



Officer/Position

Report for the Month of October 2026



Paige Roberts
President

Advisor:
Mrs. Essig

September and October have been an incredible whirlwind of growth and advocacy for our NYSSkillsUSA team. At the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTi) in Washington, D.C., I fulfilled a lifelong dream of advocating for Career and Technical Education (CTE) on Capitol Hill while earning my National Statesman award. Being surrounded by so many passionate young leaders was deeply inspiring. Shortly after, we traveled to Albany for Region One, where we connected with leaders from surrounding states and our national officers. That experience reinforced the true meaning of servant leadership: leadership isn't about being the loudest voice in the room, but about empowering others, leading by example, and growing together. Now, my focus is entirely on preparing for Fall Leadership in November. I've been reviewing lesson plans, rehearsing scripts, and collaborating closely with my room partner to ensure our team is fully set up for success. Looking back, I am profoundly grateful for the connections, lessons, and opportunities from this past month. I can't wait to bring everything I've learned back to NYSSkillsUSA and encourage others to find their voice and make an impact.



Isabella Burton
Secretary

Advisor:
Mrs. Fisher

Over the past month, my role as New York State SkillsUSA Secretary has been both busy and deeply rewarding. At the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTi), our officer team advocated for CTE with a representative from Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's office and earned our National Statesman Award—an achievement that strengthened my time management and dedication through extensive pre-work. At the Region 1 Conference, we earned our Region 1 Statesman Award and collaborated to design interactive, SkillsUSA Framework-aligned breakout sessions for the upcoming Fall Leadership Conference. These experiences have shown me that being a State Officer requires meaningful work behind the scenes, strong collaboration, and continuous personal growth. I look forward to finishing our Fall Leadership preparations and delivering a high-impact, memorable experience for SkillsUSA members across New York State.



LEVEL UP
2026 - 2027



Grace Deal
Parliamentarian
Advisor:
Mr. Petronella

These past few weeks, I have been working hard as a State Officer. From attending the WLTi Conference in Washington, D.C., to earning my Region 1 Statesman award, I am striving to represent SkillsUSA to the best of my abilities. In addition to representing our organization, I have been working hard to prepare for the Fall Leadership Conference and bettering myself as a leader. My goal is to show everyone I teach what SkillsUSA truly is: an organization that helps you reach your full potential, not only as a professional, but as an everyday person as well. I am looking forward to an amazing Fall Leadership Conference and am excited to share my knowledge of SkillsUSA with my peers!



Kaleb Baldwin
Treasurer
Advisor:
Mr. Zwart

My SkillsUSA team and I attended the WLTi trip to expand our leadership development and advocate for Perkins funding with Congress. We also got to travel and see the national monuments. Now, I am practicing the pledge and getting ready for the Fall Leadership Conference so my partner and I can run our room efficiently.



Brooke Dunkelberger
Reporter
Advisor:
Mr. Rozowski

This month, as an officer for SkillsUSA, I have been preparing for our Fall Leadership Conference by reviewing activity plans and making sure everything is ready for the end of the month. Last month, we traveled to our nation's capital, Washington, D.C. As officers, we connected, explored the city, and spoke to congressional representatives regarding funding for Career and Technical Education (CTE). Exploring all of the history in Washington was truly eye-opening. While this past month has been very busy with SkillsUSA, these opportunities mean everything to me. I look forward to our Fall Leadership Conference at the end of October, where implementing all of our hard work and training will feel deeply rewarding.



Madelyn Danaher
Historian
Advisor:
Mrs. O'Brien

This month, my focus has been on collaborating with fellow New York State SkillsUSA officers to prepare for our Fall Leadership Conference at the end of October. A major highlight is coordinating our upcoming community service project with Unity House of Troy, ensuring our members can give back while demonstrating the values of the SkillsUSA Framework. Beyond service efforts, our team is dedicated to creating an engaging, motivating environment that fosters leadership development, confidence, and connection for students across the state. Building on the leadership and advocacy skills I gained at the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTi) in D.C. last month, I look forward to seeing our preparations come to fruition and continuing to serve our members through impactful leadership and service.



Alana Frank
Area I VP
 Advisor:
 Mrs. Probst

Serving as New York State Area 1 Vice President continues to be an incredible experience of growth and advocacy. At WLTi, alongside touring historic monuments, our team stepped outside our comfort zone to advocate for Perkins V funding by making cold calls—half of which yielded great connections. At the Region 1 Conference, we earned our region pins, delivered a successful Program of Work (POW) presentation, and exchanged gift bags with neighboring state teams. For local community service, my chapter is organizing a breast cancer walk and engaging every CTE program in a themed pumpkin-decorating project to foster unity for a cause. Grateful for these experiences, I look forward to supporting our members and preparing for the Fall Leadership Conference.



