



FRIDAY FLASH

»» New SkillsUSA National-Level Recognition Award

The new SkillsUSA Hall of Champions Award recognizes individuals who have dedicated themselves at the national level to helping youth develop and embody the components of the SkillsUSA Framework. Candidates may be nominated by a state SkillsUSA director, current or past SkillsUSA board member, SkillsUSA headquarters staff member, SkillsUSA chapter, stakeholder, alumni, or other leaders in the organization. The nomination form must be accompanied by up to five letters of support demonstrating the nominee's impact on youth development within the SkillsUSA Framework. [Complete the application here](#) no later than **April 1**.

»» The New SkillsUSA Awards Store

The [SkillsUSA Awards Store](#) has been launched, and it offers awards to celebrate those who assist you, including individual volunteers, school administrators, organizations, agencies and companies. The store is currently offering "Buy 3, Get 1 Free" or "Buy 6, Get 2 Free" deals, so check it out soon!



»» Marsha Daves Memorial Scholarship Winner Announced

The Marsha Daves Memorial Scholarship has awarded a \$1,500 college/postsecondary scholarship to SkillsUSA state officer and photography student Marley Ray from Midway High School, N.C. Her advisor is Heather Anderson. Scholarship applicants submitted an online application that included a video submission describing the leadership qualities the student gained from a SkillsUSA mentor and how they used those skills to be a leader. Advisors, please be sure your students take advantage of all our [SkillsUSA scholarship and grant opportunities](#).

»» Virtual STEM Trades Conference for High School Girls

On March 15, Ignite Worldwide and Universal Technical Institute will bring the virtual Women in STEM Skilled Trades Conference to high school girls across the country. The following panel of women is participating:

- **Host:** Migdalia Vazquez-Valle Campus president and board member, Ignite Worldwide.
- **Moderator:** Kristin Labonte, marketing executive and entrepreneur, former professional cyclist and wife of NASCAR Hall of Fame driver Bobby Labonte.

- **Panelist:** Sophie Fox, CEO of Women & Wheels. Professional drag racer, Holly Inc web and social media director.
- **Panelist:** Madison Conrad, powertrain reliability specialist, Roush Yates Racing Engines.
- **Panelist:** Jennifer Lefever, SEMA Women of the Year, vice president, Roush Yates Racing Engines.
- **Panelist:** Brooke Ulrich, regional facilities and equipment service manager for Home Depot, advanced diagnostics med-heavy diesel specialist.

These successful women will share their journeys and answer questions from listeners. The event is from 10:45-11:45 a.m. PST. [Register here.](#)

»» Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

Please join your fellow advisors for SkillsUSA Professional Development sessions. On March 9, we will preview the Chapter Officer Election Guide and learn about successful chapter officer elections using the Chapter Officer Election Toolkit from the SkillsUSA website. [See the full training calendar here.](#) Completion certificates are provided for each session. [Use this Google Doc](#) to learn how to access your professional membership benefits online. [A PDF of the 2021-22 Professional Development Opportunities is available here.](#) For questions, contact [Karolina Belen](#).



»» National Conference Pin and T-shirt Design Entries Due Soon

SkillsUSA is once again offering the 2022 National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) Pin and T-shirt Design Challenge for all dues-paying student members. The winning designs will become the official T-shirt and pin design for NLSC. Entries must be received by **March 15 at 12 a.m. ET**, and the winners will be announced on **March 21**. [Rules and submission links can be found on the SkillsUSA website.](#)

»» Engage Your Chapter in SkillsUSA's Student2Student Program

It's not too late to engage your students in SkillsUSA's refreshed Student2Student program for the 2021-22 school year. The program connects chapters with younger students in elementary or middle school to facilitate SkillsUSA's "Jump into STEM!" curriculum at their school. [Visit the website](#) to learn more about the program and how your chapter can gain national recognition by participating. Entries must be submitted by **April 1**.

»» Earn Presidential Recognition for Service

At the 2022 National Leadership & Skills Conference, SkillsUSA will recognize advisors, students and registered alumni for their community service and volunteer activities through the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA). To qualify, members can submit a record of their service hours to SkillsUSA, which is a certifying organization. This presidential honor recognizes the valuable contributions of volunteers who are answering a national call to serve others through their current activities or lifetime efforts. [Details on qualifying hours and requirements for submission are available here.](#) Applications must be received by **April 1** for recognition at the 2022 national conference.

»» Seeking Musical Talent to Perform at NLSC

Do you have a musical gift to share with the SkillsUSA community? If so, apply for the new SkillsUSA Talent Program being launched in conjunction with SkillsUSA's National Leadership & Skills Conference. Selected applicants will showcase their musical ability during one of three high-energy arena sessions in front of more than 12,000 SkillsUSA members from across the country. They may also perform for smaller audiences throughout the conference.

Students or advisors will be offered complimentary conference registration if their sole purpose of attendance is to participate in the SkillsUSA Talent Program. SkillsUSA Championships contestants are eligible, but performance opportunities may be limited due to scheduling conflicts. Applicants must be current paid SkillsUSA members and must submit a video file performing a song of choice that demonstrates their musical ability. Individual or group performances are welcome. [Apply here](#) by 5 p.m. ET on **Friday, April 22**. For questions, contact [Joey Baker](#).

»» Program of Work Toolkit Launch Activity Guides Available

SkillsUSA has created Program of Work Launch Activity guides for professional members to help set your students on the path to career readiness. These guides can be accessed by signing into [SkillsUSA Absorb](#) and clicking on the Program of Work Toolkit.



The guides are available in both in-person and virtual formats and cover the following categories: Advocacy and Marketing; Community Engagement; Partner and Alumni Engagement; Financial Management; Leadership Development and Workplace Experiences. Each category is accompanied by engaging activities, suggested budgets, assessments and additional resources.

»» SkillsUSA Connect to My Future Conference Registration Opens Soon

Save the date for this year's virtual SkillsUSA Connect to My Future Career Conference, to be held May 3-4. The conference is designed to allow students to explore career pathways and connect directly with employers. Three distinct student program tracks will be offered for members in middle school, high school, and college/postsecondary programs. [Check out all three tracks here](#). Registration opens March 21. We encourage you to share [this video](#) with your classes to get them excited.



»» Plan Now for SkillsUSA National Signing Day on May 5

On Thursday, May 5, [SkillsUSA National Signing Day](#) will celebrate high school seniors and college/postsecondary students who have chosen to pursue careers as professionals in the skilled trades. Local SkillsUSA chapters are encouraged to plan and host a signing day event by inviting business partners, school administrators, teachers, elected officials, SkillsUSA alumni, family



and friends to honor students signing “letters of intent” for a job offer, apprenticeship or advanced technical training.

[This digital toolkit of resources](#) will help advisors plan their local chapter events. The toolkit includes an event logo, an invitation template, social media posts, a sample press release, thank-you notes, an event planning checklist and more. Registration for SkillsUSA National Signing Day opens March 21.