

To:

- State Officer Team
- Advisory Board
- RI Association of CTE Directors
- Technical Committee Chairs
- SkillsUSA RI Professional Members
- CTE Staff at RIDE

October 11, 2011



From: Joshua Klemp, Association Director

News From the Director

October is in full swing as many events and deadlines are upon us. All of you are busy with NECAP testing, so it comes at no surprise to me that I have received several questions about

the SkillsUSA Workforce Ready System, Skill Connect Assessments (www.workforcereadysystem.org).

The Skill Connect Assessments are an online test that are 100% industry driven and designed. They are de-

signed to be used as an end of program assessment. Each student that achieves a certain cut score for their assessment will receive a Skill Connect Certificate. These certificates include the students'

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Important Dates

- October 12 - State Officer Meeting
4:00 pm CCRI-Warwick
- October 28 - Fall Leadership Conference
8:30 - 1:30 CCRI-Warwick
- October 30 - Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk 7:45 am Roger Williams Park
- October 31 - Pin Designs Due
- November 9—State Officer Meeting
4:00 pm CCRI—Warwick

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name along with the competency areas the assessment measures and the logos for all of the business and industry partners who assisted in developing the test.

There are over 40 trade, technical and industrial assessments available for use. The cost is \$10 for SkillsUSA members and \$20 for non-members. If you are interested in implementing the assessment I can meet with you to show you how to use the data. Please contact me for more information.

- Please take a moment to welcome our new members at Hope High School in Providence. Our primary contact there is the school based coordinator, Alyssa Nicynski and her email is Alyssa.Nicynski@ppsd.org.

- A couple of weeks ago I attended a reception for the new Executive Director of the RI Home Builders Association, Mr. John Marcantonio. I am looking forward to building a stronger partnership with RI-HBA.

- The Newport Chamber of Commerce hosted a luncheon for the Aquidnick Island business community two weeks ago. I attended along with one of our SkillsUSA RI sponsors. The guest speaker was Mr. Curt Spalding who is the Regional Director for the EPA.

Mr. Spalding might be a good resource for some of our member programs. He or someone from his office may be willing to serve on one of your advisory boards. His email is: spalding.curt@epa.gov.

- Advisory board member JoAnn Warren and I, along with several students from the CCRI SkillsUSA and Collegiate DECA chapters, attended the “*Get Motivated!*” conference held at the Dunkin Donuts Center. The conference was definitely a bargain. The students walked away with important tips on effective leadership.

- Membership is rolling in and at this moment we are on target to surpass last year’s membership. High School advisors please use the excel spreadsheet supplied to you on 9/16. College/Post Secondary advisors please submit your membership to me through email.

- December 7th is our next scheduled advisory board meeting. Please make every effort to attend. Our last meeting was two shy of a quorum and therefore some business items had to be tabled. I cannot stress enough the importance of these meetings.

Please let me know if you need me to come in and speak to

your students. Thank you all for your continued support for the SkillsUSA Rhode Island organization.

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National Perkins Legislation Update

Perkins Update



The House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee released its FY 2012 draft bill and funding allocations earlier today. In this draft, Perkins has been level funded! This is fantastic news for Perkins advocates and hopefully, with the same level in the Senate bill, we can maintain FY 2011 funding levels and avoid further cuts to Perkins. However, the process still has a long way to go. We still must continue our advocacy efforts with policymakers to ensure that Perkins is maintained in a final appropriations bill.

The House draft is not all good news, and ACTE is working to decipher other cuts that were included. At first glance, the draft bill cuts funding for the Workforce Investment Act significantly. Adult, youth and dislocated workers funds have been slashed by over \$1 billion. Within the Department of Education, 31 programs were eliminated including the Elementary and Secondary Counseling Act, High School Graduation Initiative, Race to the Top, Investing in Innovation grants and Promise Neighborhoods. There are also changes to the Pell Grant program in the House funding bill. While the maximum award of \$5,500 is preserved, the draft legislation would limit eligibility for less-than-half-time students and would lower the semesters that one can receive the grant from 18 to 12.

ACTE is ecstatic that Perkins was maintained in the House's draft funding bill, but has concerns on other programs. Remember that this is just a draft and our fight is not over.

If you would like to reach out to our Washington delegation please email me for the appropriate contact. Email me at jklemp@ccri.edu.

