

To:

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

September 9, 2013

**From:** Joshua Klemp, Association Director

News from the Director

Welcome back to a new school year! This is an exciting time for our students and professional members as we all get back into the school schedule. I hope that you were able to have a relaxing and restful summer.

The 2012-2013 school year was one of the most successful in our history. We were able to impact more of our members with our programs and continued to advocate for career and technical education in our state.

Our final membership for the school year was 6,796. 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 11th - State Officer Meeting
- September 16th - RI CTE Directors Meeting
- September 21st - 25th Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTI), Washington DC
- October 2nd - Advisory Board Meeting
- October 9th - State Officer Meeting
- October 20th - The Color Run 5K
- October 21st - RI CTE Directors Meeting

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- The 49th National Leadership and Skills Conference convened in Kansas City, MO this past June. The RI delegation had 110 attendees. We had 8 students this year that received national medals and a total of 28 placed in the top ten! Congratulations to the following students on their achievement.
 - Gold Medal in Crime Scene Investigation - Tamena Amini, Alicia Caruso and Sarah Vincent, New England Tech.
 - Gold Medal in Culinary Arts - En-Chieh (Jay) Liu, Johnson and Wales University
 - Gold Medal in Nail Care - Hanna Fortin, Chariho Career and Technical Center
 - Silver Medal in Job Skill Demonstration "A" - Rachel Almonte, Cranston Area Career and Technical Center
 - Silver Medal in Restaurant Services - Southida Saykouman, Providence Career and Technical Academy
 - Bronze Medal in Early Childhood Education - Christina Markrush, Community College of Rhode Island

- State Officer Training took place at CCRI in July. The students have gone 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.** In March, the officer team is elected as a slate. They do not run for title positions until this training in July. The results of that election are listed below. This is a very talented group of young people and they all have diverse backgrounds. If you would like to have an officer come to you classroom to talk about SkillsUSA please let me or your local advisor know.
 - President - Rachel Tousignant, Coventry
 - Vice President - Norman Rivera, Providence
 - Secretary - Arianna Alexander, Chariho
 - Treasurer - Kaitlyn Silva, East Providence
 - Parliamentarian - Nicholas Tella, Cranston
 - Reporter - Wesley De La Rosa, Davies
 - Historian - William Douang, Woonsocket
 - College/PS District Vice President - Elena Melekos, Johnson and Wales

- State President, Rachel Tousignant and I represented SkillsUSA RI at a meeting hosted by the Department of Education for student organizations. This initial meeting was to introduce ourselves and begin to think about how we could possibly work together on projects so that we could increase our impact on students. There were about 10 organizations from across the state represented and it was a great opportunity to hear how we each serve students. Rachel and I have invited the other student organizations to participate in our fall leadership conference on November 1st at New England Tech.

- During the week of August 12th I travelled to Portland, ME, for the SkillsUSA State Association Director's Conference. This is always a great conference for me to attend because it gets me excited 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.

- September 21st - 25th 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, transitioned to a new venue for the awards ceremony and we 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. Remember, it's not about having more members, it's about serving each member more. That being said, please reach out to the office if you need guest speakers, advisory board members, specialized classroom training or just someone to come to the classroom and talk about SkillsUSA. 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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*Advisory Board
Action Item*

Advisory Board Meeting Dates



The Advisory Board membership represents each of the stakeholders in SkillsUSA RI. We meet four times a school year and may have a special meeting called by the Executive Director or Board Chair. The meetings are important because policy decisions are made and information is shared by the Director. 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 2nd, 2013

Rosters are due electronically at this time

Tuesday, December 10th, 2013

Contest Updates and Information

Tuesday, February 4th, 2014

Registrations Due

Tuesday, April 8th, 2014

National Conference Payment

*Advisory Board
Action Item*



Please Welcome New Board Member, Christine Goulette

Christine Goulette came to Rhode Island 23 years ago to attend Rhode Island College to get a Master of Arts in Teaching. As fate would have it, she was caught in the 1991 banking crisis and decided not to leave the state until she recovered her money. She did just that, but in the meantime she got a job, met her husband, and decided to make Rhode Island her home.

Chris has worked at the Rhode Island Department of Health for 13 + years. Most recently she has served as the Department's Chief Operating Officer and is currently the Chief Administrative Officer in the Division of Infectious Disease and Epidemiology. Prior to public health, Chris worked in health care as a laboratorian and researcher and in education as a high school science teacher.

