've had incredible experiences that have helped me grow as a leader. Nationals was a highlight, working long days with leverage training and delegate training, meeting members and officers from across the country, and seeing the new national officers chosen was truly inspiring. I was honored to be selected as the New York State President during that time. Soon after, we traveled to Albany for summer leadership training. Spending time with the team showed me how much each of us brings to the table. We learned how to lead, plan events, and support each other. Now we're preparing for WLTI and talking to our state congress men and women about why CTE schools are important and Fall Leadership, and I'm excited for what's ahead and I can't wait to see how I do.



Giovanna Caminiti
Secretary
Advisor:
Mrs. Mead

Not only has this summer been my busiest summer yet, I gained the privilege of becoming the NYS Secretary for this school year. This role was carefully chosen by my peers as seen fit. I not only am grateful for it but I have become good friends with all of the others. Following Nationals a two week prep period began for planning and organizing before our summer leadership conference. As of that conference, we as officers, got to participate and facilitate our own training and workshops based on the SkillsUSA Framework. This conference will benefit us in our upcoming year, specifically at our Fall Leadership Conference. I learned that we must place ourselves into each other's shoes at every chance we can to maximize our potential for learning and growth. I am quite nervous for WLTI (Washington Leadership and Training Institute) because of all of the work needed for it. I am going to do my best to make sure I can benefit from it even though it will be so stressful. I am also just as nervous for FLC because this role is bigger than anything I have ever done before, of course I am so grateful for this privilege but at the same time just as nervous for everything that I've never done before.



Gianna Balsamo
Treasurer
Advisor:
Mr. Zwart

My first few months as a NYS State Officer have been nothing short of amazing. From being elected in Syracuse to traveling all the way to Atlanta, Georgia, for leadership training and the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC). While in Georgia, the first few days were filled with Leverage Training, which taught us how to be effective facilitators. We participated in workshops and activities that explained what effective facilitation looks like, how to do it, and the chance to practice by building full lesson plans. After training, we had time to tour the area. I went to the Georgia Aquarium, got to learn more about my fellow officers and meet tons of awesome people from all over the country. All of the officers bonded quickly, so being around them felt really comforting, especially while being so far from home.

After we returned home, two short weeks flew by, and soon it was time for Summer Leadership Training. In the time between, each officer was assigned pre-work, which included creating two activity plans for Fall Leadership, two community service ideas, and one theme idea. In September, we head to the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTi) in Washington, D.C. At WLTi, we'll work to earn our National Statesman Pin and learn about Perkins funding for our CTE programs. Our pre-work includes a few Absorb modules, such as SkillsUSA Knowledge and Civic Awareness, and we are each required to set up an informational interview with one of our congressional representatives.

Overall, it's been a hectic, challenging, and rewarding experience, but nonetheless, it's been absolutely awesome. I can't wait for WLTi this fall!



Elena Hymes
Parliamentarian
Advisor:
Mr. Hensen

Recently, our SkillsUSA officer and advisor team had the incredible opportunity to attend the Summer Leadership Conference at the Desmond Hotel in Albany NY. We explored a variety of important topics, from mastering parliamentary procedure and organizing this year's community service project, to perfecting our table etiquette. One of the most valuable parts of the event was sharing and refining our ideas for Fall Leadership with fellow team members and our advisors. The feedback we received helped in strengthening our vision and plans. As my journey as a state officer continues, I'm excited to see what the team and I can achieve together. We're committed to pushing boundaries and making this year unforgettable for our SkillsUSA chapter!



Antonella Barone
Reporter
Advisor:
Mrs. Bitzer

I have had many responsibilities since being elected as a State Officer. In June I went to Atlanta, Georgia where I participated in Leverage training. I learned how to facilitate a room for Fall Leadership. After training was done we went to Delegate Sessions where we elected our National Officers. Along the way I traded for pins and made many valuable friendships. We also got our roles and I am so thankful that I got NYS Reporter. For July the Officers and I went to Summer Leadership where we put our Leverage Training skills into action. We facilitated a room with advisors and the officers. We got feedback from everyone about what went well and what we need to work on. We also picked out the theme for Fall Leadership and got our room assignments. For the month of August I have been doing pre-work and getting ready for WLTI. I am also going to the Washington County Fair for the opening ceremony and announcing names. I am so excited to represent WSWHE F. Donald Myers Center. I can't wait to see what I accomplish this year as Reporter. I hope I will be able to inspire all students across New York State to reach for goals they thought aren't possible to reach.



