

# SkillsUSA Louisiana E-Newsgram News Letter (VOL 1-12)



Larry Rabalais, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Rabalais".

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**SkillsUSA Louisiana**

Wednesday, February 01, 2012

Hello Everyone! From SkillsUSA Louisiana!

This is the (1<sup>st</sup>) E-Newsgram with important information for you.

**NEWS! NEWS!**



**We are on our way -2- SkillsUSA Championships**

**[Newsletter Spotlight](#)**

The **SkillsUSA Championships** will soon be here. Please pay close attention to deadlines and fast approaching dates. We will be sending information to you as update information for each contest and other information becomes available.

**Deadlines Quickly Approaching!**

There are two very important deadlines you need to be sure to meet. [Louisiana Membership is due March 1, 2012.](#) Be sure you've submitted your student and professional membership. The roster shows a time and date stamp for each student when you've done this successfully.

You must be a national and state member **before** you compete.

## **NEWS ! NEWS !**

***Action Item: The 2012 Louisiana SkillsUSA Championships, “Big Letter” will be online at the Louisiana SkillsUSA website by the end of this week. Please read this document very carefully as it contains all the information for the 2012 SkillsUSA Championships, April 18-20, Shreveport-Bossier, LA***

## **CTE MONTH AND SKILLSUSA WEEK EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES REMINDER**

### **February 2012                      Career and Technical Education Month**

February is Career and Technical Education Month and February 5-11 is SkillsUSA Week. SkillsUSA Week activities are a great way to highlight the good work your state association and local chapters are doing. For SkillsUSA Week ideas, see the Chapter Management section on the SkillsUSA website. SkillsUSA offers downloadable public service announcements at:  
<http://www.skillsusa.org/educators/skillsusaweek.shtml>.

On February 7th, at 1 p.m. (EST), SkillsUSA will be hosting a Web conference to kick off SkillsUSA’s week of celebration. Hear from your SkillsUSA leaders on the state of the organization. Listen to a special guest speaker on what it means to be "Skilled and Motivated" which is this year's theme. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions. All instructors and members are welcome to participate in the Web conference.

To participate in the Web conference, go to the following link on February 7 at 1 p.m. EST: Web address at <http://web.ganconference.com/?meeting=1736891>. To dial in for audio, call: 888-222-0475. Attendee Code: 5692952

## **CTE BRANDING INITIATIVE**

As you are most likely aware, the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc), in cooperation with other organizations in the career and technical education (CTE) community, has developed a new logo and slogan for career and technical education – CTE: Learning that Works for America. SkillsUSA has been involved and supports this initiative.

Equally important, NASDCTEc has gathered the facts and developed the messaging for CTE advocacy so all organizations can be working from the same notes. For more information, go to <http://skillsusa.org/about/policy.shtml>.

You are encouraged to go to the NASDCTEc website for additional information and promotional materials, including videos and PowerPoint presentations. For

advocacy information, go to <http://www.careertech.org/resources/advocacy-tools.html>. For promotional materials, go to <http://www.careertech.org/resources/workforce-education.html>. For more information, contact Erin Uy at [euy@careertech.org](mailto:euy@careertech.org).

## **WORK FORCE READY SYSTEM/SKILL CONNECT ASSESSMENTS**

SkillsUSA offers 47 industry-driven technical and employability assessments, which include 44 Skill Connect assessments and four automotive assessments offered by our co-vender Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). Information on our assessments and a complete list of the assessment areas available can be found at [www.workforcereadysystem.org](http://www.workforcereadysystem.org). At the site, there are also instructor and administrator resources to help prepare students for testing, a free 10-question demonstration of each Skill Connect Assessment.

## **CHAPTER MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE IN LEESBURG, VA**

On March 23, SkillsUSA is hosting a State Farm-sponsored Chapter Management Institute (CMI) in Leesburg, Virginia at the SkillsUSA National Leadership Center from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CMI seminars provide instructors with the tools they need to develop, manage and advise a SkillsUSA chapter in their schools or classrooms. Participants explore the mission of SkillsUSA; learn to use the multitude of resources available and engage in hands-on activities. The training uses interactive sessions and provides answers to questions such as:

- How do I get students involved?
- What is the best way to organize our activities?
- What does a chapter set out to do?
- What is a Program of Work?
- What materials are available to help students?