Chris is excited to join the SkillsUSA Rhode Island Advisory Board. She has had good fortune and opportunity in Rhode Island and would like to work to ensure others enter the job market with the skills they need to land the jobs they want which will allow them to lead the lives they choose.

SkillsUSA Rhode Island is excited to have Christine join the board to fill one of our open Business and Industry slots. We look forward to working with her. Please feel free to send a note to welcome Christine to the team. You can contact her at iovene.goulette@gmail.com.

*Advisory Board
Announcement*



Strategic Plan Available On The Website

The Advisory Board met on a Saturday in early June with Timothy Lawrence, Executive Director for SkillsUSA, to begin work on an updated Strategic Plan. The result of those efforts are available to view on the website. The new plan focuses on the areas of: Industry Involvement, Teacher Engagement, Alumni Involvement, Funding Chapter/State Office and Exposure.

If you have any questions about the plan, please feel free to contact Joshua Klemp at jklemp@skillsusari.org or the Advisory Board Chair, Jill Shurtleff at jill.shurtleff@chariho.k12.ri.us.

*Advisor
and
School
Directors*

SkillsUSA Rhode Island Fall Leadership Conference—November 1st

☞ The SkillsUSA Rhode Island Fall Leadership Conference is an opportunity for your student leaders to network and learn more about leadership and 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 leadership, team building and time management workshops.

At the conclusion of the conference, students will leave the conference with the tools needed to have a successful school year. 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. Lunch will be provided.

2013 Fall Conference Information

<u>Location:</u>	New England Institute of Technology - East Greenwich Campus
<u>Times:</u>	8:30 - 9:00 am arrival and 2:00 pm conclusion
<u>Date:</u>	Friday, November 1st
<u>Cost:</u>	\$15 for members and \$25 for non members (State Officers are free)

Registration is due into the state office no later than Friday, October 25th.

*Chapter
Advisors
Action Item*

School Roster Excel Spreadsheet



Chapter Advisors can expect to receive a copy of the Excel membership spreadsheet the office needs completed to upload into the national membership site. We do not need you to follow the exact format outlined in the generic spreadsheet, but you must submit the required information in the form of an Excel spreadsheet. We can no longer accept any other form of membership submission. All spreadsheets must be returned to jklemp@skillsusari.org. Thank you for your understanding.



*Advisor and
School Director
Action Item*



SkillsUSA Announces Lowes “Schools In Need” Grant Opportunity for 2014

The focus for the 2014 SkillsUSA Lowe's grant program will be to identify schools, classrooms or advisors/instructors that 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.

1. Download the Schools in Need grant application from the SkillsUSA Website
2. Email the 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 2014.
- Unsuccessful applicants will be notified via email in January 2014.
- Grants can be used during spring or fall semesters, but all must be completed by November 30, 2014.
- A list of all schools receiving Lowe's grants will be posted here following announcement to successful applicants.

The SkillsUSA RI office is willing to write the narrative for your application if you can price out the project. 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 2013 –2014 Theme

SkillsUSA: Champions at Work “Educated and Skilled to Lead America”

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:

How has your involvement in SkillsUSA ensured that you are educated in the areas of personal, workplace and technical skills needed to lead America?

As indicated by research, what are the needed skills to fulfill the projected job market, and how can you obtain the education to be prepared to lead America?

Why is it important to the economic success of America to build a society of educated & skilled workers?

How has your involvement in SkillsUSA led to greater skill development?

Why is continually updating your skills important?

How has education changed to adapt to the skills needed to be successful in the marketplace?

What can SkillsUSA do to ensure that its members are educated and skilled to lead America?

How does the level of education and skills attainment affect America’s success in the global marketplace?

What are the steps you would take to ensure you were receiving the right education and skills to fulfill the future job market?

What SkillsUSA programs ensure that members are developing personal skills that are needed to lead America such as integrity, self-motivation, work ethic, professionalism, and responsibility?

What SkillsUSA programs ensure that members are developing workplace skills that are needed to lead America such as communication, decision-making, teamwork, cultural-sensitivity and leadership?

What SkillsUSA programs ensure that members are developing technical skills that are needed to lead America such as technical literacy, job specific, service orientation, professional development, and safety and health?