Zoe Corrigan
Historian
Advisor:
Mrs. Wyatt

Nationals was an incredible experience where I had the opportunity to connect with members from across the country, participate in Leverage Training, and engage in delegate sessions. I returned with new ideas and inspiration to share with our state. Summer Leadership pushed me to apply and improve my facilitation skills alongside my fellow state officers, helping me grow both personally and as a leader. Currently, I'm working on my WLTI pre-work and preparing to deliver a speech at my school's CVES Opening Day Session. I'm excited to share my state officer journey so far and help kick off what promises to be an amazing year ahead for our CTE community!



Gianna Rowles
Area I VP
Advisor:
Mr. Rozewski

My journey as a state officer has been so exciting so far, starting by getting elected as your area 1 vice president at regionals and then going to states and having many delegate sessions to find out the rest of the state officers! In between we had a lot of pre-work but now we move to nationals in Atlanta Georgia, which was week long so I thought it would be stressful, but it was so fun and we did a lot of activities. I met people from all over the U.S., and I loved Leverage training and the color rooms which split us up with people from all over. I learned a bunch of different things from my team room leader, and we had a lot of meetings with the officer team and a lot of great conversations that helped me learn how each of the officers are as a person! When Nationals ended, I was so sad that I couldn't see the other officers for awhile, but that didn't last long because in 2 weeks we had summer leadership which helps us get ready for fall leadership and learn how to lead a room. I learned about dinner etiquette and what an elevator speech was and many other things. I am currently working on WLTI requirements and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Leadership Conference this Fall.



Pierce Haney
Area II VP
Advisor:
Mrs. Romanowski & Ms. LaTourette

In June, the NY SkillsUSA state officer team landed in Atlanta, GA for SkillsUSA's national conference. We took a training course called "Leverage" that boosted our knowledge and skills about how a professional meeting is held. In the process of our training, we voted on the roles and positions that each state officer would have. Throughout the week, we were able to bond with each other and meet so many amazing SkillsUSA members from all across the nation. My favorite part of NLSC was meeting new people and making connections. Mike Rowe from the show "Dirty Jobs" gave a speech during the conference. He spoke about each of the talents we possess as leaders and how we use them in every day life. Later on in the week, we voted for the new year's national officer team. Shortly after that, we had a meeting in Albany NY, titled "Summer Leadership." During this, we tested activities that we plan to use for Fall leadership. Each officer brought 2 activities that they planned on using. Not only that, we practiced the opening, closing, and flag ceremony for the Fall Leadership conference.



MiaLee Robles
Area III VP
 Advisor:
 Mrs. O'Brien

This summer, I had the privilege of traveling to Atlanta, Georgia, for the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. As a representative from New York, I was both excited and a little nervous to meet members and competitors from all across the country. From the moment I arrived, I realized Nationals wasn't just about competition—it was about celebrating skills, building leadership, and connecting with people who share the same passion for career and technical education. Throughout the week, I attended inspiring opening and closing ceremonies, visited the SkillsUSA TECHSPO and watched some of the best students in the nation compete in their trades. My favorite part was participating in the leadership workshops, where we focused on the SkillsUSA Framework and practiced skills like public speaking, teamwork, and professional networking. I also had the chance to meet industry leaders who shared valuable advice about careers, certifications and the importance of staying committed to our goals. Beyond the events and competitions, what stood out most was the sense of unity. Whether we were trading state pins, cheering for teammates, or exploring Atlanta together, I felt proud to represent New York. I returned home with new friends, stronger leadership skills, and a deeper appreciation for SkillsUSA. Nationals was more than a conference—it was an unforgettable experience that motivated me to keep striving for excellence.



