November has been a super busy month for the State Officer Team. Earlier this month, the State Officer team was busy at work preparing to facilitate a group(s) of around 40 aspiring SkillsUSA members at the NYS Fall Leadership Conference. The team spent two days preparing their activities and room decorations, and then the next three facilitating to the members on what SkillsUSA is and many factors of the organization. Each Officer was put into a group of two in which they would work together to facilitate; overall, the entire Fall Leadership Conference went extremely well. Other than that, each officer worked individually in their chapters to grow their chapters and spare no effort in upholding the ideals of SkillsUSA. The SAEC WSWHE BOCES Chapter most recently did a hometown thanksgiving fundraiser where the Culinary Arts and Hospitality students made numerous thanksgiving dishes, the seniors focused on gravy, stuffing, and turkey products, and the juniors focused on apple and pumpkin pies, and sold them to people from the community. The numbers from the boxed lunches and special Olympics came back and overall our chapter made a profit of $700. November has been a very busy month for the SAEC Chapter and the NYS SkillsUSA State Officer team as a whole.

For the month of November, the state officer team, myself included has conquered and overcome so many struggles and newly developed challenges. Over the month of November, I came face to face with my biggest fear as a State officer, Fall leadership. Fall leadership was an incredible experience that I would give anything to just have 5 more minutes of it. The kids in my room thanked me at the end. I told them I learned so much from them as well and how lucky I was to have an incredible room like them. Our opening and closing, as well as, flag ceremony was incredible. It all went so very well. We also had the people who attended vote on the motion to change the way we run for office which ended up passing.

As we finally put our hard work, training, and wonderful ideas into action, we held our Fall Leadership Conference (FLC)! We facilitated students in our breakout rooms in order to help our students become world class leaders and workers. It gave me the opportunity to work with students my age and threw me for a loop as I thought it would be the same as teaching preschoolers in my CTE class. I got to make so many new connections with advisors and students. We talked about the SkillsUSA framework and how we can integrate these skills in our everyday lives and how we can share it with our local chapters. This conference gave me new experiences, skills, and connections that I will never forget and use in my future. As we prepare for our Area 4 regional conference, my OU-BOCES chapter is fundraising and collecting goods to donate to our local food pantry for the holiday season.
On November 3rd, the 14 state officers met at the Desmond hotel in Albany for Fall Leadership. From Friday night to Sunday at noon we finished final preparations, solidified the room workshops, planned breaks for the students and ways to keep them engaged, ways to get their attention, and poster papers for our break-out rooms. All while reviewing the opening, closing ceremonies and flag ceremonies. Come Sunday afternoon this marked the start of 2023 fall leadership, and students started to arrive. Monday morning the group I was in attended our capital tour and later in the afternoon Mr. Fernandez came in and taught everyone about parliamentary procedure. This was then used later that night in the delegate session. Tuesday morning, we used to recap all of the stuff we had discussed and the community engagement and public relations projects were present one last time in preparation. Then came the closing ceremony and we were done.

During this month as a state officer we held meat stick fundraisers. We held this fundraiser to raise more money for Fall Leadership and competitions. I also attended and led a Fall Leadership room. We had a great time at Fall Leadership and got a lot of engagement, in each of our group rooms we all developed fundraisers and community service activities to be presented. Each group then presented team room ideas at closing, and there were a lot of great ideas presented.
November was an eventful and delightful month for me as a SkillsUSA state officer. It was so awesome to facilitate and teach my peers what SkillsUSA is and how it benefits us. I got to talk about the framework with a great group of my peers. I have no words to describe the immense amount of pride and joy I have in myself, my teammates and the students in my breakout room. It was an absolutely amazing event and I’m even getting a little emotional writing this report. I have never felt such togetherness, it was truly an amazing experience. Following Fall Leadership, in my chapter we are conducting a meat stick fundraiser, the funds raised go towards assisting our members to participate in the regional and state competitions. Additionally, the welding class is building rocket stoves to raffle off and give away to also raise funds for our SkillsUSA chapter.

