

To:

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

January 3, 2013



From: Joshua Klemp, Association Director

News from the Director

Welcome back and Happy New Year! Competition season is upon us as the SkillsUSA RI Championships gear up for what is estimated to be the largest in our history. We will have more contests and more participants than ever before. You can find the contest calendar and state level contest regulations on

the home page of the website. The office is always looking for volunteers from business and industry to be judges. We recruit approximately 300 judges annually from business, industry and higher education. If you think someone may be interested in being a judge please pass their information along to me. The champion-

ships give students the opportunity to showcase their skills to members of business and industry in a competitive environment. Each year we have had students gain internships and employment because of their performance in our competitive events program.

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Important Dates

- January 12-13 - State Officer Winter Retreat
- January 14 - RI CTE Directors Meeting
- January 26 - RI Middle Level Educators Conference
- February 1 - State Membership Deadline
- February 5 - Advisory Board Meeting
- February 18-22 - School Vacation

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The culmination of the championships is the annual SkillsUSA RI Awards and Recognition Ceremony this year held at The Vets in Providence. This is the largest annual gathering of the state's CTE community where we celebrate the achievements of our students and educators. Our Advisor and Career and Technical Educator of the Year have been selected and will be formally announced soon. They represent some of the finest examples of CTE in our state and I am excited to recognize their efforts in March. 2012 was a banner year for our organization and our success is due to the support that you give to our program. Like this past year, 2013 will provide some exciting new opportunities for us as an association. I looking forward to working with all of you this year.

- **Partnerships/Championships**

The University of Rhode Island has agreed to host the new state level Biotechnology contest on Saturday, March 9th at the Downtown Campus. Thank you to Claire Laquerre of the Woonsocket Career and Technical Center and JoAnn Johnson of Tech Collective for their support. Christina Befumo from URI will chair the event and the day will include workshops for the instructors.

- **New Advisor in Newport**

Please join me in welcoming Colleen Murray back as the Advisor for the Newport Area Career and Technical Center. It is great to have Colleen back and she will also be doing some volunteer work for the state association.

- **Alumni News**

December 27th marked the second annual alumni networking event. Twenty past state officers joined together to reminisce about their time in SkillsUSA. It was great to see the alumni together sharing stories about competing, working on national officer campaigns and going to Washington, D.C. to advocate for Perkins funding. Look for them to be volunteering on March 14th during the championships and the leadership conference.

- **Grant Award Announcement**

We are happy to announce the Lowe's Home Improvement has granted the state association \$4,600 for our TeamWorks contest. TeamWorks is a contest that consists of a team of 4 students that work as a team to build a section of a house. The national level event is 3 days long and we run an abbreviated version at the state level. Thank you to our partners at Lowe's who continue to see the value of our program and especially advisory board member and contest chair Larry Carr from Lowe's.

- **A Special Note from Commissioner Gist**

As part of our commitment to ensuring that all students have access to multiple pathways that will prepare them for postsecondary education and challenging careers, we have made a lot of progress over the past two years in improving access to career-technical education. Our new Career and Technical Education regulations, which the Board of Regents approved in March, enable students to enroll in whatever program best suits their needs, regardless of location. The regulations also commit us to develop and support programs that will prepare students for careers in critical and emerging industries, such as information technology and health care.

Last week, we learned that the membership in Rhode Island SkillsUSA, our largest career-technical education student organization, has reached its highest level ever, with 6,787 student members to date. Rhode Island was the first state in the country to exceed last year's enrollment levels, and the executive director of Skills USA, Timothy W. Lawrence, has congratulated our State Association Director, Joshua Klemp, for leading the way on student membership. Let me extend my congratulations, as well, to all of our career-technical education educators and students!

That is all for now. Thank you for your support for the SkillsUSA Rhode Island program. Happy New Year!

*All
Stakeholders*

Congratulations Pin Design Winners



The SkillsUSA Rhode Island Pin Design Contest has come to a close with the Advisory Board selecting 3 designs out of 25 finalists from 7 schools. We had approximately 110 entries this year. Thank you to the Instructors and Advisors for encouraging their students to participate. Below is a list of the winners. After some tweaking the final version of the designs will be up on our website for viewing. The winners will receive a plaque at the Awards Ceremony on March 27th.

STATE PIN DESIGN WINNER

JAMES TSANG

Cranston Area Career and Technical Center
Mr. Lou Giglietti, Instructor

The state pin is used to throughout the year to hand out at special events. Pin trading at the national conference is a popular tradition between states. This is the official pin that attendees can trade. The winning student also has the option to represent our state in the national Pin Design contest. Making the winner the first official member of "Team Rhode Island" at the National Leadership and Skills Conference.

COMPETITOR PIN DESIGN WINNER

ANDREW MEDEIROS

Warwick Area Career and Technical Center
Mrs. Jann Rogers-Gartner, Instructor

The competitor pin is a special pin that can only be earned by those students who participate in the SkillsUSA Rhode Island Championships.

JUDGE'S PIN DESIGN WINNER

SARAH MCDONNELL

Woonsocket Area Career and Technical Center
Mr. William Webb, Instructor

The judge's pin is a special pin that is given to those who volunteer as a Technical Committee Chair or Judge. Some volunteers collect and wear the pins during the contests to show how long they have supported the organization.

