



Officer/Position

Report for the Month of: September, 2024



Abriana Briggs
President
Advisor:
Mrs. Petronella


In this officer report I would like to touch base on what I have been doing for the past month. At my local chapter at OHM BOCES we had our first general meeting to get everything set up with membership and community service opportunities coming up. We have a walk to support cancer awareness coming up in October, the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk will be held at MVCC, and we are encouraging our members to come and participate. During September the state officer team and I went to Washington D.C. to learn new leadership skills, advocate for our CTE programs and SkillsUSA. I met so many people, and saw all of my friends from the National Leadership Conference and it was amazing to reconnect and see them again. I learned so many new leadership skills and new ideas for the upcoming Fall Leadership Conference. I also learned so many new historical facts about the capital of the United States, and saw so many monuments. We also spoke to congresspeople to advocate for SkillsUSA and CTE. I brought up the Perkins V grant which provides to CTE programs new equipment and consistent support to keep CTE programs running. Overall I can not wait for everything upcoming at the Fall Leadership Conference!



Amira Saleh
Secretary
Advisor:
Mrs. Blackman

September has been full of events, with the new school year and with the WLTI conference. For my BOCES I planned on increasing membership because students are now much more well-versed in their trades, so I knew their confidence would be well met with SkillsUSA competitions. So I went around to every classroom at Kenton and gave an introductory speech to all the students stating what they could do, what they'd learn, and what they could accomplish. I wasn't so sure how well my speeches had gone but I hoped for the best in attendance at the first meeting of the month. To my surprise over 40 students showed up, and I was thrilled! So then I went to introduce what SkillsUSA's mission was and how our chapter was going to go about it. The first meeting had gone amazingly well! My school's chapter was not so big last year compared to this year's. I really can't wait for upcoming meetings. Next, I had the honor of attending the Washington Leadership Training



	<p>Institute conference, it was truly an experience. I learned even more about framework stories, and went to a congressional interview meeting, (I was the interviewer for once). I learned in depth about the Perkins Grant and what it does for trade schools in particular. I also was able to visit many famous monuments and even got to go to the Natural History Museum. Lastly I earned my National Statesmen pin, and it was an honor receiving it. After all the work put in to earn the national statesman, it was nice to see evidence of my hard work. This conference was both informational and exhilarating. I will be taking what I learned and implementing it with students at my school, even if it will be a bit more challenging, as I have changed programs, I will put my best foot forward and be a part of everything that I can.</p>
 <p>Angelina Rodriguez Parliamentarian Advisor: Mrs. Brissing</p>	<p>This month OU BOCES had our first SkillsUSA meeting. We discussed signing up for the class and things you have to do as a SkillsUSA member. We also discussed running for a chapter officer position, and things you have to do to be prepared to run. I also went to WLTJ in Washington DC, where I learned more about advocating for CTE, as well as demonstrating professionalism and leadership. I had an appointment with Pat Ryan's legislative assistant, Callie Lucia, Darshveer and Bryce came with me. We spoke not only about Perkins Funding, but I 87, which Bryce talked more about, since it was in his area (Ulster), and I told Ms. Lucia, my framework story and how much Perkins funding affects my program at BOCES, while Darshveer gave statistics. Pat Ryan is already a huge supporter of CTE and Perkins V so we were telling Ms. Lucia about how he could get involved in the caucus.</p>



Abigayle Wright
Treasurer
Advisor:
Mr. Rozewski


This past month has been very hectic, from school starting to attending WLTI. At my CTE school, we have been getting ready to recruit new juniors and seniors to join SkillsUSA. My fellow chapter officers and I will be going from class to class, explaining what SkillsUSA is. This month, I also attended WLTI, which was a life-changing experience. I was able to see monuments and museums that I could only dream about. I also sat down with a congressman's aide to advocate for the Perkins Grant. While in Washington, I received my National Statesman award. This month has truly been memorable. Now, the next step is getting ready for my area's Fall Kickoff and Fall Leadership Conference



Payal Gajmer
Reporter
Advisor:
Mrs. Probst

In September, I had an incredible experience at the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTI), where students from all over the U.S. gathered to enhance our leadership skills and advocate for Career and Technical Education (CTE). We began with huddle groups that focused on how to advocate for CTE to Congress. This was a crucial part of our training as we developed our framework stories. Students shared their experiences, and we engaged in discussions about how to leverage these stories in the future. One of the highlights was a twilight tour of Washington, D.C., where we visited numerous memorials and monuments. This experience deepened my understanding of our history and was truly inspiring. We scheduled appointments to meet with our state's congressional leaders. I had the opportunity to meet with a staff member of Senator Chuck Schumer, where we advocated for CTE and educated them about SkillsUSA. We also expressed our gratitude for their support of the Perkins Grant. I reconnected with many individuals I had met at Nationals and networked with new students. This networking was invaluable as we shared ideas and experiences. Towards the end of the trip, I participated in an interview for the WLTI Statesman Award. Although I



