



Larry Rabalais, Executive Director

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

SkillsUSA Louisiana

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SkillsUSA Louisiana

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Vision of SkillsUSA on HIGH SCHOOL Campuses

"To provide Louisiana students the opportunity to participate in a complete high school with a combination of academic skills, employability skills and technical skills to have the best chance for a rewarding career with relevant, rigorous, career and technical education program. Combined with career and a technical education, SkillsUSA allows your students **to become *Champions at Work, Educated and Skilled to Lead America***; and adds value to your campus programs. The result is a coordinated effort that addresses **America's need for a skilled workforce in a global economy.**"

Mission

SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA empowers its members to become world-class workers and responsible American citizens.

The Vision

SkillsUSA is recognized as the organization that empowers students to be the leaders of America's skilled workforce. Every eligible student is involved and every life we touch is improved.

HIGH SCHOOL

Empowering Students, to be the leaders of Louisiana's skilled work force

It is clear that there is a lack of interest in SkillsUSA from several high schools with career and technical education programs campuses, and a dismal membership at another number of high schools with career and technical education programs campuses. However, we would like to include all of the campuses of the high schools with career and technical education programs, in the SkillsUSA high school organization for Louisiana. We are concerned that the students on those campuses will not be offered the same benefits and services as others.

As the high schools with career and technical education programs campuses begin to become involved as sites for SkillsUSA, I would like to ask you to provide your continued support and encouragement for the high schools with career and technical education programs campuses participation in SkillsUSA and the many benefits which will accrue to campuses, staff and students.

Thanking you for your support and endorsement of SkillsUSA.

Benefits from Participation in SkillsUSA Louisiana

SkillsUSA at your campus becomes part of student life on campus. A SkillsUSA chapter on your campus establishes a structure which benefits all of the partners: students, faculty, administration, business and industry and the community.

With SkillsUSA, these partners share some common needs:

- Students who want to begin or change their career.
- Instructors who want to improve their instructional programs to help students to be more successful.
- Employers looking for qualified employees who possess employability skills.

Students and faculty form an officially recognized student organization on campus and work together as a team with elected officers and committees to deliver a "program of work" and actually involve employers. In turn, the organization benefits students by offering a network of employer, business, and community, education and personal contacts. Students develop employability skills and hands-on leadership skills through competitions. Interest in SkillsUSA is growing rapidly in the high school and college community. Colleges see the benefits of the SkillsUSA organization for students, faculty and the campus as a whole. That's because SkillsUSA helps to deliver a better prepared graduate.

Students deserve to be a part of SkillsUSA Louisiana. As educational leaders, we are in a unique situation. We have what industry wants and is demanding: potential employees. Those same businesses are looking for SkillsUSA as part of that education. Students

involvement in SkillsUSA tells an employer that our students not only have occupational skills but also that they have the necessary employability skills to make them even more valuable. Students who complete college with a combination of academic skills, employability skills and technical skills have the best chance for a rewarding career. Students need a bridge to develop marketable job skills and industry's need for quality employees. Within your class/shop, and through a quality SkillsUSA chapter, students can acquire these skills and become true champions at work.

Combined with career and technical education, SkillsUSA allows your students to ***become Champions at Work***, and adds value to our campus programs. I urge you to support and endorse SkillsUSA chapter on our high schools with career and technical education programs, or career center campuses.

Benefits to the Louisiana Education System: SkillsUSA is an organization that helps institutions prepare America's high performance workers in public career and technical programs. It provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. It builds and reinforces self-confidence, work attitudes and communications skills. It emphasizes total quality at work to include: high ethical standards, superior work skills, life-long education, and pride in the dignity of work. SkillsUSA also promotes understanding of the free-enterprise system and involvement in community service.

- *Superintendents and Career & Technical Education Supervisors must be on board and fully support the concept of SkillsUSA on Campus and the benefits accrued to the Campus, instructors and students*
 - *Instructors must be given the opportunity to implement the SkillsUSA program with students in all programs.*
 - *Image, and Public Relations for all involved are benefits of SkillsUSA on Campus*
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Subject: **Participation in SkillsUSA Louisiana**

As Executive Director of Career and Technical Education, I totally support instituting SkillsUSA at your campus as part of student life on campus. A SkillsUSA chapter on your campus establishes a structure which benefits all of the partners: students, faculty, administration, business and industry and the community.