This is a must for beginning or novice advisors wanting to start a chapter or better manage an existing chapter.

As a participant in the CMI Basic Seminar, you will receive the following materials (\$80 value):

- Advisor's Success Kit (Ask) CD-ROM
- The SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards 2011-12 CD Package
- National Conference DVD - A Week of Champions

Training and materials are free to participants. There is a \$30 registration fee to cover lunch and breaks. To register, contact Stephanie Bland, 703-737-0622 or by e-mail to [sbland@skillsusa.org](mailto:sbland@skillsusa.org). The deadline for registration is **March 9**. For more information on this and other training seminars, please go to <http://skillsusa.org/educators/training.shtml>.

## **LOWE'S COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY REBUILDING GRANT WINNERS**

The 2012 SkillsUSA and Lowe's community improvement and community rebuilding grant winners were recently announced. Congratulations to all successful applicants.

*Community Improvement:* **Alabama** – Limestone Career Technical Center; **Arizona** – Buena High School; **Arkansas** – Cassatot Community College of the University of Arkansas; **California** – Valley Charter High School, American River College, Downey High School, and Perris High School; **Colorado** – Ellicott High School; **Georgia** – Camden County High School; **Minnesota** – Alexandria Technical and Community College; **Missouri** – Current River Career Center and Kirksville Area Technical Center; **Montana** – Montana State University-Northern; **New Hampshire** – Nashua Technology Center; **New Jersey** – Atlantic County Institute of Technology; **New Mexico** – Navajo Technical College and Pojoaque Valley High School; **New York** – Kenton Career & Technical Center and Rockland BOCES, Rockland; **North Carolina** – Pine Forest High School; **North Dakota** – Bottineau Public Schools/Bottineau; **Oklahoma** – Canadian Valley Technology Center; Gordon Cooper Technology Center; **Pennsylvania** – Upper Bucks County Technical School and West Side Career & Technology Center; **Tennessee** – Tennessee Technology Center at Harriman, Tennessee Technology Center at McKenzie, Tennessee Technology Center at Memphis and Tennessee Technology Center at Oneida/Huntsville; **Texas** – Rudder High School; **Vermont** – St. Johnsbury Academy; and, **Virginia** – Rockbridge County High School and William N. Neff Center.

*Community Rebuilding:* **New York** – Capital Region BOCES Career & Technical School and Broome Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

## **THE TECHNOLOGY & MAINTENANCE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

The Technology & Maintenance Council (TMC) of the American Trucking Associations is offering five truck technician scholarships (diesel technology) in partnership with WyoTech, the University of Northern Ohio and Lincoln Technical Institute.

Scholarship applicants are to be sponsored by a TMC member. TMC members are throughout the United States. Scholarship information and applications along with contact information are available online at: <http://tmc.truckline.com>.

The scholarships are part of an ongoing effort by TMC's Professional Technician Development Committee (PTDC) to promote and enhance the professionalism of commercial vehicle technicians.

Application deadline is **March 15, 2012** and awards will be announced by April 15, 2012.

### **COMPETITION CENTRAL**

The SkillsUSA Store is here to help your students look their best this conference season. Visit our “Competition Central” section (at <http://www.skillsusastore.org/skillsusa/welcome.asp>) today to find the full line of SkillsUSA work uniforms, official blazers and wind jackets, along with everything else you need to succeed. And, please reference the official competition uniform chart for photos and descriptions of the uniform components needed for each competition.

### **ATTENTION NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATES**

Now is the time to identify any national officer candidates for this June. We know you’ve got great students who can represent the organization well, and we hope you’ll share them with SkillsUSA. National officers receive top-notch training, travel opportunities and many networking experiences. Information for students and candidate forms are posted at <http://skillsusa.org/students/officerapp.shtml>. The deadline for application submissions is **June 1**. If elected, the new national officers must attend training in Lansdowne, Virginia, July 19-27, 2012.

### **KAVLI SAVE THE WORLD THROUGH SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING VIDEO CONTEST REMINDER**

The Kavli Save the World Through Science and Engineering Video Contest is open to students in Grades 6-12. Deadline is **March 1**.