Caden Salamone
Area IV VP
 Advisor:
 Ms. Dickerson

This month, our SkillsUSA state team met at the Desmond Hotel in Albany for a conference. During this meeting, we worked on planned activities to prepare for our upcoming Fall Leadership Conference, which we will also be leading at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. We focused on using the SkillsUSA Framework Essential Elements throughout our preparation:

- **Communication:** We shared ideas openly and practiced speaking clearly so our workshops at Fall Leadership will run smoothly.
- **Teamwork:** Each officer took on specific roles and supported each other to make sure every part of the plan is ready.
- **Planning, Organizing, and Management:** We set clear timelines for activities and made sure materials will be ready for participants.
- **Leadership:** We stepped into our roles as leaders by guiding discussions, making decisions, and ensuring our events will inspire members.

Overall, this month was about preparing as a team, building our leadership skills, and ensuring that the Fall Leadership Conference will be engaging, organized and impactful for all attendees.



John Gates
Officer At Large
Advisor:
Mrs. Petronella

This month, I had the opportunity to meet with our State Officer Team in Albany. During our meeting, we practiced the duties of a state officer, including presenting the flags, giving our speeches for Fall Leadership and planning activities for the conference. It was a great experience to work and learn alongside my fellow officers and I had a lot of fun being part of the team. Later in the month, I attended my chapter meeting where we discussed our plans for the year. We worked on organizing meeting schedules, planning our chapter project, and brainstorming ways to increase attendance and engagement within our chapter. It has been an exciting and productive month. Currently I am working on preparing for the WLTI conference, and I am looking forward to the upcoming Fall Leadership Conference and the activities we've been preparing.



Joshua Trop
Officer At Large
Advisor:
Mrs. Ross

Currently I am working on more workshops for my Fall Leadership room. Planning a meeting with other members of the room to discuss progress and possible adjustments that need to be made.



Malachi Plaza
Officer At Large
Advisor:
Mr. Henson

My officer report begins with the 2024–2025 National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC), a national event where thousands of students, advisors and industry leaders gather for competitions, leadership training and professional development. On June 20th, I arrived in Atlanta, Georgia, where I was formally introduced to the team—14 officers along with our advisors. During the conference I participated in Leverage Training, where I learned about the P.O.W.E.R. formula, leadership skills as a new State Officer, and had the opportunity to interact and bond with my team. I attended the Opening Ceremony, where I saw the National Officers and the competitors from across the country. Leverage Training was eye-opening—it showed me how people from different states act and present themselves compared to those from New York. I also represented NYS by being a delegate. During this process, all 50 states interviewed candidates for National Office elections and we also voted on proposed changes to the SkillsUSA bylaws. I returned to New York with a stronger understanding of SkillsUSA and a greater sense of comfort and connection with my team members. Fast forward to July 7th, when I attended Summer Leadership at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. I reunited with the team, and we immediately got to work. We discussed upcoming events such as Fall Leadership and the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTi)—a conference in Washington, D.C., where SkillsUSA members develop leadership skills, meet with legislators, and learn how to advocate for Career and Technical Education. We also received further officer training—focused on smaller but still impactful leadership topics. Through my time with SkillsUSA so far, I have grown as both a leader and an individual. I've built meaningful connections and feel proud to be part of a team that represents SkillsUSA New York State.



Savanna Juste
Officer At Large
Advisor:
Mrs. Carnavale

Hello NY! These past few months serving as your Officer at Large Alumni committee has been busy, proactive and enriching. The state officers attended the SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference in Atlanta GA, where we engaged in the Leverage program with other state officers from all over the country partaking in break-out rooms and educational sessions to learn more ways to lead our state and brainstorm with other states. We have learned so many fun activities and SkillsUSA information we cannot wait to share with you all. We dived deep into the framework and learned more ways to connect it to our day to day lives. In July the state officers had Summer Leadership in Albany where we started to plan the upcoming Fall Leadership conference. We hope you'll love what we have planned and are ready to take back all the information to your home chapters. At Summer Leadership we attended a board meeting with all the people who make SkillsUSA NY the great organization it is today, we introduced ourselves and positions and we were very grateful and honored to be there. So far serving and representing NY state has been amazing and I can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store.