Rhianna DeVoe
Area II VP
 Advisor:
 Mrs. Lewis

October has been an exciting month of preparation and reflection for our SkillsUSA team. Looking back at the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTi) in D.C., we toured national monuments, networked with officers nationwide, and advocated for Perkins V funding with congressional members. I am incredibly proud of our team for earning our National Statesman awards and deeply grateful to our advisors for their support. Now, as we prepare for Area II Kickoff and the Fall Leadership Conference (FLC), I am eager to reconnect with members, build leadership and teamwork skills, and continue making a positive impact across SkillsUSA New York.



Skye Hodgson
Area III VP
 Advisor:
 Mrs. Citro

It has been a highly productive month filled with advocacy, leadership training, and outreach. At the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTi), our team met with New York State representatives to advocate for vital Perkins funding for CTE programs, visited national memorials, and reconnected with peers. At the Region 1 Conference, facilitation training led by Mariyana Lords and Daniel Levashki boosted my room-leading confidence and helped me earn my Region 1 Statesman award. Currently, our team is fully focused on refining our plans for the upcoming Fall Leadership Conference. At the chapter level, we are actively recruiting new officer candidates, and I am scheduling a meeting with my school district's superintendent to bring SkillsUSA opportunities to my home school. I look forward to seeing everyone at Fall Leadership!



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

This month, we elected our chapter officers at Ulster BOCES. Both AM and PM classes have an officer team and a committee chair team. This structure is essential because having a team that works together and meets weekly allows us to effectively manage the SkillsUSA events we operate at BOCES. They will be setting up events such as the Area IV Leadership Conference, which will be run directly from Ulster BOCES, and ensuring students are registered and informed about upcoming SkillsUSA conferences and competitions. As for myself, I spent time with the chapter officers-elect discussing my experience at the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTi) and the commitment required to serve as an NYS SkillsUSA State Officer. The aspect I am most pleased with this month is the efficiency of our election process, which allowed us to get right to work. The Essential Elements I exercised most this month were Leadership, Communication, and Teamwork.



Ekam Dhillon
Area V VP
 Advisor:
 Ms. Mieczowski

Serving as your Area 5 Vice President continues to be an incredible experience. At the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTi) in late September, our team networked with leaders nationwide and toured historic monuments, with the evening Twilight Tours being a standout highlight. A major focus was advocating for CTE and Perkins funding to help close the national skills gap. After learning to craft our SkillsUSA Framework stories, I met with staffers for Senator Gillibrand and Representative Andrew Garbarino to share the direct impact of trade education. Our primary focus has now shifted to preparing for the upcoming Fall Leadership Conference. Working closely with room partners and advisors, we are refining lesson plans and icebreakers around a secret theme to inspire students across New York State to dive deeper into CTE and leadership. I am deeply grateful to our Board of Directors and advisors for providing us with these invaluable opportunities and continuous support.



Halina Contrearras
Area VI
 Advisor:
 Mrs. Bua

Over the past few weeks, our team has achieved major milestones at both the state and local levels. At the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTi), we advocated for CTE with representatives from Senator Gillibrand's and Congressman Garbarino's offices, visited national landmarks, and earned our National Statesman pins. Shortly after, we attended the Region 1 Conference in Albany, where we studied the economy of language, prepared for the upcoming Fall Leadership Conference, and received our Region 1 Statesman recognition. Simultaneously, our local chapter has been thriving. We announced our AM and PM officers, hosted an informational table at Meet the Teacher Night, opened our campus Snack Shack fundraiser, and held an interactive officer meeting on the 17 essential elements of the SkillsUSA Framework. Grateful for these growth opportunities and the support of our advisors, I look forward to our upcoming Fall Meet and Greet and the rest of the year ahead!





Bailey Douglas
Officer At Large
Advisor:
Ms. Wyatt

Hi SkillsUSA! The NYS Officer Team has been busy preparing for our upcoming Fall Leadership Conference, and we've had some incredible adventures along the way. We kicked things off at WLTI, where we visited iconic monuments like the Lincoln Memorial and connected with leaders from across the country. Watching the National Officer team in action was a masterclass in collaboration, and we were proud to earn our Statesman awards. More recently, we had the honor of hosting the Region One Conference. It was a blast connecting with our peers through bowling and arcade games, and we gained invaluable insights on leadership from two inspiring national officers. In just two weeks, we'll be hosting our own Fall Leadership Conference! We've been working hard to create an unforgettable experience and can't wait to share our activities and lessons with all of you. See you soon!