Students make a short video (:30-:90) that shows how scientific discoveries and inventions can improve our lives and change our world, either right now or in the future. Then, they enter it on [Schooltube.com](http://www.schooltube.com) and compete for cash prizes. First prize is \$2,000 and a travel stipend to Washington, D.C. to the USA Science and Engineering Festival, April 28-29. Second prize is \$750, Third prize is \$500, and People's Choice is \$250. Winners will be honored in a special awards ceremony hosted by Bill Nye, the Science Guy.

<http://www.schooltube.com/contests/2012-kavli-save-world-through-science-engineering/>

## **2012 SKILLSUSA UNIVERSITY REMINDER**

SkillsUSA is currently accepting proposals from high-quality presenters of innovative, timely and dynamic educational topics to present at the 2012 SkillsUSA University in Kansas City, Mo. All sessions will take place at the Downtown Marriott Hotel or the Kansas City Convention Center on June 25, 26 and 27.

Possible topics: local chapter activities; fundraising; community service; SkillsUSA Program of Work success stories; business etiquette; communication skills for students; local industry partnerships, etc. These can be best practices (with a local advisor presenting) or an expert in the subject area. If you do not want to present, but you have suggestions for workshop topics, please feel free to forward them to us.

The deadline for proposals is **February 24**. For more information and a Request for Proposal (RFP), go to <http://skillsusa.org/events/skillsuniv.shtml>.

## **HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AND/OR OUTSTANDING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATOR NOMINATIONS REMINDER**

If you would like to nominate someone for SkillsUSA's national Honorary Life Membership or Outstanding Career and Technical Educator, please submit your nomination by going to the following assigned links and filling out the online application. The deadline for both applications is **February 18**.

<http://www.skillsusa.org/educators/outstandinged.shtml>, and  
<http://www.skillsusa.org/about/honlife.shtml>

## **BE HEARD, BE SEEN, BE YOU AND BE MORE (BMOR) THROUGH THE 26 SECONDS CAMPAIGN REMINDER**

Did you know that every 26 seconds a young person in the United States drops out of high school? You can help turn that statistic around by participating with SkillsUSA in the 26 Seconds Campaign. By doing so, you can win prizes, scholarships and help SkillsUSA and the student drop-out crisis in the process.

For more information on how to participate in the 26 Seconds program, go to <http://www.skillsusa.org/blog/?p=2004>

The 26 Seconds Campaign will be ending on June 30, 2012.

## **ACTE NATIONAL POLICY SEMINAR, MARCH 5-7**

Stand with ACTE and your CTE colleagues from around the nation to help Washington understand that CTE works! Register to attend the ACTE National Policy Seminar (NPS), March 5-7, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. A special student rate is available and students are welcome to join.

CTE faces many challenges during the coming year, and during the 2012 NPS, you will have the opportunity to connect with legislators who need to see us, understand us—and remember us! At this year’s National Policy Seminar, there is something for everyone:

- Strengthen your knowledge of federal policies affecting CTE.
- Learn more about how national assessments and the career-readiness conversation will affect your students.
- Explore overarching issues affecting federal spending for education and workforce development.
- Preview the next reauthorization of the Perkins Act and begin planning ahead.
- Gain new advocacy skills to help you effectively promote your programs.

Check out the tentative agenda for more details and visit [www.acteonline.org/nps.aspx](http://www.acteonline.org/nps.aspx) for the latest updates.

## **NATIONAL HONORS FOR OUR FLAGSHIP PUBLICATION**

Our magazine *SkillsUSA Champions* has been honored with a silver medal in the Association *TRENDS*’ All-Media Contest. The annual competition is held exclusively for associations, recognizing the most creative and effective communication vehicles developed during the prior year. The 2011 competition included more than 450 entries in 22 categories of association communications.

The magazine will be on display at the program’s 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Salute to Association Excellence, February 12, at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C., as well as featured in the January issue of *TRENDS*, a national newspaper for association executives and suppliers. *SkillsUSA Champions* last earned this honor in 2008.

SkillsUSA is proud of the great work our staff has put into media and communicating with our members.

