

**Louisiana SkillsUSA Championships Leading the way to the new Workforce!** (Innis, Louisiana) - Sponsors of Louisiana's showcase event for career and technical education students announced the dates of the state's largest occupational skill competition today. The Louisiana SkillsUSA Championships. The SkillsUSA Championships will start on April 2, 2020. The name highlights new initiatives in work force training.

**We** found that we had outgrown our old term "Olympics," here in Louisiana and at the national level. That name put too much emphasis on individuals winning, said Larry Rabalais Louisiana High School state director. "The real focus of the Louisiana SkillsUSA Championships is to bring the best out in everyone who participates. America's and Louisiana's economy is only as strong as it is broad-based. Many skills are required and everyone needs to contribute," he explained."

**The** announcement of the annual event was made at the annual SkillsUSA Board of Directors meeting, this last September.

**The** national competition was started in 1967 as a way to recognize the talents and aspirations of America's career and technical education students.

**In** the first year the competition was comprised of only three contests. Since then, the event has grown to include 130 contest and more than 7,323 contestants from across the nation. Winners from the Louisiana SkillsUSA Championships will go to the national competition in Louisville, KY, in June 2020.

**Louisiana** has been holding statewide skills contest since April

1981. This past year, Louisiana's SkillsUSA association sent 134 student contestants to the national competition.

**Both** the national and Louisiana SkillsUSA Championships are sponsored by **SkillsUSA**.

**SkillsUSA** is a nationwide organization serving career and technical education students in high schools, two-year colleges and career and technical education centers. SkillsUSA's annual membership

standing of the free enterprise system and involvement in community service activities.

**SkillsUSA** officials give four reasons for the growth of the competition program. First, career and technical education students need a means by which they can be recognized for their achievements. Second, the competition is a collective effort by business, education and labor. Third, the contestants are stringently evaluated according to industry competencies. Fourth, the competition stresses all employment



averages more than one-quarter million students and teachers in career and technical, and health occupations programs.

**SkillsUSA** is an applied method for preparing America's and Louisiana's high performance workers in public career and technical education programs. It provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork citizenship and character development. It emphasizes total quality at work: high ethical standards, superior work skills, lifelong education and pride in the dignity of work. SkillsUSA also promotes under-

skills, including communications and teamwork.

**The** SkillsUSA Championships has become one of the best ways for us to focus on skilled workers and what they must do to be successful, said Larry Rabalais, SkillsUSA Louisiana, Inc. Executive Director. "We think the new name keeps that focus where it belongs."

**This** year's Louisiana SkillsUSA Championships will be held April 2, 2020 beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Louis Miller Career & Technology Center 3051 Patriot Drive, Houma

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**The** Louisiana SkillsUSA Championships is a showcase for the state's best career and technology students to demonstrate their excellence in both skill and leadership. Involving more than 500 contestants, the state event shows Louisiana who its skilled workers are and what it takes for them to succeed. The championships are a positive way for employers to express their needs directly to educators. The competition is unique: technical experts from labor and industry design the contests to include a wide variety of skills that are needed in our work force, rather than gearing the events to what is taught in particular training programs. This motivates both students and personnel. This direct evaluation improves and upgrades the state of occupational training throughout Louisiana.

**The** philosophy of the Louisiana SkillsUSA Championships is to reward students for excellence, to involve industry in directly evaluating student performance, and to keep training relevant to employers' needs. Nearly 250 judges and contest organizers from the ranks of labor and management make it possible. They not only design the contest—they provide equipment, tools, supplies, money, executive time, talent, technical expertise, and awards for the winners. The investment by Louisiana business and labor in time and management is significant.

**Louisiana** SkillsUSA works directly with business and industry to maintain American productivity, quality and competitiveness. **SkillsUSA and Business is a partnership that pays off.** Through a proven system that produces quality-trained, well-rounded, entry-level employees, SkillsUSA brings together educators, administrators,

corporate America, labor organizations, trade associations and government. The result is a coordinated effort that addresses America's need for a globally competitive, educated and skilled work force.

**In** addition, SkillsUSA teaches the importance of developing leadership skills, positive attitudes and pride in workmanship. SkillsUSA emphasizes respect for the dignity of work, high standards in trade ethics, superior workmanship, quality and safety.

### **Meeting Business Needs.**

Nearly 1,527 corporations, labor unions and trade associations support SkillsUSA programs at the national level. The active participation of business and industry is the key to SkillsUSA's success. SkillsUSA programs give students an edge. They also give affiliated companies an edge. Through involvement with Louisiana **SkillsUSA**, your business can:

**Capitalize** on its ability to access SkillsUSA students—the best our educational system has to offer—as entry-level employees.

**Improve** the relevance of training in the educational system.

**Use** a proven system to access education and effect change.

**Become** involved in your trade area and receive publicity for your organization.

**SkillsUSA** provides corporate America with a direct link to one of its most important suppliers: **our educational system.** There is an even exchange of benefits in these partnerships as teachers provide relevant training and employers put

well-prepared people to work.

**In** June 1999, at the National SkillsUSA Championships in Kansas City, Missouri, Louisiana had the distinction of its first National Officer. Mr. Jared Lord, Sowela Campus was elected National Postsecondary Parliamentarian. Mr. Warren Landry, formally of Delta-Ouachita Campus was named Region Two Advisor of the year. Again in 2001 Louisiana cultivated another National Officer, Mr. Mark Peters of Terrebonne Career and Technical High School, elected Region Two Vice President. Larry Rabalais, Louisiana SkillsUSA director was named 2001-02 National Director of the Year. Mr. Wayne Fruge, Instructor at Port Barre High School was selected 2002 region two advisor of the year. In 2004 Mr. Anthony Dannials of LTC Lafayette was elected National PS Vice President. Larry Rabalais became President of the SkillsUSA Directors Association. In 2006 SkillsUSA Board of Directors National President, Larry Rabalais, Louisiana. In 2009 Markel Guidry was elected HS Parliamentarian.

## **2020 SkillsUSA Theme SkillsUSA: Champions at Work, "I'm Ready"**

