



Bruce Potter New York State, SkillsUSA Director

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State Director's Flash Report:

Dear Advisors:

How time does fly and we are now less than a month away from conference.

Thursday I attended the ACTEA conference held at the Desmond in Albany, NY. SkillsUSA along with other CTSO's had tables with information for the attendees of the conference. Advisor Nanette LaTourette from DCMO Harold Campus brought Alex and Camille from her campus to cover the table and answer questions. They both did an outstanding job and we were the only CTSO that had student members attending. Thanks Nanette, Alex and Camille for attending and promoting SkillsUSA.

State Director Action Item



State Conference: Due Dates

April 4, 2017 State Hotel Assignments posted

April 5, 2017 NYS Registration site reopens for changes. Make all final changes online.

April 8, 2017 NYS Registration site closes. All payments are due. Please submit to Midge McCloskey.

Please Note:

Each year we give you a chance to make changes to your registration just before we finalize the conference registration for scoring and name badges.

This year the dates are April 5-8, 2017. The site will close down for good after this. Any questions contact Midge.

Needed:

Would any school have a Scantron machine that they could loan to us for the Conference test scoring. We have the cards 882-E-lovas but could use another machine to score the student written tests. **Please contact Ellen if you are interested if you can help.**

Ellen Coughlin at www.coughlinsgotskills@gmail.com

Know Your State Contest Standards (Important)

State Director Action Item



We have seen changes to contest standards from chairs and we continue to post these on the website. It is very important that you check these often so your students have the latest update on the contest.

Please keep checking the www.nysskillsusa.org website for updates to the contest standards. There is a small symbol of NY next to the standard that indicates there are updates to that standard which will be at the end of the standard so please scroll all the way down to check.

Contest Judges: NEEDED

Please note: We are always in need of people willing to judge in many contests. Opening and Closing is looking for judges and if you are knowledgeable in this area and would like to judge please contact Lisa Romeiser at www.lromeiser@aol.com

Also: There is a need for **Table Service Judges**. Contact Ellen Coughlin if interested

Please contact Ellen if you are interested in judging in any other contest.

Ellen Coughlin at www.coughlinsgotskills@gmail.com

Security Corps: Update

If you have students who are going to be part of the Security Corps you need to complete the application found on the Forms page of our website and e-mail it to David Foldi at www.davidfoldi@wsweboces.org David needs this information to be able to send information back to you as to assignments.

Contest Helpers: Update

The Contest Helper's responsibility is to "provide service to the Chairpersons" who are running the leadership and/or skills competitions during the conference.

Application for Contest Helper are due April 1, 2017 can be found on the website www.nyskillsusa.org

Under the Forms tab. Please e-mail this form to Ellen Coughlin at www.coughlinsgotskills@gmail.com

NEW Photojournalist: Update

A New area to participate in is called Photojournalist. We are allowing each chapter to register 2 photographers to attend the state event. They will participate the same as Contest Helper and Security Corps with a chairperson overseeing the students. If you have students who are going to be Photojournalist you must complete the application found on the website www.nyskillsusa.org

Under the Forms tab. Please e-mail this form to Ellen Coughlin at www.coughlinsgotskills@gmail.com

Other Information:

There will be one regents' exam that will fall within the National Conference. We are working with the State Ed Dept. over the regents' exams. We have a plan to be able to give this exam at Nationals. More information will be given out as we further define the plan.

NATIONALS Information:

Apply for Ultimate Collision Education Makeover Grants

Apply now for the Ultimate Collision Education Makeover sponsored by the Collision Repair Education Foundation. Grants are available for high-school and college/postsecondary collision-school programs. The makeover grant program is in its ninth year.

Instructors are advised to begin the application early, and industry professionals are encouraged to get involved by working with their local school's collision instructors to help them apply on time. The winning schools will be announced during the SEMA show in Las Vegas in October. Awards of up to \$50,000 will be given.

The school grant application is available online (<http://collisioneducationfoundation.org/ultimate-collision-education-makeover-grant/>) and is due by **Thursday, June 1**.

"School collision programs are facing tremendous budgetary pressure. It is difficult for many to maintain their program at current capabilities, no less increase their abilities and improve the training they deliver to the industry's future workforce," said Melissa Marscin, director of grant programs for the foundation. "The makeover grant program is designed to help collision schools get the much-needed tools, equipment and supplies they couldn't get otherwise and increase their capabilities. Last year, every school that applied received some level of support through both grants and in-kind donations."

