



Officer/Position

Report for the Month of September 2026



Paige Roberts
President
Advisor:
Mrs. Essig

In September, school begins, and everyone's schedule suddenly gets busy. As a state officer, my schedule is extremely busy almost all the time, so balancing school and SkillsUSA hasn't been easy. However, it's not something that I cannot do. With WLTI, Region One, and Fall Leadership within the next two months, it's been a whole new level of creating balance. I also had my first meeting with my chapter officers since we've been back to school. Pre-Work for WLTI has gone smoothly however it has taught me patience. Patience is required in a lot of aspects and I was so close to being done, the last thing I needed to do was interview my principal about Perking funding. As I'm waiting for her in the office, 15 minutes go by and I feel as though maybe my time was not being respected. I was missing valuable instruction time just waiting. When she finally invited me into her office she told me we had to reschedule. I was not happy with this news because it was the last thing I needed to complete. But it has taught me how to be patient and flexible with my time. The whole pre-work experience has taught me how to manage my time very well. During my meeting with my chapter officers, we discussed positions, a grant opportunity, and made it clear that we are striving to participate in the Chapter of Excellence. We also talked about the next steps in applying for the Nourishing Neighbor Grant and creating a list of people we need to contact. I am so very excited for next month and excited to see what WLTI and Region One have to offer. My next step is completing the Region One exam. I cannot wait for Fall Leadership and to see New York members all in one place. I'm still preparing for Fall Leadership by reviewing scripts and doing everything I can to make sure I'm confident and will be able to lead my room effectively.



Isabella Burton
Secretary
Advisor:
Mrs. Fisher

As WLTI gets closer, I have been putting a lot of time and effort into preparing for the conference and making sure I am ready for everything that is expected of me as a New York State SkillsUSA Officer. There is a lot of pre-work to complete, and I have been working through my assignments, organizing my responsibilities, and making sure I understand what I need to accomplish before WLTI. I have also been meeting with my fellow State Officers to discuss WLTI, go over expectations, share ideas, and prepare for the work we will be doing together. Along with preparing for WLTI, we have been discussing Fall Leadership and working together on activities, ideas, and plans to help make the event successful for SkillsUSA members across New York. I have also been attending Board of Education meetings at my local chapter, which has given me the opportunity to learn more about how our school and CTE programs are supported and to see firsthand how important communication and advocacy are. These meetings have helped me become more comfortable speaking in a professional setting and better understand the responsibilities that come with being a leader. I will also be meeting with my local SkillsUSA chapter to speak with the new juniors about SkillsUSA, the opportunities it provides, and what it means to be involved in the organization. I plan to explain my responsibilities as a State Officer, share what I have learned through my experience, and encourage them to become active members and future leaders within their chapter. I want them to see the importance of SkillsUSA and understand that the skills they build through leadership, teamwork, communication, and responsibility can help them both in school and in their future careers. Overall, I am continuing to challenge myself, stay organized, and put in the work necessary to represent my local chapter and New York SkillsUSA to the best of my ability.



Grace Deal
Parliamentarian
Advisor:
Mr. Petronella

This past September, as well as being busy with school and other extracurricular activities, I was also busy with SkillsUSA responsibilities. For the upcoming WLTl conference in Washington DC, which is to advocate for more funding for CTE schools, I have been extremely busy with the pre work which included interviewing my home chapter's principal about Perkins funding, and setting up a meeting with Representative Mannion so that me and my fellow officers can have an opportunity to advocate for what we believe is right for not just our home chapter, but SkillsUSA also. Additionally, all of my classmates both in my CTE program and New Visions, as well as Automotive Technology, have been signed up for SkillsUSA so we can give them an opportunity to grow in ways they would never imagine. In a week, I will be leaving for the WLTl conference and I am thrilled to have this opportunity and I thank everyone who has supported me.



Kaleb Baldwin
Treasurer
Advisor:
Mr. Zwart

I have recently been working on my WLTl pre-work. I also have just been advocating for Skills on the side trying to spread more awareness to my school. School has started back up and I've been working in my CTE program.



Brooke Dunkelberger
Reporter
Advisor:
Mr. Rozowski

In preparation of WLTi me and my officer team have been working very diligently on our Pre-Work. I know me and the other officers are very excited to connect in Washington this month! Being in school for a few weeks now SkillsUSA is being promoted at our local chapters, and being taught to incoming students. While recruiting members it reminds me of where I was last year and how many opportunities SkillsUSA has brought to me. I am very excited to connect with the officer team in just a few weeks, and have so many new experiences in Washington!