	<p>was nervous, it turned out to be a relaxed conversation about my knowledge of SkillsUSA and how I apply that knowledge in my CTE chapter. We concluded the trip with a celebration dinner and dance, which was a great way to unwind and enjoy each other's company. Overall, WLTi was a transformative experience, and I am incredibly grateful to the NYS SkillsUSA board for investing in me and enabling me to participate. Currently, in my local SkillsUSA chapter, we are actively working on our WEMOCO Plates Fundraiser, a membership drive, organizing our upcoming community service project, and developing our chapter activities for this year. This experience at WLTi has truly inspired me to continue advocating for CTE and to make a difference in my community.</p>
 <p>Charlie Stidd Historian Advisor: Mr. Zwart</p>	<p>During the past month as an officer I have accomplished various tasks. The first being our chapter officer meeting to encourage this coming year's new officers to join the team and support their community. As a chapter we also discussed the goals of the year to ensure everyone seeks growth. Finally as a chapter we discussed our spaghetti dinner that will take place at our open house to help raise money for our end of the year scholarships. We will also be attending our annual Apple Picking Field Trip to Hicks Apple Orchard in preparation for Hometown Thanksgiving.</p> <p>The next thing was learning during WLTi. During this 5 day trip I learned how to advocate, these skills were then used to have a conversation with a representative of Elise Stafanik (Zach Deatherage) about how and why they can support CTE, SkillsUSA and the Perkins V: Grant. During this experience I also got to talk with and plan with my team room partner and one advisor for fall leadership to ensure we meet the expectations of due dates. Finally I continued to network with other officers at the event and grow my skills of unprepared speech and multicultural sensitivity and awareness.</p>



Savannah Wehner
Area I VP
Advisor:
Mr. Payne


September was filled with preparation for Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTi). At the training we were split into breakout rooms where we built off our framework stories and delved more in depth into our story. We practiced our stories and speaking skills to prepare ourselves for our congressional meetings. The congressional meeting we took part in centered on support for the Perkins funding and essential support and continued funding for CTE schools and programs. While in Washington we toured the beautiful monuments and toured the city. Back in my chapter we discussed our annual Area 1 conference in Mt. Morris. My chapter and I also discussed and planned our chapter's fall festival for all SkillsUSA members. Many exciting events have occurred this month and many are yet to come in the future.




Matthew Byrne
Area II VP
Advisor:
Mrs. Harke

In August, I spent a lot of time working on my activities for Fall Leadership. I tried to focus on as many Essential Elements as possible. I also interviewed Mr Comtois, our CTE director, about Perkins Grant. I needed this information to complete my pre-work for WLTi. It was interesting to learn about how our CTE programs are funded and how our BOCES uses the Perkins money. Finally, I reached out to Brandon Williams, our area NY congressman, to see if I could meet with him when our officer team is in Washington, DC. I didn't get an appointment with him, but I did get one with his aide, Bradyn Lawrence. Right at the end of August, I started working on my pre-work for WLTi on Absorb. I got it all done by the end of the first week of September. I learned a lot of things, especially about "authentic speaking". It will help me when I'm in Washington and am talking with people about Skills and how important CTE is. I took the Statesman pre-work test and did pretty well. I remembered things I learned at Nationals, and from some of my high school classes. School started on September 3rd, and I am already working with my local chapter advisors to start our meetings. I plan to help with the introduction meeting that we have with all the students in the school, and then help with the first meeting for both the juniors and seniors. I think it is important that I talk about how



	<p>much SkillsUSA has changed my life in just one year. One goal I have for our chapter is to make it more student-led and for the officers to come up with meeting activities. After WLTi, I will work on creating two more activities for Fall Leadership. I also am in charge of setting up our Area 2 Fall Kickoff, so I will need to work on that. There are 3 other NYS officers from Area 2, so I will be sure to include them when I am planning. I already have a plan for one of the activities that I will be doing for Fall Kickoff and cannot wait to share it with the team!</p>
 <p>Charity Lupo Area III VP Advisor: Mrs. Citro</p>	<p>During the month of September 2024, as a local Chapter officer in Southern Adirondack Education center, and a State officer for NYS, my teams and I have completed multiple accomplishments. In the beginning of the month, as state officers we were putting together our activity lists and supplies that we are in need of for our rooms, plus we are talking with our partners about what our rooms may look like. Plus I was finishing up my pre-work for the Washington Leadership Training Institute conference, where I had learned how to tell my framework story in multiple ways for different people to advocate for SkillsUSA. Once school had begun my local Chapter had a meeting, so we can nominate new chapter officers for the 2024-2025 school year. During this meeting the current chapter officers introduced ourselves and the positions we hold, as well as Charlie and I introduced our positions that we hold as NYS State Officers. During this meeting we discussed what it should look like as chapter officers, and how we all will be doing fundraisers in the future, plus talked about how those that want to become a chapter officer can run, and how the process will take place to vote them in.</p> <p>Towards the end of September state officers had a trip to Washington D.C. where we had leadership training, during this the state officers learned how to use our framework stories and how to tell them to different people. Whilst at the conference myself and the rest of the state officer team got to advocate the Perkins V. funding. I discussed how it has supported my own CTE program/school and also SkillsUSA, but also what more it could do with the continuous donation to it.</p>