With SkillsUSA, these partners share some common needs:

- Students who want to begin or change their career.
- Instructors who want to improve their instructional programs to help students to be more successful.
- Employers looking for qualified employees who possess employability skills.

Endorse and include SkillsUSA as part of your educational program this school year. Students who complete college with a combination of academic skills, employability skills and technical skills have the best chance for a rewarding career. Students need a bridge to develop marketable job skills and industry's need for quality employees. Within your class/shop, and through a quality SkillsUSA chapter, students can acquire these skills and become true champions at work.

Students and faculty form an officially recognized student organization on campus and work together as a team with elected officers and committees to deliver a "program of work" and actually involve employers. In turn, the organization benefits students by offering a network of employer, business, and community, education and personal contacts. Students develop employability skills and hands-on leadership skills through competitions. As SkillsUSA members, your students can be part of one of America's largest associations for technical education teachers and students.

Students deserve to be a part of SkillsUSA Louisiana. As educational leaders, you are in a unique situation. You have what industry wants and is demanding: potential employees. Those same businesses are looking for SkillsUSA as part of that education. Interest in SkillsUSA is growing rapidly in the high school community. High Schools see the benefits of the SkillsUSA organization for students, faculty and the campus as a whole. That's because SkillsUSA helps to deliver a better prepared graduate. Your involvement in SkillsUSA tells an employer that your students not only have occupational skills but also that they have the necessary employability skills to make them even more valuable. As SkillsUSA members, your students can be part of one of America's largest associations for career and technical education teachers and students.

Combined with career and technical education, SkillsUSA allows your students **to become Champions at Work**, and adds value to your campus programs. I strongly encourage you to use SkillsUSA and endorse the development of a chapter on your campus.

- Congratulations, I know that there are many new issues and agendas, which demand your full time and efforts. Supporting SkillsUSA on Campus and challenging all campuses to establish SkillsUSA chapters. It is not too late for your campuses to establish SkillsUSA chapters.

The purposes of this letter are to request your support, encouragement, and help in implementing SkillsUSA for students and staff on the campuses in your district. Participation in SkillsUSA can be beneficial to instructors in their annual performance appraisal process and to institutions in meeting the standards for accreditation. Additionally information is available at these websites: the SkillsUSA Louisiana website <http://skillsusala.org> , or the national SkillsUSA website <http://www.skillsusa.org>

I would ask that you consider these actions items:

1. Have Principal's designate instructors to become involved by joining SkillsUSA before March 1, 2017 (Louisiana's deadline for membership).
2. Forward to me a list of contacts from each campus who will require assistance and further information. September 15, 2016 is the target date to fax or email your list of contacts.

SkillsUSA has much to offer students, instructors and the institution. Please let me help you in the implementation process.

- SkillsUSA is a national student organization that works directly with business and industry to maintain American productivity, quality and competitiveness. SkillsUSA serves nearly 302,000 student and professional members who are enrolled in trade, technical and skilled service professions, including the allied health occupations. All students, no matter what their career aspirations, can benefit from membership in SkillsUSA. One of the most obvious benefits is a smoother transition from school to career.

- SkillsUSA prepares students for employment by introducing them to the corporate quality culture. The organization also emphasizes respect for the dignity of work, high standards in trade ethics, superior workmanship, quality and safety. These are the skills industry desires in new employees. SkillsUSA also brings together educators, administrators, corporate America, labor organizations, trade associations and government through a proven system that produces skilled entry-level employees. The result is a coordinated effort that addresses **America's need for a skilled work force**.
- Nearly 1,520 corporations, labor unions and trade associations support SkillsUSA programs at the national level, and thousands more support programs at the state and local levels. In fact, the active participation of business and industry has been the key to SkillsUSA's success since 1965. SkillsUSA programs have been proven to give students a competitive edge. They also give affiliated companies an edge. SkillsUSA provides corporate America with a direct link to the public technical education system, an important supplier of new employees for many industries. Through involvement with SkillsUSA, companies can access technical students for entry-level positions, improve the relevance of job training in the public educational system, help improve the image of occupational training, and receive positive publicity for participating with SkillsUSA
- There are currently more than 13,000 SkillsUSA chapters in all 50 states and three U.S. territories at public high schools, trade and technical schools, and community colleges. In SkillsUSA programs, teachers provide students with relevant job training for more than 108 different skilled occupations. No matter what jobs they train for, SkillsUSA students learn the importance of leadership skills, positive attitudes and pride in workmanship.