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 2014. The design rules are simple, please follow them exactly to allow fairness in the judging of the designs.

1. ANY MEMBER MAY SUBMIT A DESIGN.
2. All entries must be rendered in color.
3. Entries must be created in a design software package such as Illustrator, Photoshop or in freehand. Entries may also be hand-drawn, painted or rendered in colored pencils or markers.
4. 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.
5. The SkillsUSA emblem or SkillsUSA logo (or elements of either) should not appear on the pin.
6. All copyright laws must be followed in the creation of the design.
7. Entries 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?
8. 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 Competition.
9. The categories are Judge Pin, Competitor Pin, and State Pin.
10. All designs must be turned into by **October 31, 2013**. Submissions **must** be emailed to the SkillsUSA RI State Director, Joshua Klemp, at jklemp@skillsusari.org. 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@skillsusari.org. Thank you for your support!

Educated and Skilled to Lead America Video Competition

 You know that your students are educated and skilled; now it's time to show America that they are ready to lead! "Educated and Skilled to Lead America" is SkillsUSA's theme this year. Your students' challenge is to create a video that showcases how members are becoming educated (What their does their classroom or lab look like? What are they learning?) and skilled (What are their skills, and how do they show them off?). This is their opportunity to tell their story.

Who can enter?

Currently enrolled high school and college/postsecondary students who are registered members of SkillsUSA can enter. Membership will be verified for each entry. The work can be done by an individual, a team or an entire class.

How should the video be submitted for entry?

Entries should be between 2-3 minutes in length. Upload your entry to YouTube at: www.youtube.com. Please allow up to a 24-hour registration process and become familiar with YouTube prior to uploading your video. Email your video entry link to: khorton@skillsusa.org. Submit your entries no later than Nov. 15, 2013.

How will the videos be judged?

A panel of SkillsUSA partners will judge the entries. The top five entries will then be voted on by the public.

How will the winners be announced?

Winners will be notified directly by SkillsUSA. Additionally, the winning entry, honorable mention winners and other entries will be linked to the SkillsUSA website.

Can participants use other people's material?

Entries must contain only original material (including music, images, etc.) unless written permission has been obtained. No trademarked, copyrighted or otherwise branded materials, logos or products may be used except for the SkillsUSA logo.

What are the prizes?

Winning video teams and/or their schools will receive prizes and recognition provided by SkillsUSA. The winning videos will be aired on the SkillsUSA website. The winning school will receive a \$300 award. Up to two honorable mention awards of \$100 each may also be distributed.

Does it cost anything to enter?

There is no charge for submitting an entry.

Can I submit more than one entry?

Yes. Participants may submit up to two entries.

Can entries be disqualified?

Entries will be disqualified if they contain vulgar or inappropriate content, are uploaded later than Nov. 15 or use copyrighted material.

How many students can work on the video?

There is no limit on the number of students who can work on a video. The video must be entered under one chapter name, and there will only be one prize awarded for the winning video.

Still have questions?

For questions not answered here, email Kelly Horton: khorton@skillsusa.org.

*Advocacy Action
Item*

Perkins CapWiz Alert and Message

☞ Since 2010, Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act funding has been cut by more than \$140 million and because of sequestration, Perkins will lose an additional \$58 million for the 2013-14 school year. The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved a funding bill that restores recent cuts made to Perkins by sequestration and provides funding at the FY 2012 level. As of late August, the House had not released its appropriations bill for education and workforce development programs. SkillsUSA, in cooperation with the Association for Career and Technical Education, asks that our constituents write to their Members of Congress to ask them to increase funding for CTE back to the FY2010 level.

An alert and message has been posted on the SkillsUSA CapWiz site. To send a letter to your Senators and to your that our constituents write to their Members of Congress to ask them to increase funding for CTE back to the FY2010 level. An alert and message has been posted on the SkillsUSA CapWiz site. To send a letter to your Senators and to your Representative, go to <http://capwiz.com/skillsusa/home/>.

You can also enter the site by going to www.skillsusa.org, clicking on about us, advocacy and legislative and advocacy site. Enter your zip code and the rest is self-explanatory. Please spread the word and take a few minutes to write to your Members of Congress and help CTE regain the Perkins funding it needs.