	<p>Three of my fellow New York State officers and I got to meet with Zach Deatherage, who is an aide to Congresswoman Elise Stefanik. This experience helped grow all of our professional speaking skills, and development. Whilst we were in Washington the state officers had the chance to prepare for Fall Leadership some more, by talking with our advisors who are going to be assisting in our rooms while also discussing deadlines.</p> <p>As this month has been filled with multiple responsibilities, it has also been filled with accomplishments that we were able to fulfill as a team and as individuals, constantly working hard. Looking into October 2024, we have another busy month with our chapter hosting a spaghetti dinner for our Open House to help raise money for the end of the year scholarships for fellow seniors. Plus my CTE program will be attending our annual Apple Picking Field Trip to Hicks Apple Orchard in preparation for Hometown Thanksgiving, where my CTE program comes together to make multiple Thanksgiving dishes that we donate back to our communities for those to enjoy Thanksgiving.</p>
 <p>Bryce Buntyn Area IV VP Advisor: <i>Ms. Dickerson</i></p>	<p>At Ulster Boces we are going to begin voting for class representatives. Once class representatives are picked and done we will have a school wide vote for chapter president, vice president, secretary, ect. We are also hosting activities and putting classes against each other in a teamwork building tournament. I am doing this to encourage more students to be more active in our SkillsUSA chapter. I am starting to go to classes and tell them about the running for a position on the state officer team and what it can do for you.</p>



Darshveer Singh
Area V VP
Advisor:
Ms. Olfana



In early September, chapter officers gathered after school on the 10th and 11th to plan the year. They brainstormed events aimed at making a lasting positive impact on the school and local community, focusing on creating opportunities for skill development and real-world experience for students. Next, The chapter's first meeting welcomed members and introduced new officers. Interest forms for competitions were sent out, and veteran members were offered committee roles to enhance involvement and create a more robust core membership. For the future success of our chapter during the fourth week of September, chapter officers visited freshman Career and Technical Education (CTE) classrooms to introduce SkillsUSA, engaging in activities that led to over 100 students joining the SkillsUSA Google classroom. I look forward to seeing these new recruits at the first general meeting! The highlight of this month was the five-day trip to Washington D.C. for the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTI) with fellow NYS officers. We advocated for skilled trades and underwent advanced leadership training, which included crafting personal narratives in focused huddle groups. A highlight was a 17-minute meeting with Representative Ryan's assistant, Callie Lucia, alongside Bryce B. and Angelina R. We discussed our SkillsUSA programs, expressed gratitude for Ryan's support of CTE and Ulster BOCES upgrades, emphasized the importance of Perkins V, and requested continued CTE program support, inviting them to future SkillsUSA events.



Toryn Snyder
Office At Large
Advisor:
Mrs. Petronella

This month went by super quick as it was the start of my Senior year of high school, we had our first SkillsUSA meeting at my local chapter, at this meeting we discussed what our plans for the school year are, and our upcoming community service event, Making Strides for Breast Cancer walk at MVCC. On the state level we attended WLTI in Washington D.C. This trip was so much fun and I got to learn so much about the history of the U.S and I loved going to see all the memorials and monuments. The best part for me was going to either the Holocaust museum or seeing the Vietnam, Korea, and the WW2 memorials. Also on this trip



	<p>we had huddle groups which taught me a lot about being a better leader and worked on my teamwork skills. During this trip we also advocated for CTE and CTE funding by going to Elise Stefanik's office and meeting with her congressional aide. During this meeting we discussed Perkins V funding and how this funding directly relates to our current CTE courses. We also invited the congresswomen to our upcoming NYS and Area meetings to come learn about SkillsUSA. This trip is by far the best trip that I've gone on.</p>
 <p>Fiza Khan Office At Large Advisor: Mrs. Bitzer</p>	<p>During my time in Washington for SkillsUSA, I had the incredible opportunity to engage with congressional representatives and discuss issues important to our organization and career and technical education. I also met with and worked with the national officers from SkillsUSA, which was a valuable experience that allowed me to learn more about the leadership and mission of the SkillsUSA organization. Additionally, I proudly earned my Statesman award, demonstrating my commitment to the SkillsUSA Framework and my understanding of its values and principles. This experience not only broadened my perspective on leadership but also strengthened my dedication to SkillsUSA's goals.</p>
 <p>Nolan Wall Office At Large Advisor: Mr. Ferris</p>	<p>This September I went to WLTJ with the other state officers. This trip taught me a lot about our beginnings in America and about myself. I was able to get my national statesman and continued to prepare for Fall leadership and kickoff. My home chapter had its first meeting on Wednesday the 25th. We discussed our plans for the year, new officer elections and upcoming events. We will have another meeting to vote for new officers and also to work on fundraising for Fall leadership.</p>