

To:

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

August 29, 2012



From: Joshua Klemp, Association Director

News from the Director

Welcome back to a new school year! This is an exciting time for our students as they come back and get into the groove of things. I hope that you were able to have a relaxing and restful summer.

The 2011-2012 school year was one of the

most successful in our history. We continued to impact more of our members with our program and we stepped up advocacy efforts for career and technical education in our state. Our final membership for the school year was 6,709.

Building on our success from

last year, this year will be the best in our 37 year history!

Thank you for your dedication and support for the SkillsUSA RI program!

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Important Dates

- September 12th - State Officer Meeting
- September 15th - 19th Washington Leadership Training Institute, Washington DC
- September 17th - RI CTE Directors Meeting
- October 2nd - Advisory Board Meeting

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- The 48th National Leadership and Skills Conference convened in Kansas City, MO this past June. The RI delegation had 110 attendees. We had 3 students this year receive national medals and a total of 19 place in the top ten! Congratulations to the following students on their achievement.
 - Gold Medal in Extemporaneous Speaking - Ricky Jordan, Johnson and Wales University
 - Silver Medal in Commercial Baking - Sarah Fisler, Johnson and Wales University
 - Bronze Medal in Health Occupations Professional Portfolio - Jazel Rubio, Davies Career and Technical High School
- SkillsUSA Rhode Island, along with our partners in education the New England Institute of Technology, hosted a forum on Perkins Legislation and support for career and technical education with Congressman Langevin and Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-MD). President Hannah Schram introduced the Congressman and many of our State Officers were highlighted and got to ask questions. The Department of Education and SkillsUSA Corporate Member, Vanessa Cooley moderated the event and approximately 40 people attended the event.
- State Officer Training took place on two days in July. On the first day the team went through an intense training in public speaking. They are more than ready to do presentations on SkillsUSA or career and technical education. Please use them. Day two was when they ran for positions on the team. The results of that election are listed below. I am really excited to work with this team. They are very talented and all have diverse backgrounds. If you would like to have an officer come to you classroom to talk about SkillsUSA please let myself or your local advisor know.
 - President - Hannah Schram, Cranston
 - Vice President - Alexa Laing, Chariho
 - Secretary - Brittany Plante, Woonsocket
 - Treasurer - Linsey Covington, East Providence
 - Reporter - Michael Jimenez, Providence
 - Historian - Cindy Pavao, Newport
 - Events Chair - Alex St. Pierre, Coventry
 - College/PS District Vice President - Michael Ferranti, Johnson and Wales
- SkillsUSA Rhode Island exhibited at the RI Association of School Principals Conference in early August. Hannah Schram, Alexa Laing and Linsey Covington represented the organization at the event attended by administrators from the elementary through secondary levels. We were able to speak with many principals about the SkillsUSA RI program and the impact it can have in a school. The conference was held at New England Tech and while we were there Hannah and Alexa were interviewed on the NEIT radio station.
- During the week of August 12th I travelled to Rapid City, SD for the SkillsUSA State Association Director's Conference. This is always a great conference for me to attend because it always reinvigorates me for the upcoming school year. There are several new initiatives happening at the national level and I am excited to be part of it. Particularly in the Marketing, Membership and Sales Department. Kelly Horton heads up this department and has been doing a phenomenal job. Be on the lookout in your mailboxes for a new tool you can use in the classroom. I have purchased a book for all of our teachers called "Accelerate". This book is a compilation of interactive and student centered activities that apply content in a practical yet effective manner.
- September 15th - 19th are the dates for the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTI). Please remember that your State Officers will be out of school for three days. Advisors Lynn Swain and Lori Velino will be attending the conference with the delegation this year.

Last year was a record year for SkillsUSA Rhode Island. We had our largest membership, largest state conference, raised more money for the breast cancer walk, stepped up our public relations and advocacy efforts. These accomplishments are due to our teamwork and our shared passion for career and technical education. We can do more and we will this year. Thank you for your support for the SkillsUSA Rhode Island program and I look forward to us making more of an impact in the lives of our students.

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*Advisor
Action Item*



SkillsUSA Rhode Island Announces New Statewide Community Service Partnership

Bags of dignity is a backpack drive for children in custody of foster agencies in the state of Rhode Island. When the children are taken from their homes, they bring minimal belongings with them and take it in a black trash bag. They take these little amounts of clothes to a strangers doorstep, where they use only these until their new foster parents are able to get them more.

The purpose of this drive is to prevent this from happening. Children show up with black trash bags to hold their belongings. How much dignity could they possibly feel while holding everything they own in a black trash bag? We are collecting backpacks filled with security items and personal care items for these children to take with them to their new home.

How can your chapter participate in the drive?

During the Fall Leadership Conference this year the state association will supply 30 backpacks to fill. We are challenging our chapters to fill all 30 of those backpacks. Bags of Dignity is looking for the following supplies to place the backpacks.

Security Items - Anything that a child could hold on to forever.
For example: Blankets, Books, Stuffed Animals/Teddy Bears, and Toys.

Personal Care Items - Items that a child would need in every day life.
For example: Toothbrush/Paste, Shampoo, Body Wash, Hair Brush/Comb and Deodorant.

In order to help coordinate our efforts please contact our Events Chair, Alex St. Pierre at alexstpierre@reborn.com or contact the state office at jklemp@skillsusari.org.

For more information on Bags of Dignity you can go to their website at <http://bagsofdignity.webs.com> or check out their video on YouTube. The video can be found by typing in the following link <http://youtu.be/iX038x-wpsA>.