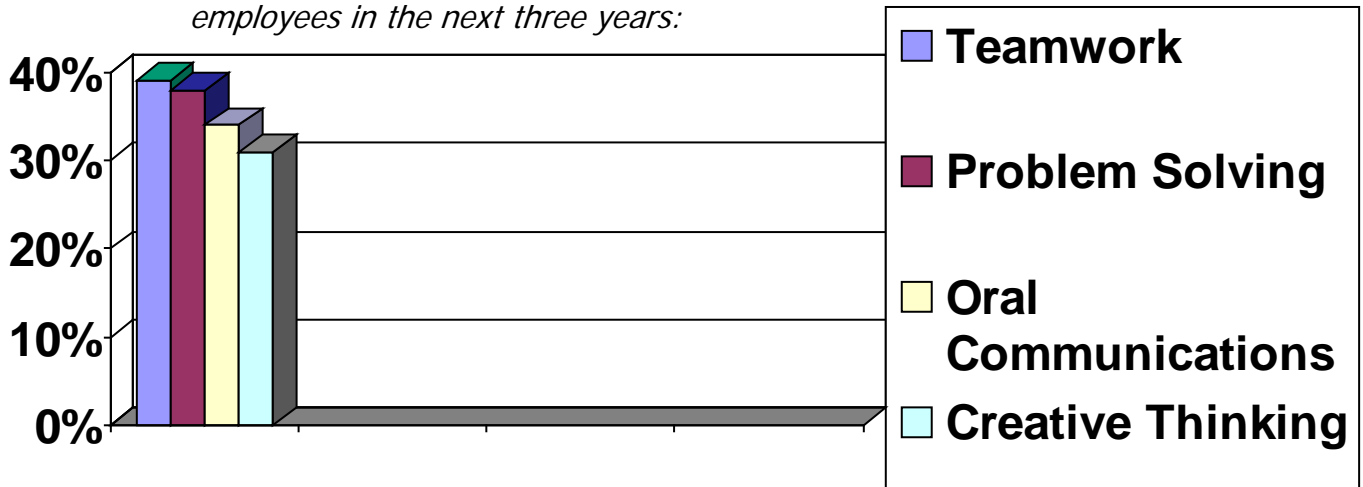
Skills are in Demand!

- The skills employers are desperate for are not only technical skills, but also EMPLOYABILITY skills (teamwork, communications, leadership, etc.).
- There is a SKILLED LABOR SHORTAGE in America today. Workers with the right skills are highly sought, and, most often, highly paid.
- SkillsUSA helps students obtain and develop the skills they'll need to succeed.
- Sixty-four percent of employers say most high school graduates do *not* have the skills necessary to succeed in the workplace – skills such as teamwork, time management, communication and interpersonal skills.
- Within the next year skilled individuals will make up 65 percent of job market. Demand for skilled labor will triple by 2017.
- Workers with the skills employers are desperate for are highly sought, and, most often, highly paid.

- SkillsUSA helps students obtain and develop the skills they'll need to succeed.

SkillsUSA teaches what companies want workers to learn

- *Percentage of companies planning to teach the following key skills to employees in the next three years:*



Why SkillsUSA?

SkillsUSA offers students:

- Gains self-esteem
- Becomes a responsible citizen
- Receives opportunities or jobs and contacts
- Receives cutting-edge training
- Is able to compete
- Enjoys fun, travel, and excitement
- Builds peer support network
- Learns to be a professional worker
- Cutting-edge skills training
- Employability skills (teamwork, leadership, goal-setting, etc.)
- Chances for competition in their skill area
- Opportunities for industry contacts, jobs, scholarships
- Fun, travel, and excitement
- Social outlets with their peers and community
- The opportunity to be the best that they can be

SkillsUSA offers teachers:

- Enrollment and Retention
- Cutting-edge training
- Professional curriculum
- Respect
- Student success
- Student pride
- SCANS standards
- Award-winning curriculum to teach essential employability skills
- Professional networking opportunities and links to business and industry to keep your program relevant
- Ways to change the misconceptions of technical training
- Ways to get your students involved in their communities
- Greater success for your students, both personally and professionally