## **THE SKILLSUSA STORE**

Contest season is just around the corner and the SkillsUSA Store is here to help with all your needs. Visit us today at [www.skillsusastore.org](http://www.skillsusastore.org) for official uniform, supplies, apparel, gifts and everything SkillsUSA!

During your visit, feel free to download our [Official Competition Uniform Chart](https://www.costore.com/skillsusa/layout2/SkillsUniformPOSTER-web.pdf) at <https://www.costore.com/skillsusa/layout2/SkillsUniformPOSTER-web.pdf>, or our [2012 SkillsUSA Store Digital Catalog](https://www.costore.com/skillsusa/layout2/2012SkillsUSA-Catalog-web.pdf) at <https://www.costore.com/skillsusa/layout2/2012SkillsUSA-Catalog-web.pdf>. And if you need custom product ideas for your state or chapter, our signature collection at [www.egsignaturecollection.com](http://www.egsignaturecollection.com) is a great place to start.

## **STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP**

Leadership development for students is at the core of SkillsUSA. Through a structured SkillsUSA leadership training program, students have the opportunity to prepare for leadership roles as the future leaders of America's technical workforce. SkillsUSA leadership activities help mold character, citizenship and the employability skills required for a highly skilled 21st Century workplace.

The SkillsUSA Student Leadership Development Scholarship was established in 2007 with financial support from Robert L. Flint, former Caterpillar executive and SkillsUSA board president (1998-99). SkillsUSA administers the scholarship fund with advisory support from Mr. Flint and a panel composed of scholarship fund donors.

Again in 2012, the scholarship will provide financial support for eight students who are recognized for having strong leadership potential and who would greatly benefit from national leadership training but do not have the sufficient resources to participate. Only SkillsUSA state association directors may submit applications for scholarship candidates. Each state association, including both high school and college/postsecondary associations in applicable states, may submit ONE application. State association directors should solicit the lead chapter advisors for nominations, and then choose one nominee's application to submit to the SkillsUSA national office. Once nomination applications are received at the SkillsUSA National Leadership Center, a panel of SkillsUSA staff and leadership trainers will evaluate the applications and select the top candidates. The donor advisory committee will review the finalists' applications and determine the winners.

Scholarships will be awarded in the following amounts:

\$1,300 Scholarship - To support expenses for SkillsUSA Activate and Leverage Training (formerly Officer Training 101/201) held in Kansas City over three days in June each year. This amount covers registration, materials, meals, lodging (four nights, double room), shuttle bus transportation from hotel to training site

daily and \$50 for spending money. This amount also covers the cost for the student to remain in Kansas City and experience the full week of the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. Transportation to and from home to the event is not included. Go to [www.skillsusa.org/educators/101.shtml](http://www.skillsusa.org/educators/101.shtml) for more information on this training opportunity. Application deadline is **April 29, 2012**.

\$800 Scholarship - To support expenses for the Washington Leadership Training Institute (held in Washington, D. C. over four and one-half days in September each year.) This amount covers registration, lodging (four nights, double room), all meals, bus transportation to all conference activities (including two trips to Capitol Hill and one trip to the SkillsUSA National Leadership Center) and \$50 for spending money. Transportation from home to the event and back is not included. Go to [www.skillsusa.org/events/wlti.shtml](http://www.skillsusa.org/events/wlti.shtml) for more information on this training opportunity. 2011 photo at [www.skillsusa.org/events/wltiphotos.shtml](http://www.skillsusa.org/events/wltiphotos.shtml). Application deadline is **July 22, 2012**.

The scholarship application is located on the state directors' website at <http://www.skillsusa.org/directors/> and a hard copy is enclosed with this *Update* for state association directors.

### **NATIONAL CONFERENCE PIN AND T-SHIRT CONTEST**

**February 1** is the deadline for the 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 Ambrose at 703-737-0615 or to [hambrose@skillsusa.org](mailto:hambrose@skillsusa.org).

### **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 Leadership and Skills 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** to Heidi Ambrose, SkillsUSA, 14001 SkillsUSA Way, Leesburg, VA 20176. Questions may be directed to Heidi at 703-737-0610 or by email to [hambrose@skillsusa.org](mailto:hambrose@skillsusa.org).

