



Officer/Position

Report for the Month of: July 2026



Paige Roberts
President
Advisor:
Mrs. Essig

During the week spent in Georgia for NLSC there were some great opportunities for networking, learning parliamentary procedure, how to communicate effectively, and how to recognize that your team might be struggling and how to fix it. The purpose of State officers to attend summer leadership training is so they better understand what is to come in the next year of their term while gathering an understanding of leading a room and discussing fall leadership. Even in a few short months words cannot describe how excited I am to see how far this team will grow together and all the things we will accomplish in our 2026-2027 term.

During my time at NSLC Leverage training was definitely the most fun. I got to connect with other state officers from different states as well as learn how to lead effectively! We participated in leadership breakout rooms focused on Communication, Teamwork, Professionalism, and personal growth. We connected these learning opportunities to the professional world. After we completed Leverage Training the competitors started to arrive. We supported the New York competitors, celebrated national medalists and participants, and witnessed the high level of technical and leadership excellence demonstrated by SkillsUSA members. Networking is a great way to meet some of your possible employers and industry leaders from across the nation. We effectively communicate ideas and practices with other state associations, and built relationships with other members and even National officers. The state officer team got to attend NSLC as National Delegates and had time to interview and ask the National Officer candidates some questions before electing them into office. And to close out this trip we watched the Award ceremony and celebrated the achievements of our competitors. Summer Officer Leadership Training allowed us to work more closely as a team as we participated in activities designed to strengthen communication, and collaboration. We built trust amongst each other along with strong relationships among the officer team, and developed strategies for working effectively together throughout the year. We also reviewed officer expectations and responsibilities. We learned about professionalism and leadership, and most importantly strengthened public speaking and facilitation skills. We are very excited to serve our members, and are committed to promoting the SkillsUSA framework and using parliamentary procedure effectively. Attending NLSC and Summer Officer Leadership Training was an incredible opportunity to grow as a leader, represent New York, and prepare for a successful year of service. The experiences, connections, and lessons gained will help our officer team support members, strengthen chapters, and continue empowering students to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders, and responsible community members.



Isabella Burton
Secretary
Advisor:
Mrs. Fisher

During our time at the National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC), our officer team had the opportunity to visit the Georgia Aquarium. It was one of the highlights of the trip and gave us the chance to enjoy ourselves while growing closer as a team. Exploring the incredible exhibits, seeing the diverse marine life, and sharing the experience together created lasting memories. Spending time outside of conference sessions allowed us to strengthen our friendships, improve our communication, and build trust, all of which are essential qualities of a successful leadership team. When we returned for Summer Leadership, we put the skills we gained at NLSC into action as we began planning our Fall Leadership Conference. The communication, teamwork, creativity, and leadership strategies we learned at NLSC helped guide our discussions as we brainstormed conference themes, breakout sessions, activities, and ways to create an engaging experience for our members. Another highlight of Summer Leadership was our team bowling outing. It was a fun and relaxing way to spend time together after a productive day of planning. Whether we were celebrating strikes, laughing over gutter balls, or cheering each other on, the experience brought our team even closer together. Bowling reminded us that leadership isn't only built during meetings it is also strengthened through shared experiences, encouragement, and teamwork. The stronger our relationships become, the better we can work together to serve our members and represent New York SkillsUSA. Overall, both NLSC and Summer Leadership provided opportunities for us to grow as leaders and as a team. From learning valuable leadership skills to strengthening our relationships through experiences like the Georgia Aquarium and bowling, we are excited to continue working together to create a meaningful and successful Fall Leadership Conference.