*Instructor
Action Item*

E-Learning Opportunities

☞ SkillsUSA is offering e-learning opportunities to all advisors. These 45-minute webinars will help prepare them for a great year. They will get practical answers and useful solutions to empower students to lead their chapter to success. Each e-learning session will be presented at 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. (Eastern Time) on the scheduled day. Teachers can register for the time they find most convenient by using the link <http://www.skillsusa.org/join/elearning.shtml>.

After registering, they will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. In addition, they will receive a free resource item just for attending e-learning. The session dates are:

- Membership recruitment - Tuesday, September 10
- Landing page and membership registration – Tuesday, September 17
- Electing chapter officers – Tuesday, September 24
- Managing successful chapter meetings – Thursday, September 26
- Program of work development – Tuesday, October 1
- Integrating SkillsUSA into the classroom environment – Thursday, October 3
- SkillsUSA programs – Tuesday, October 8
- Student leadership development – Thursday, October 10
- Preparing for the SkillsUSA Championships – Tuesday, October 15

*Advisors
Instructors
School Directors*

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 2014 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. We are looking for a SkillsUSA student or professional member to sing the national anthem or another patriotic song appropriate for opening special sessions.

Singers may sing a capella or to a pre-recorded instrumental track. Audition tapes must be the singing of the national anthem. Send in all audition videotapes of the national anthem only on CD or DVD, postmarked by February 1, 2014 to: Heidi Walsh, SkillsUSA, 14001 SkillsUSA Way, Leesburg, VA 20176.

Questions may be directed to Heidi at 703-737-0615 or hwalth@skillsusa.org.

*Instructor
Action Item*

New Educational Products

 **RESOLUTE: Ethics at Work Cards**

As students enter the workforce, they will face a variety of ethical dilemmas that require well-developed decision-making and problem-solving skills. The decisions they make will influence the quality of their work environment as well as the quality of their productivity. They will interact with a diverse group of coworkers from various cultural backgrounds, as they work together to solve problems that have ethical implications. RESOLUTE: Ethics at Work Cards are a collection of scenarios that represent day-to-day dilemmas that workers of many occupations are likely to face on their jobs. As students wrestle with these dilemmas in a classroom setting, they gain new insights about conflicting values, and discover a variety of possible options and consequences. These engaging activities challenge students to work together to resolve ethical dilemmas, and expose them to a variety of values and cultures. To order please contact the state office at jklemp@skillsusari.org.

Results to Honor Cards

Most of us would agree that hearing the words “good job” or “nice work” is encouraging. But when we get a compliment, praise or “thank you” that is targeted and specific, it can be even more meaningful to us. When we acknowledge the specific, positive actions and behaviors of our students, we help them to grow. The Results to Honor Cards are a user-friendly teaching tool designed to reinforce the character and leadership skills that lead to success in the classroom, workplace and other areas of their lives. The set consists of seven different cards, designed around SkillsUSA’s Champions at Work’s seven key words—connected, motivated, respected, educated, involved, skilled and prepared. They both complement and reinforce the SkillsUSA from Quotes to Results poster series, released last year. To order please contact the state office at jklemp@skillsusari.org.

*Advisors and
School Directors*

“Start Something Today” Challenge

 This new competition, conducted completely over the Web, provides students with an award-winning start to launching a business idea, plan and pitch to business and industry professionals and win recognition and prizes.

Sponsored by WebProfessionals.org, the challenge is designed to inspire student entrepreneurs to actualize their business initiatives while sparking business creation and workforce development. The challenge will empower and equip students in career pathways ranging from healthcare, energy, art and design, construction, information technology, retail, green, financial and professional services and social entrepreneurs with the proper technology tools, resources and strategies needed to produce a successful business.

The “Start Something Today” challenge is open to current student entrepreneurs, regardless of where they are in their education and career journeys. Students and the teachers who participate will receive free entrepreneurship training; free business plan development training; and, web site design and development training and support, including website hosting. Students are responsible for writing their own business plans and pitching their businesses with a 3-5 minute YouTube.com video.

Recognition will be awarded to the first and second place winners in each category. Winners will receive free website support to market their business plan and or products and services, website hosting for one year and will have their pitch introduced to potential investors.

For additional information and to participate, go to www.schoolofweb.org/start-something-today/

The deadline for contest entries is December 1, 2013. For more information, contact Bill Cullifer at bill@webprofessionals.org.