## **REMINDER OF WEBINARS COMING IN 2012**

Three national Web conferences are scheduled for 2012. It's your chance to hear from and communicate with national staff. We'll provide some training and information on professional development, updating and motivating advice and tips on being a national leader.

### **CBS Radio Interview**

On December 4, CBS Radio (KFWB News Talk 980-AM in Los Angeles) aired an hour-long interview with Jim Lentz of Toyota, Victoria Holbert, our high school national president and me on a program entitled "Unfinished Business." The subject revolved around training, CTE and what Toyota is doing with SkillsUSA to prepare America's skilled workforce. The invitation was a direct result of the Champion of the Year dinner attended by Renee Fraser, president and CEO of a communications firm that does a lot of work with Toyota.

Renee and her partner conducted the interview and commented that they were surprised they'd never heard of SkillsUSA. Jim Lentz, who had many wonderful things to say about Toyota's support of SkillsUSA said something to the effect: "If you look at how SkillsUSA is spending its budget, 93 percent is going back to support their members at the local level not into marketing and PR. It's up to corporations like Toyota to get SkillsUSA exposure. That's one of the reasons we're here talking now." He also stressed that auto service technicians at Toyota are in good middle-class jobs and some technicians are making "in the six figures." The link to the interview is on SkillsUSA's website at <http://www.skillsusa.org/about/news.shtml>.

### **SkillsUSA Week: Skilled and Motivated - February 7, 2012, 1 p.m. (EST)**

Use this webinar to help kick off SkillsUSA Week celebrations. Hear from your SkillsUSA leaders on the state of the organization. Listen to a special guest speaker on what it means to be "Skilled and Motivated" which is this year's theme. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions.

URL: <http://web.ganconference.com/?meeting=1736891>

Telephone: 888-222-0475

Attendee code: 5692952

### **So You Want to Be a National Officer? - March 14, 2012, 1 p.m. (EST)**

Do you have a student you think would make a good national leader? Has he or she wanted to run for a national SkillsUSA office but weren't sure how? Then this webinar is for you! Our experts will provide an overview of the national officer candidate procedures and national officer responsibilities. You will also get to hear first-hand experience from a current national officer.

URL: <http://web.ganconference.com/?meeting=8705179>

Telephone: 888-222-0475

Attendee code: 5692952

## **BE HEARD, BE SEEN, BE YOU AND BE MORE (BMOR) THROUGH THE 26 SECONDS CAMPAIGN REMINDER**

Instructors – please send this message to your students. Did you know that every 26 seconds a young person in the United States drops out of high school? You can help turn that statistic around by participating with SkillsUSA in the 26 Seconds Campaign. By doing so, you can win prizes, scholarships and help SkillsUSA and the student drop-out crisis in the process.

Here is what to do:

Help take back the stat by taking the pledge to graduate via the BMOR Project (direct link: [http://www.facebook.com/26seconds?sk=app\\_270882582923170](http://www.facebook.com/26seconds?sk=app_270882582923170)) and on Facebook it is *facebook.com/26seconds*. When you pledge, **select SkillsUSA as your affiliation**. Then, return to the BMOR Project regularly to participate in the new activities that launch on the 26<sup>th</sup> of each month. Not only will you be eligible to win prizes, you can also help SkillsUSA. The organization with the highest number of graduation pledges and activity participants per month wins a grant.

**Right now, in addition to a chance to win monthly prizes** when you participate, you'll also receive a 26 Seconds T-shirt just for pledging. The online activities are fun, easy and show you how to channel your interests into a future after graduation. The **grand prize is an end-of-the-year celebration** that one lucky student will bring to their school and community. **But, you must complete at least five of the activities to be eligible for the grand prize.**

Plus, you can share videos, photos, projects (like SkillsUSA's Student2Student Program), artwork and creative writings on the Facebook page. **By doing so, your creativity may also be chosen to be featured on *www.26seconds.com*.** Shine a light on yourself, your school and the importance of high school graduation.

Visit 26 Seconds.com and the Facebook page to see what students like you are doing and share your story.

**SkillsUSA** is a national nonprofit organization of students, teachers and industry, working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. SkillsUSA helps high school and college students enrolled in career and technical education programs to excel by teaching employability skills such as communication, problem solving and leadership in conjunction with their trade, technical and service occupations skills.