Grace Deal
Parliamentarian
Advisor:
Mr. Petronella

Over these past few months, I have done so much to support and help grow my chapter such as attending SkillsUSA NLSC and Leverage training and performing my duties as a delegate there. The SkillsUSA Atlanta Georgia trip has not only brought me and my fellow state officers closer as a team, it has shed a whole new light on my view of SkillsUSA, and helped me become a better leader overall. It was my honor to perform as a delegate for New York State to vote in the new National Officers for the 2026-2027 school year, and doing so has helped me grow and understand how important my job as a delegate really is. As well as that, I have been to meetings at my home chapter focusing on the growth of SkillsUSA at my school.

We got everyone who was interested in SkillsUSA into the meeting room and explained what a great organization Skills really was, and shared our positive experiences at the 2026 New York State Conference. Furthermore, I have been working diligently with my fellow State Officers at the SkillsUSA Summer Leadership Conference, focusing on preparing for the upcoming Fall Leadership 2026 conference and the Washington Leadership Training both coming up in the fall. I am very excited to be able to work with all of my fellow state officers in improving SkillsUSA not only in my chapter but as a whole. The work our team does is to improve SkillsUSA New York and help it grow. The upcoming Fall Leadership and Washington Leadership training will only contribute to its success.



Kaleb Baldwin
Treasurer
Advisor:
Mr. Zwart

Me and my fellow state officers have gone to nationals in Atlanta Georgia. We all went through leverage training and gained valuable information on how to run a room; speak in front of people, and how to generally look more confident speaking. We also experienced the parliamentary process on voting for national officers. More recently me and my team have run through training for Fall Leadership and learned how to go through the parliamentary process ourselves, gained feedback for our activities and worked on our opening and closing ceremonies for the Fall Leadership.



Brooke Dunkelberger
Reporter
Advisor:
Mr. Rozowski

What a SkillsUSA filled summer so far that I have had! At the beginning of June myself along with my other thirteen state officers attended NSLC located in Atlanta, Georgia. During our leverage training I learned how to network with others from all over the United States. Being a part of the house of delegates was a great experience. This taught me not only how the house of delegates runs, but it gave me the opportunity to voice my opinion on our national officers. Summer leadership was our most recent conference for our officer team. Summer leadership gave me the opportunity to connect further with my team and prepare for our Fall Leadership Conference. I am looking forward to our upcoming Skills events.



Madelyn Danaher
Historian
Advisor:
Mrs. O'Brien

As a NYS Officer, I recently attended the SkillsUSA National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. During this conference, I attended multiple days of Leverage Training for State Officers, where I learned important concepts such as time management, brainstorming strategies, networking, effective public speaking and giving presentations. Later in the conference, I participated in National Delegate sessions where I practiced using parliamentary procedure. I also attended our NYS Summer Leadership Conference. During this conference, I prepared for our upcoming WLTI conference as well as our Fall Leadership conference. For the community service project for Fall Leadership, I presented my idea of collaborating with an Albany local social services organization, Unity House. The idea was voted on by the rest of the State Officer team, as well as, reviewed by our NYS Director. I am currently working with the organization towards their involvement in our Fall Leadership conference.



Alana Frank
Area 1 VP
Advisor:
Mrs. Probst

It has been an incredible and rewarding Summer Leadership, learning how to serve as your Area 1 Vice President. I am extremely grateful for the opportunities I've had to grow both personally and professionally while representing our organization. In early June, I had the privilege of attending the 2026 SkillsUSA National conference. This experience was unforgettable and gave me an opportunity to meet students from across the country with the same passion for SkillsUSA. One of my favorite parts of Nationals was participating in Leverage training alongside fellow state officers. Working with student leaders from different areas allowed me to exchange ideas, strengthen my leadership skills, and gain new perspectives that I look forward to bringing back to New York. Another highlight was building relationships with our new New York state officer team and our incredible advisors. Throughout the week, we worked together, learned from one another, and created lasting memories that will strengthen our team throughout the year. I also enjoyed pin trading, which allowed me to connect with students across the country learning about their states, schools, and their SkillsUSA experience. More recently, our state officer team has attended the Summer Leadership conference in Albany. During this conference, I've learned how to structure my activities to educate students on the SkillsUSA framework and the importance of developing personal, workplace, and technical skills. Throughout both conferences, I've continued to develop my public speaking skills. I learned the importance of slowing down, taking intentional pauses between sentences, and projecting my voice with confidence. These techniques have already helped me become a stronger communicator, and I am excited to continue improving throughout my term as Area 1 Vice President. I am incredibly thankful for this opportunity to serve the members of New York SkillsUSA. Every experience this summer has challenged me to become a better leader, teammate, and representative of our organization. As we begin the new school year, I look forward to meeting more members, supporting our chapters, and continuing to grow alongside this amazing organization. I am especially excited to attend WLTi this September, where I know I will continue developing the leadership skills necessary to serve New York SkillsUSA to the best of my ability. I also would like to say a special thank you to the New York SkillsUSA Board and Staff, that helped make this possible for me. I deeply appreciate the contribution and support that I received from the New York SkillsUSA Board and Staff.