Jacob Szumigala
Historian
Advisor: Mr. Valentine

November was such an eventful month for me and the State Officers! The Fall Leadership Conference was absolutely incredible, and I hope everyone can feel my pride and excitement radiating through my words. It was amazing to hear that all of our hard work and leadership skills were put to the test and resulted in such a successful event. Kudos to all the State Officers for making it happen. I'm thrilled to share that the community service project was a triumph as well. Raising $1,018 for the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention is truly commendable. It's heartwarming to see the impact we've made in supporting such an important cause. The Toy Story theme was a blast! I can only imagine the joy and nostalgia it brought to everyone. Assigning each State Officer, a character was such a creative touch, and it added a lot of fun and excitement to the conference. The activities in each room were aligned with the SkillsUSA framework. This not only made the conference engaging but also helped reinforce the essential elements. My teamwork, with my partner, in my room deserves a big round of applause. It was evident that our collaboration and dedication made the room run smoothly. I would like to point out that my partner and I were so happy when we got 100% statesmen in our team room. It was also a nostalgic experience for all of us to transition from being a student at Fall Leadership to being the one running the conference. It's a testament to our growth and the impact we've had on others. It was a fulfilling and rewarding moment for all of us. I would like to say keep up the incredible work to all of our state officers and advisors. It is important that we know that we are making a difference and inspiring others with our leadership and dedication. I'm so excited to see what amazing things we'll achieve next.

Kayla Waddell-Martin
Area I VP
Advisor: Ms. Probst
In the month of November, I had the opportunity to spread my knowledge and love for SkillsUSA to many different students from across New York. This was an amazing experience as I was able to facilitate and get my breakout room full of students in various CTE programs to recognize the connection of the world of work. We put the framework into use. By stepping on stage with the state officer team I was able to communicate and push myself with a little self-motivation to present Opening and Closing ceremonies to over 450 people. In addition, myself and the whole state officer team had the privilege to connect with an abundance of students through engaging activities. This would later help when running meetings, advocating for Career and Technical education and spreading the word about SkillsUSA to people in their chapter as well as near them.