Madelyn Danaher
Historian
Advisor:
Mrs. O'Brien

This month, as a NYS Officer for SkillsUSA, I have been focused on preparations for our WLTi Conference. This has consisted of expanding my knowledge on the history of SkillsUSA and guidance on how to advocate for CTE funding while at the conference. I have continued to contact my local representatives in Congress to discuss CTE funding advocacy. I have also been able to connect to my chapter's CTE program principal to learn about how our center is funded, and to get a better perspective on giving interviews. I have also continued preparing for our Fall Leadership Conference and organizing our community service project for the conference. I have been in frequent contact with leaders in a local organization, and plan to continue to advocate in upcoming meetings with their directors. I feel that I have immensely benefited from my recent endeavors within SkillsUSA being geared towards learning more about advocacy. Advocacy is involved a ton in my CTE program of Criminal Justice as well as my own personal career goals. I enjoy finding out how each new experience I receive as a NYS Officer for SkillsUSA is oriented to not only my career path, but is universal as a skill for adult professional life. I am beyond excited for all that the NYS Officer team accomplishes in Washington D.C. at the WLTi Conference!



Alana Frank
Area I VP
Advisor:
Mrs. Probst

As we start the new school year, I am so excited to continue serving as your New York SkillsUSA Area 1 Vice President. School has been going really well so far, and I'm excited to see what this year brings. I'm looking forward to meeting new members, getting involved in more activities, and continuing to grow through SkillsUSA. I am especially excited for WLTI coming up in the next week or two! I can't wait to see the other state officers from across the country again and reconnect with the people I met at Nationals. I'm also really excited to spend more time with my New York State officer team and continue building the friendships we started over the summer. I'm looking forward to everything we will learn at WLTI and the new experiences we will have together. I know it will be another great opportunity to grow as a leader, learn new skills, and bring new ideas back to New York SkillsUSA. I'm excited to see how much we can continue to grow as a team throughout the year. At my local school, we have also started coming up with ideas for a community service project. We haven't picked our final idea yet, but I'm excited to see what we decide on and how we can give back to our community through SkillsUSA. I think it will be a great way to get students involved and make a positive impact. I am so thankful for the opportunity to be an Area 1 Vice President and represent New York SkillsUSA. I'm excited for the rest of the school year, all of our upcoming events, and everything my state officer team and I will accomplish together!



Rhiana DeVoe
Area II VP
Advisor:
Mrs. Lewis

September has been a month of preparation, and growth for SkillsUSA. As we begin the year with new membership, my home chapter has been focused on preparing for upcoming leadership opportunities, supporting our area, and helping strengthen our chapter. One of my main focuses this month has been preparing for WLTI and FLC. I am looking forward to gaining new skills, connecting with other SkillsUSA student leaders, and bringing what I learn back to my home chapter and area. I have also been preparing for Area II kickoff. This event is an opportunity to welcome members, build excitement for the new SkillsUSA year, and help chapters understand the opportunities available to them. Growth within my home chapter has been another major priority this month. We have been working on increasing membership, encouraging student involvement, and making sure members understand the value of being part of SkillsUSA. I am excited for the opportunities ahead and look forward to continuing to grow as a SkillsUSA State Officer, while helping other members become more involved and confident leaders. I look forward to seeing Area II at Kickoff and everyone at Fall Leadership!



Skye Hodgson
Area III VP
 Advisor:
 Mrs. Citro

Hello SkillsUSA! I'm excited to start off this new school year, so far it has been very eventful! We have all started our pre-work for the Washington Leadership Training Institute in Washington DC. We have also been setting up meetings with our state representatives to talk about the importance of Perkins Funding. In my homeschool, I have been working on a presentation to inform them about the incredible opportunities SkillsUSA has to offer. We have also been spreading the word around my chapter in hopes to help more instructors get involved and more students to run for chapter office. This month has definitely tested my planning, organization, and management skills, but I am so excited for the opportunity to gain more knowledge in Washington DC next week!



Cameren Thibault-Edmonds
Area IV VP
 Advisor:
 Ms. Dickerson

This month our chapter spent a lot of time introducing SkillsUSA to new Ulster BOCES students, and made sure they were aware of the competitions they could participate in. As a state officer, my main focus was making sure all my pre-work was done for WLTi, which is the Washington Leadership Training Institute, where we, the state officer team, go to D.C as the delegation from New York to help lobby for the continued support of Perkins V, a law that ensures funding for CTE programs around the country. We also get to tour D.C in the night, and see the monuments! The essential elements I utilized during this month were: Leadership, Communication, Work Ethic, and Planning, Organization, and Management.