Business & Industry Partnerships

SkillsUSA partnerships:

- Over 1,500 corporations, trade associations and unions are associated with SkillsUSA at the national level
- Partnerships can mean program funding
- Partnerships keep your program up-to-date
- Business LOOK for SkillsUSA involvement on the resumes they receive – they know that SkillsUSA benefits them by providing the workers they need.
- Partnerships offer business and labor a vehicle for DIRECTLY influencing the quality of career & technical education
- Partners have the opportunity to reach a valued marketplace of students and teachers
- New marketing opportunities
- New recruitment opportunities, from the most prized pool of skilled workers in the nation

- SkillsUSA brings together educators, administrators, corporate America, labor organizations, trade associations and government in a coordinated effort to address America's need for a globally competitive skilled workforce.

- **SkillsUSA: A Partnership That Pays Off**

If Skills USA was not on your Campus last year please call for more details on how this "New Partnership" can benefit your educational programs. Students who complete School/College with a combination of academic skills, employability skills, and technical skills have the best chance for a rewarding career. Through a quality Skills USA Chapter, students can acquire these skills and become true Champions at Work!

- **What Do Students Get for Their Dues?**

Dues-paying student members of SkillsUSA automatically receive the following benefits:

- A subscription to SkillsUSA Champions, the official magazine of SkillsUSA
- Access to career resources and contact with industry
- Opportunities to compete in the SkillsUSA Championships at the local, state or national levels
- Opportunities for scholarships, awards and honors
- Job contacts and networking opportunities
- A chance to learn and practice professional and leadership skills
- Recognition from peers, teachers and leaders within the community

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- In a time of change Leadership is a constant
 - “Because of SkillsUSA, I renewed my passion for education. I saw that maybe it is possible go beyond what you think you can do. Then I started to realize that things happen in your past, but you can’t live your future in the past.”
 - The SkillsUSA program gives us some of the best people that are genuinely interested in success within our industry. “John Eaton, of American Suzuki Motor Corp.
 - Faced with hardship and growing up too soon, Annette Ivey lost her sense of self-esteem. But her selfless attitude toward helping others healed her inner spirit and built a champion.
 - Being a member of SkillsUSA, I learned invaluable skills like communication, professionalism, time management, event management and public relations, all of which have led to my success. “Lowe’s Store Manager Grayson DeGraff of Woodgridge, VA
 - The world has waited for your arrival. I believe that. Troy Justesen, US Office of Vocational and Adult Education, To students at the SkillsUSA Washington Leadership Training Institute.
 - SkillsUSA showed me there’s more than one way to become successful. I thought the only way I was going to make it was through sports. But

eventually, after I got involved in SkillsUSA, many doors started to open, and I realized that sports just wasn't for me anymore.

- Safety and success go hand-in-hand on the job, which is why the renewed alliance between SkillsUSA and OSHA makes so much sense.
- America is going through some tough times. If you pick up the newspapers, the headlines are full of issues, challenges and problems that we face in our great nation. But after being part of SkillsUSA this week, and after watching you people in action all week, I have to be honest- I've never felt better about this country. Joseph Galli Jr. Of TTI Techtronic Industries at the close of SkillsUSA's National Conference



SkillsUSA Fact Sheet

Overview: SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives, working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. It helps each student to excel.

SkillsUSA is a national organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations, including health occupations. SkillsUSA was formerly known as VICA (the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America).

Membership: More than 302,000 student and instructors join SkillsUSA annually, organized into more than 15,000 sections and 54 state and territorial associations. SkillsUSA has served more than 12.5 million members.

Mission: SkillsUSA is an applied method of instruction for preparing America's high performance workers in public career and technical programs. It provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. It builds and reinforces self-confidence, work attitudes and communications skills. It emphasizes total quality at work: high ethical standards, superior work skills, life-long education, and pride in the dignity of work. SkillsUSA also promotes understanding of the free-enterprise system and involvement in community service.