*Advisor
and
School
Directors*

SkillsUSA Rhode Island Fall Leadership Conference—November 2nd

☞ The SkillsUSA Rhode Island Fall Leadership is an opportunity for your student leaders to network and learn more about the SkillsUSA RI program. We will begin the day with an icebreaker that will encourage the students to network. 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. We are trying to offer this opportunity to as many students as possible. However, space is limited so please do not enroll more than 20 members per school.

The dress code for the conference is business casual. No one should wear jeans or t-shirts. State officers are free. Lunch will be provided.

2012 Fall Conference Information

<u>Location:</u>	Community College of Rhode Island - Warwick
<u>Times:</u>	8:30 - 9:00 am arrival and 2:00 pm conclusion
<u>Date:</u>	Friday, November 2nd
<u>Cost:</u>	\$15 per attendee (state officers are free)

Registration is due into the state office no later than Friday, October 26th.

*Advisory
Board
Action Item*

Advisory Board Meeting Dates

☞ Advisory board meetings are mandatory and important for management of the organization. All of the meetings will be held at the Knight Campus (Warwick) of the Community College of Rhode Island. The meetings begin at 3:30 pm.

- Tuesday, October 2th, 2012
Rosters are due electronically at this time
- Tuesday, December 11th, 2012
Contest Updates and Information
- Tuesday, February 5th, 2013
Registrations Due
- Wednesday, April 9th, 2013
National Conference Payment

*Advisor and
School Director
Action Item*

SkillsUSA Announces Lowes Grant Opportunity for 2013



The focus for the 2013 SkillsUSA Lowe's grant program is to identify schools, classrooms or teachers who have a very basic need to improve the quality of their students' educational experience. Grants will be awarded ranging from \$2,500 to \$25,000. Grant applications will detail the need for classroom improvements, upgrading or providing tangible tools for learning technical skills, leadership development opportunities, or providing for competition clothing that will give students the opportunity to compete at SkillsUSA events that would otherwise be unattainable.

Through the written application and letters of support, the applicant must clearly outline the real NEED for the grant dollars being requested. The focus in choosing the grant recipients will be to place the dollars in the hands of those who have no other means for obtaining funds. The goal of this grant program is to provide life changing experiences by providing learning opportunities that help students gain employability skills, both technical and leadership skills.

In addition, those applicants who can outline their plan to "pay it forward," by planning and implementing a project or event that will allow them to use the tools or skills obtained due to receiving the grant dollars, will stand a greater chance of receiving funding. The best projects will be those that detail how the outcome will provide a life changing experience for the beneficiaries of the grant dollars.

Submitting grant applications:

Please be sure to complete the grant application in its entirety. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Create additional space on the documents as needed. This is a competitive process and a limited number of grants will be awarded based on the specific need as well as the expected outcome. The quality of the proposed use of grant funds, detail and feasibility, and potential outreach opportunities will also be considered.

Be sure to print and save a copy of your grant application for your records. If your project is selected to receive a grant, you will need your original application for future reference.

- Download the grant application
- Email the word document application including any supporting electronic documents (a limit of two attachments) to the following: lowesgrants@skillsusa.org

Announcement of Schools In Need grant recipients:

- Schools selected to receive a grant will be contacted directly in January 2013.
- Unsuccessful applicants will be notified via email in January 2013.
- Grants can be used during spring or fall semesters, but all must be completed by November 30, 2013.
- A list of all schools receiving Lowe's grants will be posted at www.skillsusa.org following announcement to successful applicants.

Contact Joshua Klemp at jklemp@skillsusari.org for assistance in writing your classroom's grant narrative.

*Advisors and
School Directors*



Industry Guest Speakers and Volunteers

Do you need volunteers from industry to serve on a program advisory board? How about someone from industry to come into the classroom as a guest speaker? If yes, consider asking the SkillsUSA RI office for help. We have a strong network of industry supporters that would be interested in volunteering their time and talent.

Feel free to email me, Joshua Klemp at jklemp@skillsusari.org or call the office at 401-825-2316.

*Advisors and
School
Directors*



SkillsUSA Announces 2012 –2013 Theme

“SkillsUSA: Champions at Work Prepared with the skills America needs”

The topic to be addressed by contestants in the Prepared Speech and Promotional Bulletin Board contests is how our slogan, SkillsUSA: Champions at Work, relates to our national program of work in the area of Professional Development.

- Within this topic, contestants might illustrate or discuss any of the following:
- Based on research from employers, what skills do Americans need?
- How does SkillsUSA provide the skills needed?
- How does participation in SkillsUSA provide members an edge in the workforce?
- How does involvement in SkillsUSA provide a competitive edge to America in the global economy?
- By participating in SkillsUSA events, how will you be more marketable in the workforce?
- What do SkillsUSA members need to do to be prepared?
- What skills have you gained through SkillsUSA that will make you prepared to enter your chosen field?
- How does SkillsUSA continue to adapt to prepare students with these needed skills?
- What principals was America founded on, how are those still relevant today?
- Why do American citizens need to have a variety of skills?
- How do we establish an attitude of life-long learning of through the SkillsUSA programs?
- What is the American workforce projected to look like when you graduate, how does this impact your plans?



SkillsUSA Rhode Island State Pin Contest Rules

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 Skills and Leadership Conference in June of 2013. 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 in free-hand. Entries may also be hand-drawn, painted or rendered in colored pencils or markers.
3. All entries **must** 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 tall 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 their 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 Contest.
8. The categories are Judge Pin, Competitor Pin, and State Pin.
9. All designs must be turned into by **October 31, 2012**. 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 make changes to 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!