Ekam Dhillon
Area V VP
Advisor:
Ms. Mlecowski

I am thankful to say that I have spent another month serving as your New York State Area 5 Vice President. We have had a lot going on behind the scenes this month in preparation for big upcoming conferences which I am excited for. The Washington Leadership Conference is fastly approaching and us State Officers are preparing to get our National Statesmens. Prior to the conference we have had to complete prework on Pathful, educating me more on CTE, Perkins Funding, civics, and the framework. A meeting with our principals also had to be scheduled in order to learn more about Perkins funding in our own chapters and to be able to bring this information back to WLTI. The reason we have all of this prework for the Washington Leadership conference is so we are able to advocate for increased Perkins funding. An increase in Perkins funding will help SkillsUSA and CTE significantly, granting more opportunity to close the skills gap and create a highly functioning society where there are more qualified vocational workers to fill the job gap. CTE is truly an important contributor to our society and can help its learners develop essential skills and elements from the framework which they will use throughout their careers to become successful, so I am very grateful to have the ability to advocate for it.

In addition, Fall Leadership is nearly approaching and I am very excited to be able to run a room and teach SkillsUSA New York members about the framework through fun and engaging activities. Many students when coming to Fall Leadership have no idea what the framework is and learning about it will prove very useful for becoming responsible citizens, preparing them for everyday life and in the workforce. I would love to share this knowledge with them just as the previous State Officers have done for us. As the new school year has begun there are many events in the works. At my chapter we are planning our first general meeting and community service events to follow. We may host an event called Haunted Hallways where we decorate our school for Halloween and elementary students can come and trick or treat in a safe and protected environment. We also have a community service event for Fall Leadership which I believe will be a great way to give back to the community. Major events for SkillsUSA are approaching and us State Officers have certainly been busy preparing for them. I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity to spread SkillsUSA both at my own chapter and at the state level. Thank you to the board of directors and the advisors for this opportunity and all of the support you have provided. We couldn't have done it without them.



Halina Contrearas
Area VI
Advisor:
Mrs. Bua

I hope everyone is enjoying their first month back at school! I also hope everyone is getting even more excited for an amazing year with SkillsUSA! The entire State Officer Team has been working so hard to complete all of our pre-work for WLTI. We are getting ready to head to Washington, D.C., where we will discuss the importance of Perkins funding and how it supports Career and Technical Education programs and students. At my chapter, we have also been working hard to welcome new members into our program. I am so excited to see new faces joining SkillsUSA and learning about the opportunities, leadership, and skills that our organization provides! Our chapter is also working on several fundraising and community service projects. We are collecting gently used shoes to donate to organizations that help people in need. We are also organizing a food drive to support our community and help make sure families have access to food. I hope everyone is getting excited for an amazing SkillsUSA year! I cannot wait to see what we accomplish together! Let's make this year one to remember!



Jude Cabrera
Officer At Large
Advisor:
Mr. Miller

This month has been so much fun at our SkillsUSA Chapter. So far, we have been working on our Chapter Officer Applications, and I have been busy mentoring as many students as possible to help them make a change. I have been performing our SkillsUSA presentation to my chapter with my friend Madison Anderson, who was my State Officer Campaign Manager, and Mr. Miller, who is my chapter Advisor. We are also working on a walk for Suicide Prevention and Awareness to host at my CTE Chapter; all funds will be donated to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. We are setting up our SkillsUSA Kickoff Day celebration to mark the beginning of our chapter's school year, and this year we are doing something different. Instead of our typical celebration, we are having our Officer Candidates give a one-minute introductory speech about who they are and why they are running, and I am beyond excited to watch! I am currently mentoring my past campaign manager, Madison Anderson and her pursuit of President. I am collaborating with her on her campaign, managing time, and making an impactful speech. I have also been completing my Pre-Work for the Washington Leadership Training Institute. I have interviewed administration about Perkins funding and recorded their answers to submit to Pathful. I am so incredibly excited to learn more about SkillsUSA and go to WLTi in D.C. Thank you to all the Advisors, the staff at SkillsUSA, my State Officer Advisors, and Mrs. Midge McCloskey, all for letting me have the opportunity to continue doing what I love.



Bailey Douglas
Officer At Large
Advisor:
Ms. Wyatt

During the month of September, I have had some very exciting things happen! September means it's time for WLTi! I have been having the joy of preparing for WLTi. I have been completing things like prework and have also finally set my activity plans for Fall Leadership! Me and the rest of the state officer team have been communicating to make sure we are all on the same page and have amazing community service at Fall leadership! We finally have it finalized. We are so excited to share it with everyone! I also had an amazing opportunity to be a guest speaker for my school campus CV-TEC Plattsburgh and speak to our amazing board members and staff. I talked about how much SkillsUSA has truly impacted my life and how much I've enjoyed working with my State Officer team. As well as how much my adviser who is also my teacher has impacted my life more than she will ever know. Can't wait for these next 2 fun months!