Advisory Board Action Item



Nominating Committee Seeking Names

Advisory Board will be holding elections during the December 7th meeting. The following elections will be up for a vote:

Board Chair
Vice Chair
Secretary
Treasurer

Anyone interested in running for a position should contact Nominating Chair, Colleen Murray so that your name can be included on the ballot. We will also accept names from the floor on November 7th. Colleen can be emailed at: ColleenMurray@newportrischools.org

You can also contact the office at jklemp@ccri.edu if you have any questions about roles and responsibilities.

Technical
Chairs and
Advisor
Action Item



SkillsUSA Rhode Island Championships Contest Meetings

Efforts are underway to schedule contest meetings for HVAC, Criminal Justice, Photography, and the Cosmetology Cluster. Technical Chairs let me know if you think we should have a meeting for your contest. Advisors please reach out to your instructors to see if they wish to meet. You can email me with your requests and I will set up the meeting. I can be reached at jklemp@ccri.edu.

Advisor
Action Item



High School Membership Rosters Due

All membership rosters should be submitted electronically this year. All schools should have received an excel spreadsheet from the state office. We tried this last year and it worked out well. There are 4 sections to the membership spreadsheet.

Sheet 1 Guide- ChapterNam (School), TrainingProgram, Student First Name, Student Last Name, Graduation Year

Sheet 2 Guide - Gender Information. All I need is the total number for each.

Sheet 3 Guide - Race Information. All I need is the total number for each

Sheet 4 Guide - Disability/LEP. All I need is the total number for each.

At the end of the year I will also need to know how many of our members from each chapter have graduated. I only need to collect the above information for the High School Division. This is all information I need to report to the Department of Education.

Advisor
Action Item



Instructor Email Addresses

The state office would like to collect email addresses for all instructors. This is an effort to keep build a stronger line of communication between the state office and our professional members.

Please send a list of all current instructors and their email addresses to the state office.

Please email your list to jklemp@ccri.edu. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

Advisor
Action Item

Fall Leadership Conference– October 28th



The SkillsUSA Rhode Island Fall Leadership Conference is an opportunity for your student leaders to network and learn more about the SkillsUSA RI program. We will begin the day with a networking icebreaker that will encourage the students to meet each other. After our networking time, we will then do some chapter team building and time management.

At the conclusion of the conference, chapters should be leaving with the foundation for a strong program of work. Registration will be first come, first serve. There is a limit of 100 seats available for the conference. Lunch will be provided. The dress code for the conference is business casual. No one should wear jeans or t-shirts. State officers are free.

The conference theme is:

SkillsUSA: Champions at Work - Skilled and Motivated.

Participants should consider the following:

How participation in SkillsUSA increases student motivation for success?

How do SkillsUSA's partnerships with business and industry ensure that students are prepared for tomorrow's workplace?

What opportunities does SkillsUSA provide to celebrate and honor student achievement?

How does involvement in SkillsUSA keep students in school?

How does participation in SkillsUSA motivate students to pursue their career dreams?

Registration is Due Monday, October 24th. The registration fee is \$15 per attendee.

SkillsUSA State Pin Design Contest

☞ The annual SkillsUSA Rhode Island Pin Design Contest has over one hundred entries each year. The winning pin designs will be used as part of the SkillsUSA Rhode Island Championships and for use at the National Leadership and Skills Conference in June of 2012. The design rules are simple, please follow them exactly to allow fairness in the judging of the designs.

1. All entries must be rendered in color (full color or two colors)
2. Preferably, entries will be created in a design software package such as Illustrator, Photoshop or freehand. Entries may also be hand-drawn, painted or rendered in colored pencils or markers.
3. All entries should be submitted with two versions of the art on a single page. The larger version is for judging. The smaller version is to show what the actual pin will look like. The larger version must be approximately 7 inches wide x 7 inches high for judging. The smaller version should be approximately 1 inch x 1 inch to show how the completed pin will look. Both versions should be identical. All wording on the pin must reference the name of the state.
4. The SkillsUSA emblem or SkillsUSA logo (or elements of either) should not appear on the pin.
5. All copyright laws must be followed in the creation of the design.
6. Contestants should include a paragraph or two covering the following:
 - a. The design process.
 - b. Why he/she feels it represents the state.
 - c. What are its unique qualities?
 - d. Why would other students/advisors want to wear the pin?
7. The student who designs the pin selected as the “state pin” will be asked to go on to the national conference to represent Rhode Island in the Pin Design Demonstration Contest.
8. The categories are Judge Pin, Competitor Pin, and State Pin.
9. All designs must be turned in by **October 31, 2011**. Submissions must be emailed to the SkillsUSA RI State Director, Joshua Klemp, at jklemp@ccri.edu. Submitted designs become the property of SkillsUSA Rhode Island. SkillsUSA RI reserves the right to manipulate any submitted design. However, the original designer will get credit.