*Advisory
Board
Action Item*

Advisory Board Meeting Dates



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

- Tuesday, February 5th, 2013
Registrations Due
- Wednesday, April 9th, 2013
National Conference Payment

*Advisors,
Instructors and
School
Directors*

WORKFORCE READY SYSTEM UPDATE



SkillsUSA offers 47 technical and employability assessments in 11 cluster areas including four co-branded assessments with ASE/AYES and five co-branded assessments with PrintED/GAERF.

NEW! Teacher Preparation Guides:

Teacher Preparation Guides will be available to assist teachers in preparing students for the Skill Connect Assessments. The first six are scheduled to be released in January: Carpentry, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice/Crime Scene investigation, Television (Video) Production, Nurse Assisting and Welding. The guide will be included as part of the assessment purchase and will be accessible online to the instructor who provided the order.

For information on our assessments visit our Work Force Ready System website at <http://www.workforcereadysystem.org> or contact me at jklemp@ccri.edu.

*Advisors
and Instructors*



NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH INTERSTATE BATTERY

SkillsUSA is excited to announce a new partnership with Interstate Battery's fundraising program for local chapters. This is a great opportunity for our chapters to raise funds in partnership with a company whose mission and product align very closely with SkillsUSA.

Through this partnership, local chapters will sell Interstate Battery's products and receive 50% of the sales. Also, the national office is offering an incentive - the states with the highest sales from 11/1/12- 6/1/13 will receive a cash prize. **1st place will receive \$1,000, 2nd will receive \$750 and 3rd place will receive \$500.** Our state will use that money to award a travel scholarship to the national conference. Here is the link for your to sign up today.

www.Interstatebatteries.com/fundraising/SkillsUSA.

*Advisors and
School Directors*



ALUMNI PIN DESIGN CONTEST REMINDER

The SkillsUSA Alumni and Friends Association is sponsoring an alumni pin design contest. The winning design will become the official alumni pin for the 2013 National Leadership and Skills Conference. The deadline for pin designs to be received by the national office is **February 28**. Designs must be **received, not postmarked** by February 28, and those submitting designs must be registered alumni members. If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Walsh at hwalsh@skillsusa.org or call 703-737-0615. For more information and contest guidelines, go to: <http://skillsusa.org/supporters/alumni.shtml>.

*Advisors and
School Directors*



NATIONAL CONFERENCE PIN AND T-SHIRT CONTESTS REMINDER

February 1, 2013 is the deadline for entries to the SkillsUSA National Conference Pin and T-shirt competitions. This event is open to all paid student members of SkillsUSA. This is a great way to have a student and advisor from your state recognized in front of a national audience. 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 website at:

<http://www.skillsusa.org/compete/other.shtml>. Questions may be directed to Heidi Walsh at 703-737-0615 or to hwalsh@skillsusa.org.

*Advisors and
School Directors*



NATIONAL RESEARCH INFORMATION

Percentage of students who achieve proficiency on state mathematics assessments (2009):

CTE concentrators = 77%

All students = 71.5%

— Table 1.2, FY 2010 Annual Performance Report, U.S. Dept. of Education

Percentage of student who achieve proficiency on state reading assessments (2009):

CTE concentrators = 80%

All students = 72.6%

— Table 1.1, FY 2010 Annual Performance Report, U.S. Dept. of Education

Basic statements and facts about SkillsUSA have been compiled into a Common Data Set, which can be accessed at <http://www.skillsusa.org/downloads/PDF/commondata.pdf>. If you have suggestions about additional data you'd like to see added to the Common Data Set, contact Eric Gearhart at egearhart@skillsusa.org.

*Advisors and
School Directors*



INDUSTRY GUESTS 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*



2012 –2013 SkillsUSA 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?

*Advisors and
School Directors*

NATIONAL YOUTH SAFETY VIDEO CONTEST

☞ CareerSafe®, Safety Education for America's Future™, is sponsoring the 2012-2013 National Youth Safety Video Contest. Students across the country are challenged to create a video demonstrating safety in the workplace. The contest will kick off on October 15, 2012 and all submissions should be sent into CareerSafe by **March 1, 2013**. The winning students will receive a SkillsUSA Prize Pack as well as a scholarship up to \$2,500 and the winning school will receive a prize up to \$5,000. To view an online flyer about the contest, go to:

<http://www.careersafeonline.com/images/video%20contest%20flyer.pdf>.

For more information on the contest, please visit the CareerSafe® website on October 15 at www.careersafeonline.com.

*Advisors and
School Directors*

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

☞ There are several scholarships opportunities available for students on the SkillsUSA website. Please pass the word.

- National Technical Honor Society Scholarship (four @ \$1,000 each)
- Deadline, **April 1, 2013**
- go to <http://www.skillsusa.org/students/nths.shtml>
 - Sharon Melton Myers Memorial Scholarship (\$500)
- Deadline, **April 30, 2013**
- go to <http://www.skillsusa.org/studentsscholarships.shtml#smm>
 - Alumni Merit Scholarship (two @ \$500 each)
- Deadline, **May 1, 2013**
- go to <http://www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumnischolar.shtml>
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