Rhianna DeVoe
Area II VP
Advisor:
Mrs. Lewis

During the past two months, I had the opportunity to represent New York SkillsUSA at the National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, and participate in the Summer Leadership Conference in Albany, New York. Both experiences strengthened my leadership skills, expanded my knowledge of the SkillsUSA Framework, and prepared me to better serve our members throughout the year. At the National Leadership & Skills Conference, I connected with SkillsUSA members and state officers from across the country, attended leadership sessions, Leverage training, and observed the impact that SkillsUSA has on students nationwide. Throughout the conference, I gained new ideas for member engagement, teamwork, and professional development that I look forward to bringing back to New York. It was inspiring to see the dedication of so many students and advisors who are committed to developing skilled professionals and leaders. Following Nationals, I attended Summer Leadership in Albany, where the New York State Officer Team focused on building relationships, establishing team expectations, and preparing for the upcoming school year. We collaborated on officer responsibilities, practiced communication and leadership skills, and began planning activities that will support our members and chapters across the state. This experience strengthened our teamwork and gave us a strong foundation for a successful year. Overall, the past two months have given incredible opportunities for growth and learning. I am grateful for the opportunities to represent New York SkillsUSA, develop as a leader, and work alongside such dedicated members and advisors. I am excited to apply what I have learned as I continue serving New York SkillsUSA throughout the coming year.



Skye Hodgson
Area III VP
 Advisor:
 Mrs. Citro

This month has been an exciting start to my new journey as the SkillsUSA NYS Area III Vice President. After my official induction at States, I had the incredible opportunity to attend Nationals in Atlanta, Georgia. The first three days I had the privilege to attend Leverage Training, which helped me learn how to communicate with my team respectfully with the introduction of parliamentary procedure, prioritize and manage my time wisely using the Eisenhower Matrix, and set examples of how to lead a room, along with so much more. The rest of my trip was still filled with tons of learning opportunities, along with the chance to vote for our National Officers. I was able to meet with all of the candidates and hear their ideas if they were to be elected. This was certainly an experience to remember. I also had the chance to attend Summer Leadership at the Desmond Hotel. Since this conference was a lot smaller, I feel like I really got to learn key terms and procedures on a deeper level. Many of our advisors gave wonderful presentations, from various forms of time management to proper table etiquette. We also started our preparation for Fall Leadership, I definitely felt a lot more confident in my abilities as an officer walking out of this conference. Each opportunity I've had since my induction has only reminded me that our team will only get stronger, and I'm very proud of how far we've come even in this short amount of time. We have an incredible board and advisors that we could never thank enough, they have been nothing but supportive and helpful since day one. They even gave us a memorable experience by taking us to the arcade and bowling, we got to have a break from all of our book work and have a great time competing against our advisors, they really go above and beyond. As I step into the new school year, my goal is to connect and get more of our chapter members involved, along with continuing to grow as a leader while representing SkillsUSA New York.