The grant program incorporates the "Collision School Career Readiness Benchmark" that the foundation launched last year. Under the new program, schools are classified into three tiers:

- Tier 1: Advanced
- Tier 2: Proficient
- Tier 3: Developing

The foundation will determine the designation based on information provided by schools about their program's capabilities as detailed in the grant application. The criteria for each level include the number of hours of instruction, curriculum in place, and the tools, equipment and supplies a school uses to prepare students for employment in the collision industry.

If there is something that a school needs to advance to the next level, the foundation's grant application will allow a school to request that particular item. The goal is to help every school acquire the resources to eventually achieve a "Tier 1: Advanced" designation. Schools at Tier 1 status can request support for items that further advance their program.

The organization's board of trustees selection committee will select the winners and determine which items each school will receive off its wish list.

Since 2009, schools have been able to apply for the Ultimate Collision Education Makeover Grant to get much-needed tools, equipment and supplies. More than \$4 million in cash and in-kind donations have been given to schools as a result of the grant program, and over 25,000 collision students have benefited from it.

Industry members interested in getting involved with the foundation and joining its efforts to support the future of the collision industry should contact its director of development, Brandon Eckenrode, at 847-463-5244 or Brandon.Eckenrode@ed-foundation.org.

Searching for End-of-Program Assessments?

The SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System provides assessments for career and technical education that are supported by industry, education and policy leaders. We've engaged these leaders to ensure that employers recognize our assessments, help instructors validate their programs and provide career-seekers with proof of what they can do. Skill Connect Assessments are 100-percent industry driven and defined. There are more than 40 technical, employability and customer service assessments that include ASE automotive and PrintED assessments. Take a free, 10-question Skill Connect Assessment demonstration at: www.workforcereadysystem.org/demo.shtml. For more information on the SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System, visit: www.workforcereadysystem.org/index.shtml.

Celebrate Your Seniors in Style with SkillsUSA Graduation Regalia

Don't forget that graduation season is only three months away. Gift your graduate with SkillsUSA graduation regalia. SkillsUSA stoles, honor cords and tassels are available at the SkillsUSA Store for purchase. Visit www.skillsusastore.org to view all the ideas to celebrate SkillsUSA members.

Can't find what you are looking for? Call Kim Henderson at 703-674-5465 or email khenderson@egroupengage.com.

SkillsUSA/Lowe's Grants Focus on Local Service This Year



Lowe's continues an eighth year of generosity with another round of grants to SkillsUSA chapters. Grant information and the application are now available on the SkillsUSA website at: <http://skillsusa.org/membership-resources/grants/lowes/>. The focus of the grant program is significant community improvement. Grants of up to \$25,000 will be awarded. Multiple applications per school will be accepted, with priority for funding given to new SkillsUSA chapters.

The best proposed projects will:

- provide a life-changing experience for the SkillsUSA students involved and the beneficiaries of the grant dollars
- demonstrate a well-articulated planned partnership with and engagement from local Lowe's store team(s)
- show impact by reporting how many SkillsUSA students participated and how many members of the community will be affected
- show collaboration with other organizations and show sustainability
- show active use of social media to promote and document the project
- be improvement projects that use Lowe's as a resource for employee knowledge or products available at Lowe's

For more information, email jkregiel@skillsusa.org. The deadline for grant applications is **April 3** at 11:59 p.m. EDT. Late applications will not be accepted. Please review the grant guidelines to be sure that applications are properly completed and submitted.

Scholarship Returns for SkillsUSA Graduates

SkillsUSA and the McMinn County (Tenn.) Vocational Center SkillsUSA Alumni Association are offering a \$500 scholarship to a graduating high-school senior who is also a SkillsUSA member. Named for a former national officer, the Sharon Melton Myers Memorial SkillsUSA Scholarship fund provides SkillsUSA members the opportunity to continue their education in college or technical school. Candidates can nominate themselves.

All nominations must include two letters of recommendation from any of the following individuals:

- instructors
- SkillsUSA advisors
- state association director
- community leader accompanied by a course transcript

Incomplete applications, those missing requested information and appropriate signatures, will be disqualified and not be evaluated.

Nominations must be submitted by **April 15**. Apply here: <https://skillsusa.wufoo.com/forms/sharon-melton-myers-memorial-scholarship/>