Partners: Currently, 15,166 teachers and school administrators serve as professional SkillsUSA members and instructors. More than 1,500 business, industry and labor sponsors actively support SkillsUSA at the national level through financial aid, in-kind contributions, and involvement of their people in SkillsUSA activities. Many more work directly with state associations and local chapters.

Programs: SkillsUSA programs include local, state and national competitions in which students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills. At the annual national-level SkillsUSA Championships, over 5,700 students compete in 97 occupational and leadership skill areas.

SkillsUSA programs also help to establish industry standards for job skill training in the lab and classroom, and promote community service. SkillsUSA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and is cited as a "successful model of employer-driven youth development training program" by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The [Professional Development Program \(PDP\)](#) teaches 84 workplace skill competencies in a series of hands-on self-paced lessons.

The [Total Quality Curriculum \(TQC\)](#) trains students through activity-based instruction in the quality improvement process used by industry.

The [Career Skills Education Program \(CSEP\)](#) contains 49 online lessons teaching basic employment and life skills to college/high school students.

[Student2Student Mentoring](#) gives high school students a chance to mentor younger students in the area of career development.

[CareerSafe](#) is a credentialed 10-hour online training program developed in cooperation with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to provide students with basic knowledge of safety and a credential desired in the job market. There are two OSHA credentials available for students.

[The SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System](#) is a comprehensive tool to help student's document entry-level skills as defined by industry and accepted by state education policy. Being developed under a W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant, the Work Force Ready System will feature 46 industry-driven assessments that can lead to professional certifications.
[\[www.workforcereadysystem.org\]](http://www.workforcereadysystem.org)

For further information, contact:

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CAREER OUTLOOK TO 2017 THE DEMAND FOR SKILLED WORKERS TRIPLES SKILLSUSA CAN HELP TO ANSWER THE NEED

Today, there is a shortage of skilled workers. And, those that have technical skills may lack personal skills such as dependability, teamwork, communications and customer relations. In the manufacturing sector alone, a survey found 63% of companies lacking employees with essential "employability" skills. SkillsUSA is a proven program of work, which complements skills training and is considered vital by the federal and state departments of education.

SkillsUSA is an organization dedicated to providing quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. It is an applied method for preparing America's high performance workers in public career and technical programs. SkillsUSA also promotes understanding of the free enterprise system and involvement in community service.

SkillsUSA programs include local state and national competitions in which students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills. SkillsUSA programs also help to establish and/or deliver industry standards for job skill training in the lab and classroom. Over 1,000 businesses work with SkillsUSA at the national level and thousands are involved in the states. Those partnerships strengthen the bond between what business expects and how schools provide training.

Following are some skilled worker shortage statistics compiled by SkillsUSA from the U.S. Department of Labor. The need for skilled workers is real - as is the need for total quality employees.

Labor Force Grows

The population and labor force will continue to grow over the 1996-2016 period, although more slowly than during the previous 10 year period. The number of people in the labor force is projected to increase by 15 million, reaching 149 million in 2016.

Labor Force Ages

Labor force growth is slowing because population growth is slowing. As the Baby Boom generation ages, the age distribution of the labor force will continue to shift upward.

Employment

The economy is expected to continue present trends and generate jobs at all levels of education and training through 2016. Most of the projected employment increases will continue to be in the

service-producing sector of the economy. Total employment is projected to increase by 18.6 million, from 132.4 million to 150.9 million (including wage and salary, self-employed and unpaid family workers). The projected 1.3 percent annual average rate of growth is slower than the 1.7 percent growth from 1986 to 2016.

About one-third of the occupations with the largest numerical job growth require high school education or training. In most occupations, job openings result from the need to replace workers who leave to enter other occupations, retire or leave the labor force than from employment growth. During 1996-2016, three-fifths (32 million) of the 50.5 million projected job openings will come from the replacement needs compared to new openings (18.6 million).

Growth Areas

Employment in service-producing industries will increase faster than average, with growth near 30 percent.

Computer and data processing services will add over 1.3 million jobs from 1996-2016. The 108 percent increase is due to technological advancements and the need for higher skilled workers. The high percent increase makes this the fastest growing industry over the projection period.

Of the 50.5 million job openings projected, 22.5 million (44.5 percent) are in four occupational groups where SkillsUSA programs are concentrated: technicians and related support occupations; service occupations; precision production, draft and repair; and operators, fabricators and laborers.