On November 11th, the Adirondack High School chapter visited the local nursing home to acknowledge the Veterans and their families. This was an amazing opportunity and it gave myself and my chapter members comfort knowing that they found joy in us joining them for the day to participate in crafts and such. As well as explaining what SkillsUSA is and what we have to offer, most of them say they wish they had this inspiring organization when they attended high school.
Throughout November, our local chapter, WSWHE BOCES Southern Adirondack Education Center, and the State Officer team got involved in many ways. First, our chapter met and used a parliamentary procedure vote to see what foods we wanted to do for "Hometown Thanksgiving." We were cut short on the money because we did not make as much of a profit from the "Special Olympics Boxed Lunches" this year. The profit that our chapter made was around $700. Moving along the "Hometown Thanksgiving," the juniors went apple picking at Hick's Apple Orchard. The apples that they picked are going to be turned into apple pie. On November 1, the turkeys arrived, and we had to cook them off and break them down. After cooking and breaking down the turkeys, we turned all of the bones into 200 gallons of turkey stock that would be used for turkey gravy. We also took the 1,200 pounds of apples and turned that into apple crisp and apple pies. Next was our annual Fall Leadership Conference! This conference was held at the Desmond Hotel in Albany from November 3 to November 7. The State Officers and I arrived at the hotel two days earlier than all the centers who came. We had to be there two days early to practice opening, closing, and our flag ceremony. Also, even though we did not have much time, we prepared for our team rooms by reviewing our activities and making posters to hang. This year's Fall Leadership Conference theme was Toy Story. This was the first conference where the team and I were on stage. Forty-seven centers were attending. Zach and I were captains for Team Buzz Lightyear. In our team room, Zach and I had 40 students to teach about SkillsUSA. The topics we covered were parliamentary procedure, elevator speeches, program of work, community service projects, and public relations projects. Following along, we also did different activities involving the essential elements of the SkillsUSA Framework. During this conference, we also did a community service fundraiser. The fundraiser is for suicide prevention, and the money was donated to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Some ways we raised money for this was a $1 donation for a bracelet and a $2 donation for a spin at the wheel with prizes of hats, shirts, and water bottles. The total amount of money that we made as a whole at this conference was $1,018. On November 14, Chef Zwart allowed me and another student to attend an EXPO held at Queensbury Union Free High School. We discussed what Career and Technical Education is and what it consists of while demoing how to make a Chocolate Chip Cookie. This event was specifically for middle schoolers who attend Queensbury to learn what BOCES is all about. On November 17, BOCES held an advisory board meeting of homeschool district counselors and board members. At this meeting, I told my framework story on how Career and Technical Education has affected me and how being a NYS SkillsUSA State Officer has helped me grow as a person. Lastly, we are planning for our December Community Service project that will take place on Saturday, December 9. The event will support Project Pinball and the Ronald McDonald House.
This month has been a very eventful one. I have personally attended the function and facilitation of the SkillsUSA 2023 fall leadership conference. Planning for this event was a nightmare in a dream, there was a lot of blood and sweat put into it making this event work properly, but there was also plenty of joy to be shared. This experience helped me get a lot closer to my team, as we pushed ourselves and learned that we have no limits. Fall leadership itself was spectacular, I believe that it went very well. I feel we were able to successfully train young leaders and supply them with the proper knowledge about skills, so they can take it back to their own chapters. Most importantly our community service project was very successful, and I’m glad I was given the opportunity to spread awareness of such a serious topic that has the power to help many people. This month my chapter of course had our November general meeting. Our meeting’s main activity truly pushed our members to the brink of creativity. They had to create a skit based on the fundamental ideals of SkillUSA along with the spirit of giving in honor of thanksgiving. My chapter also started a canned food drive that is turning out to be quite successful, it's ending in a few days and the winning class gets a prize. Overall November turned out to be very successful, but with December around the corner and all our events planned, I have no doubt that December will be even better!
Fall Leadership was right around the corner so all 14 of our State Officers met at the Desmond Hotel in Albany where two days prior to the start of FLC we went over activities, opening, closing, and flag ceremony. We also went over the statesman so we knew the answers, proper ways to get people’s attention, and decorated our rooms. All of sudden it was time as people started showing up. We introduced ourselves to hundreds of people then went to dinner where we opened. Standing in front of 450 people was terrifying but that didn’t matter because we had to stay focused. We went to our rooms where we met the 40 students Angelina and I would be teaching. We started our activities which we continued the next day while teaching the students about parliamentary procedure, creating an elevator speech, and creating a community service and public relations project. Angelina and I also took our group on a capitol tour of Albany which for most was their first time seeing the capitol which was a great experience. We got back to the hotel where we helped many people complete their statesman and watched many enjoy themselves at the ice cream social. Our last day we watched our students present their public relations and community service projects. Then we closed and it was one of the most heartfelt moments in my life. I have never been so proud watching these potential state officers and competitors show who they truly are, which are leaders in the making.

Finally, our chapter ended this month with a meeting which included all of our members where we discussed numerous topics. The meeting was started with an activity run by our officers Tessa and Scarlett where they asked questions regarding how a person should act in certain situations. Following that, questions about professionalism were more explained. Many members turned in their money and had to register as a SkillsUSA member. I talked to my advisors about our upcoming community service project for next month. This was found as an extremely beneficial month.

This month was the NY Fall Leadership conference, honestly this was such an amazing but very tiring experience. We took a few days before to prepare and ideas we wanted to incorporate and bring into our room. My room as Bullseye for our overall theme for the conference Toy Story. My teammate Willem and I led a room together of 37 students. At times it wasn’t easy but very fun to engage and just get to see future leaders in our room. I got a chance to work one on one with some of them and really got to see their skills and abilities. I hope I got to inspire some of them to run for a State officer. Think one of my big takeaways from facilitating was that even the smallest thing you can do can make an impact on others. I’m sad it's over but very proud of myself and my team for how well we did for leading a conference.
During the month of November, we had our Fall leadership conference. We have been preparing for this conference for months to make it the best experience for all involved. At this conference, we taught local chapter officers about the SkillsUSA framework and skills they could bring back home to the local chapters, so they could lead in their schools to the best of their ability. During this conference I was a facilitator which was a wonderful opportunity. I learned the skills in my prior conferences as a state officer to be a facilitator so I would be prepared with the knowledge I need to give to my peers. While this was happening in Orange-Ulster BOCES all the student leaders in clubs in my school were able to organize the fundraisers my school would do throughout the year. We recently just finished our food drive community service and all the food that we have collected will be sent to people during the holiday season. Overall, the month of November has been the best month to be a SkillsUSA state officer.