

## **SkillsUSA Louisiana Championships Information**

### **SkillsUSA**

SkillsUSA is a national organization with 302,000 members. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. The organization helps each student to excel. Founded in 1965, it is recognized and endorsed by the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor, departments of education in every state, the American Association of Community Colleges, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, among many, many others.

### **MISSION**

The SkillsUSA mission is to help its members become world-class workers and responsible American citizens. SkillsUSA prepares students for employability skills that industry values. The student's acquire occupational skills that are necessary to enter the labor market. SkillsUSA is an applied method for preparing American's high performance workers in public career-technical education programs. We provide quality educational experience in leadership, teamwork, citizenship, and character development. We also promote understanding of the free enterprise and involvement in community service.

### **THE PURPOSE OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION**

The SkillsUSA Louisiana Championships is competition for trade, industrial, technical and health occupations education students designed to demonstrate the skills and abilities needed for employment. The skills and abilities tested in competition are determined by experts employed in the field. They choose skills-based on employer's expectations of the skills a student graduating from a Career & Technical education program should possess. These experts determine the format of the competition, the skills to be demonstrated, and the standards by which they are judged.

Recognition is important to all of us and the same kind of recognition should be given for excellence in the career & technical areas as is given those who excel in sports, music, or academic areas. One of the major philosophies behind SkillsUSA competitive activities is that individual students deserve recognition for demonstrating a high degree of competence in a particular area. Why shouldn't we recognize the "merit scholars" of trade, industrial, technology and health occupations educational and restore pride of craftsmanship and dignity of work in our society through recognition programs?

Skills demonstrated in a competitive situation must be drawn from an analysis of skills needed to be successfully employed in the particular trade and skills taught in the industrial education programs. The idea of having students submit projects has been rejected because of the lack of assurances that a project would really represent a student's employment skills. Contests, as they are conducted, are structured in such a way as to prohibit the instructor from teaching for contests--in other words, teaching only with competition in mind.

Skilled trade contests must be the result of a quality instructional program and skills should be demonstrated on equipment comparable to that used in industry. This, of course, has implications for schools that are poorly equipped. Still, nothing is to be gained by "watering down" the state contests to the lowest standards of the various training programs. In fact, support for updating equipment may well be generated within local schools by demonstrating that students are not being given a chance to develop skills comparable to those of other students.

SkillsUSA Louisiana Championships contests are divided into the categories of Leadership Events, and Skill Development. All of these categories are important to a student's complete development within Louisiana Career and Technical Education Programs

### **JUSTIFICATION FOR BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

- SkillsUSA Louisiana is one of the few structured organizations in Louisiana for bringing business and industry and students and faculty from the technical training programs together.
- The Board of Directors of SkillsUSA Louisiana believes that the concept of developing as much contact as possible between career & technical students, faculty, and business and industry is a valuable and important element in Louisiana's overall technical initiative.

- The key to long-term success with the technical initiative is through personal involvement of committed members and staff of business and industry in Louisiana.
- SkillsUSA provides a framework for business and industry to become personally involved with the students and faculty at technical schools with geographical jurisdiction, all of whom are seeking internships as well as summer and permanent employment. It also provides students with direct access to potential employers.
- Support of SkillsUSA publicly demonstrates the state's business and industry getting personally involved with students and their welfares.

### **BENEFITS OF BEING INVOLVED**

- Building a relationship with Louisiana SkillsUSA, who promotes the training of skilled workers
- Opportunity to locate future employees
- Name recognition of the particular business and industry
- Becoming a vital part of the technical education in Louisiana

### **RECOGNITION**

On April 1, 2009, Governor Bobby Jindal proclaimed April 2009 to be SkillsUSA Month. Read the proclamation at the following website: <http://www.skillsusala.org/uploads/5/1/5/9/5159434/proclamation09.pdf>

### **WHERE HAVE ALL THE SKILLED WORKERS GONE?**

The impending shortage of skilled workers has been well documented. Take a look at current predictions:

- By 2030, although 41 million new workers will enter the work force, a staggering 76 million will enter retirement, leaving a shortage of workers that will be hard to fill.
- To prevent a talent shortage that could threaten the U.S. manufacturing segment alone by 2020, 10 million new skilled workers are needed.
- In the health care field, 2.8 million nurses will be needed by 2020.
- Fourteen million skilled workers will be needed in the high technology and managerial industry by 2018.
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### **THERE IS AN ANSWER.**

#### **Prepare a new skilled work force.**

The skilled work force of the future belongs to SkillsUSA:

- A partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure
- A national nonprofit organization serving high school and college instructors and their students who are preparing for careers in more than 130 trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations.
- An applied method of instruction in public career and technical programs for preparing America's high-performance workers.
- A provider of quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development.

Please review more information at

[www.skillsusala.org](http://www.skillsusala.org) [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org)