If you have any questions please contact the SkillsUSA Rhode Island office at 825-2316 or via email jklemp@ccri.edu. Thank you for your support!

National SkillsUSA Information

Call for SkillsUSA Talent

Do you have a talented singer in your state who would enjoy a special performance opportunity? SkillsUSA seeks talented singers for the opening ceremony or awards ceremony during the 2012 SkillsUSA National Conference. We are looking for a SkillsUSA student member to sing the national anthem or another patriotic song appropriate for opening a general session. Singers may sing a capella or to a pre-recorded instrumental track. Send in all audition videotapes on DVD, postmarked by **February 1, 2012** to: Heidi Ambrose, SkillsUSA, 14001 SkillsUSA Way, Leesburg, VA 20176. Questions may be directed to Heidi at 703-737-0610 or hambrose@skillsusa.org.

National Conference Pin and T-shirt Contest

February 1, 2012 is the deadline for the entries to the SkillsUSA National Conference Pin and T-shirt competition. This event is open to all paid student members of SkillsUSA. What a great way to have a student and advisor from your state recognized in front of a national audience. Paid registration to nationals, a plaque for the teacher and student, plus a school grant to the advisor of the winning student will be announced at a later date. Rules are in the membership kit and are also posted on the SkillsUSA Web site at: <http://www.skillsusa.org/compete/other.shtml>. Questions may be directed to Heidi Ambrose at 703-737-0615 or to hambrose@skillsusa.org.

Lowe's Community Improvement and Community Rebuilding Grants and State Farm Project Ignition Grants

Lowe's Community Improvement Grant - This category is for those schools who are proposing a project that will focus on benefiting their local community or school. In choosing grant winners for the upcoming year, projects that focus on a local need vs. want will stand a greater chance of receiving funding. For this category, a maximum of \$10,000 per grant winner will be awarded. For more information and application please go to www.skillsusa.org/educators/lowes.shtml.

Lowe's Community Rebuilding Grant - This category brings grant project opportunities to a new level in both funding and building leadership skills! Proposed projects in this category will combine the efforts of two SkillsUSA Chapters partnering and reaching out to help a community or school that has been drastically affected by a natural disaster. One of the partnering chapters may be the beneficiary of the project. The maximum grant in this category will be \$25,000 (per project). For more information and application please go to www.skillsusa.org/educators/lowes.shtml.

State Farm Project Ignition Grant- The National youth Leadership Council and State Farm are pleased to announce the availability of \$2,000 Project Ignition grants for public high school students and teachers to address teen driver safety through service-learning. For more information or to apply, go to <http://www.sfprojectignition.com>.

Support the SkillsUSA Rhode Island Team for the Breast Cancer Walk!

Once again SkillsUSA Rhode Island has a team for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on **Sunday, October 30th**. We will meet at the Temple to Music at Roger Williams Park for a group photo at 7:45. Please bring with you any money you have raised.

To sign up to walk or to make an online donation, please use the link listed below. Thank you for your support. Go here: <http://main.acevents.org/goto/SkillsUSARI>

World Skills International Competition in London

Check out the photos from the 2011 WorldSkills Competition. WorldSkills London will host the 41st WorldSkills Competitions in London, England, October 5-8, 2011. The competitions will be held at the ExCeL London Exhibition and Conference Center. The contest organizers are expecting more than 1,000 competitors from 53 countries competing in 41 official competitions and five demonstration contests. Check out the daily photos on www.skillsusa.org. Congratulation to the following members of Team USA.

Bradley Clink, of Michigan, received a Silver medal for Welding. He also joined all countries' highest scoring students on stage to receive a gold medal for Best of Nation.

Laina Call, of Utah, received a Medallion for Excellence in Ladies/Men's Hairdressing.

Daniel Lehmkuhl, of California, received a Medallion for Excellence in Automobile Technology.

Rachel Koppelman, of Missouri, received a Medallion for Excellence in Cooking.