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

In July we had the Summer Leadership conference where we discussed and rehearsed for multiple events in the future, such as Fall Leadership and the Washington Leadership Institute trips we will be attending later this Fall. We also received training on multiple subjects such as public relations, our activity plans for our rooms at Fall Leadership, and how to work and communicate effectively as a collective using parliamentary procedure. We also decided on our community service project for Fall Leadership. This experience helped me personally grow my skills in the essential elements of teamwork, communication, and professionalism. Beforehand, we attended the National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. This was our first time actually conducting work as a team, through events like Leverage training, hosted by SkillsUSA as well as voting for the upcoming National Officer team as national delegates. This experience also helped me personally grow my skills in the essential elements of communication, teamwork, and planning, organizing, and management.



Ekam Dhillon
Area V VP
Advisor:
Ms. Mlecowski

It has been an amazing experience beginning to serve as your Area 5 Vice President, filled with fun and informative team-building activities and fulfilling results from the efforts we as officers and the board put in. I am honored and extremely thankful to have been granted this position and have access to all of these opportunities to support and grow professionally through SkillsUSA. After being awarded my title as an Area Vice President, I was fortunate enough to attend the SkillsUSA 2026 National Conference. It was truly an unforgettable experience, allowing me to forge connections with passionate members from across the nation who all believe in SkillsUSA as much as I do. Leverage training really helped to break the ice for these connections, putting our state into a room with Hawaii and Arizona, creating unforgettable bonds with members from both states. I even met and grew close with a now National Officer from Arizona who was in our room. Pin trading was also a wonderful, fun, and engaging experience to further build connections by fostering my communication with students all over, allowing me to collect adorable pins and meet new people. The connections I gained with the state officers from Arizona even allowed me to trade for a sombrero, which I now cherish. Not only did I build deep connections, but I also learned so much about leadership and teamwork through our leverage training and breakout rooms. We learned about the five dysfunctions in a team, how to speak on a stage, how to introduce yourself, and much more, all alongside students from across the nation that I otherwise would never have had the opportunity to meet. One distinctive memory of mine was being able to work collaboratively with my fellow New York State officers and experience challenges in our communication that we were ultimately able to overcome, grow, and learn from for the better. Overall, NLSC was a greatly beneficial and unforgettable conference, allowing me to develop my leadership presence, teamwork skills, and connections. In recent times, I have had the ability to attend Summer Leadership Training alongside our State Officer team and amazing advisors in Albany. Here we learned a variety of incredibly valuable information, teaching me how to teach others the importance of the SkillsUSA framework through engaging activities both planned by advisors and providing constructive insight on how to structure our very own creative activity plans. We worked together and learned from one another how to keep our activities captivating, laughing loads and creating lasting memories while also knowing when to be serious when necessary. Both NLSC and Summer Leadership Training have significantly developed my skills in public speaking and as a leader. I learned specific techniques on how to be intentional with my word choice when engaging with an audience, being direct with what I am asking, how to hold attention by limiting my question amount, and how to use parliamentary procedure to maintain order. I have already benefited greatly from these techniques and SkillsUSA and can't wait to share what I have learned with a larger group of people, as well as to continue to grow and thrive with all that this organization has to offer.

Words cannot describe how much this organization has helped me grow into a proud leader, representative, and teammate from the once-shy kid I was, leaving me eternally grateful for this opportunity to share the insights and benefits of SkillsUSA with others in the same way it has continuously helped me. I am tremendously looking forward to all that is coming up as we jump into the new school year, engaging with new members both across the country and in our state, supporting chapters everywhere, and furthering my own growth as well as that of our organization. I cannot wait to advocate for increased funding at the WLTI Conference this coming September because the connection, growth in personal, workplace, and technical skills, and opportunities provided by SkillsUSA are truly unmatched, and it is our duty to spread awareness as much as we can to serve our organization. Lastly, I just want to express how truly grateful I am to the New York State Board and Staff, who made it possible for me to serve as your Area Five Vice President and be granted all of these wonderful opportunities.



Halina Contreras
Area VI
 Advisor:
 Mrs. Bua

During my time at the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference, I had an incredible opportunity to network with members from states across America. One of the most valuable experiences was learning parliamentary procedure, which taught me the importance of conducting discussions in an organized, respectful, and efficient manner while ensuring everyone's voice can be heard. My fellow state officers and I also learned more about the structure of our team and how we can work together effectively. We are excited to bring everything we learned back to New York State and share it with our members. Throughout the summer, our team participated in leadership training to strengthen our communication, collaboration, and leadership skills as we prepare for the year ahead. We are especially excited for everyone to attend Fall Leadership! We also had the opportunity to go bowling as a team, which strengthened our teamwork, and brought us even closer together.



Jude Cabrera
Officer At Large
 Advisor:
 Mr. Miller

As of recently with SkillsUSA the State Officer team and I have been engaging in a lot of leadership training in Albany preparing for the bright school year ahead of us. We have been going over Parliamentary procedure, how to have discussions in professional ways, voting on important issues or topics, and learning how to engage in respectful debates. We have gone over the importance of showing the flags and how to handle them with respect for Fall Leadership. We have been working on our activities for the fall conference to help us prepare for teaching our members how to become successful leaders at their chapters within SkillsUSA by teaching them the SkillsUSA framework, finding their leadership styles and promoting engagement. During Nationals in Atlanta, Georgia we were able to network with industry partners, build connections with other officers from around the country, and undergo delegate training. In our delegate sessions we were able to listen to each National Officer candidate's speeches, ask them questions regarding their viewpoints on SkillsUSA and learn more about what they can do to promote Skills. This trip was very important for us, as it allowed us to meet with everyone, build relationships among ourselves and get to know our NYS members. Our training throughout Nationals and Albany has benefitted us immensely and was needed to help the State Officer team develop into a professional cohesive group that is ready to have a successful year for SkillsUSA in our State.



Bailey Douglas
Officer At Large
Advisor:
Ms. Wyatt

Hello, SkillsUSA!

We're excited to share some of the incredible things we've been working on as we prepare for an unforgettable 2026–2027 SkillsUSA year! Over the past few months, we've been getting ready to welcome a new group of members who are eager to learn, grow, and make an impact. In just two months, we'll have the opportunity to meet so many talented students, and we couldn't be more excited! Our goal is to help each member not only develop valuable career and technical skills but also become confident, well-rounded leaders who will continue to grow throughout their SkillsUSA journey. Since being elected as your State Officers at the State Leadership and Skills Conference, our team has been hard at work traveling across the state and beyond to represent SkillsUSA and prepare ourselves to better serve our members. Our first stop was Atlanta, Georgia, where we attended our largest conference as State Officers. We spent three days participating in LEVERAGE leadership training led by the outstanding 2025–2026 National Officer Team. Their passion, knowledge, and mentorship inspired us to become stronger leaders and mentors for our own members. Throughout the conference, we learned alongside officers from across the country while building lifelong connections and gaining new ideas to bring back to New York. We also had the opportunity to participate in the National Delegate Session, where the 2026–2027 National Officer Team was elected. It was an inspiring experience that gave us a deeper appreciation for the leadership and teamwork that drive SkillsUSA. Most recently, our State Officer Team traveled to Albany for our Summer Leadership Conference. During this training, we strengthened our leadership skills through sessions on parliamentary procedure, professional dining etiquette, and effective communication. We also planned exciting activities and experiences for our members to enjoy at Fall leadership. In addition, we made several important decisions that will help make this year's conferences more engaging, memorable, and impactful. We can't wait to welcome everyone back this fall and share everything we've been preparing. We are looking forward to an amazing year filled with leadership, learning, service, and unforgettable memories. We can't wait to see you all at Fall Leadership!