

Welcome back!

I hope you all had a great summer. We had a great showing at the National Conference, more info is below. The first Advisor Update of the year is always a big one, lots of good stuff to tell you about, so I have broken this into three sections:

- Fall 2011
- Winter 2012
- Announcements

Fall 2011

New SkillsUSA Michigan Policies

At the July 2011 Advisor Council meeting, several new policies were adopted effective this year:

- **New Regional Map** – The boundaries of Region 3 and 5 were changed. The following counties were moved from Region 5 to Region 3: Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco, Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, Otsego, Montmorency and Alpena. The new regional map is available at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/regions.html>.
- **State Conference Housing Reservation** - All schools **MUST** make their State Conference housing reservations through the State Office. Any schools making housing reservations on their own and **NOT** going through the State Office, no matter what hotel is being used, **will be charged an additional \$15 per registered participant**. This new policy is in place in order to keep the registration fee affordable, since the hotels do not charge or discount meeting rooms fees because we are using the guest rooms.
- **State Conference Commuting Authorization Form** – In conjunction with the above policy, if your school is commuting, a Commuting Authorization Form **MUST** be submitted for each student with your registration in order to not be assessed the above additional \$15 per registered participant change. It is available at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>.
- **State Conference Contest Clothing Assessment** – In order to make the clothing assessment the same for all contests, all competitors will be assessed a penalty of -10 points per violation up to -50 points. A violation can be any missing or



incorrect piece of required clothing or safety equipment as listed for the contest (examples: wrong shirt, no socks, wrong shoes, no safety glasses, etc.). The contest coordinator will assess the clothing at the beginning of the contest and list any penalties on the final score sheet. The rubric is posted at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>.

- **State Conference Contest Resumes** – Two things on the resumes:
 - Online Submission - All competitors are required to submit a one-page resume online at <http://www.skillsusa.org/compete/updates.shtml>. All resumes must be posted by **April 13, 2012**. Please make sure to post it to the correct contest. A penalty of -50 points will be assessed for failure to submit a resume or failure to post it to the correct contest. A sample resume worksheet is available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>. For this year only, if you did not post your resume by **April 13, 2012**, a hard copy of the resume will be accepted at the contest site.
 - Resume Rubric – Like the clothing assessment, a rubric has been created for the resumes. It is posted at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>.



Meet the 2011-2012 State Officers

Congrats to the 2011-2012 State Officers! They are:

- President – Geordan Hall-Amerson, Breithaupt Career & Technical Center, Advisor – Cora Duncan-Foster
- Vice President – Christina Harkiewicz, Utica Center for Science and Industry, Advisor – Scott Spry
- Secretary – Mariah Hill, Golightly Career & Technical Center, Advisors – Dana Hughes and Rosa L. Williams
- Treasurer – Jayla Phillips, Breithaupt Career & Technical Center, Advisor – Cora Duncan-Foster
- Reporter – Ane Marie Hodder, Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center, Advisor – Dave Urlaub
- Parliamentarian – Bich Pham, Breithaupt Career & Technical Center, Advisor – Rosa L. Williams
- Regional Officer – Alyssa Bellamy, Tuscola Technology Center, Advisor – Greg Bukoski



The State Officers have already met several times this year for training and to prepare for the Fall Leadership Conference. In July, they traveled to Lansing to meet with legislators from the Michigan House and Senate Education Committees. More photos of all these events are posted at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/photo.htm>.





2011 New Advisor Workshop

SkillsUSA Michigan is pleased to offer assistance in establishing your chapter by holding a New Advisor Workshop on **October 6, 2011**, at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. This workshop is for teachers who have been a SkillsUSA advisor for 2 years or less. There is a \$40.00 registration fee per participant. The fee will cover lunch, materials, useful resources for new chapters and the 2011-2012 Technical Standards. The registration form is available on our web site at

<http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>. Space is limited so please send or fax your registration form ASAP!



2011 State Fall Leadership and Professional Development Conference

The State Fall Leadership and Professional Development Conference is a great way to kick off your year and to motivate your members to have a great year with SkillsUSA Michigan. The conference is a combination of team building activities and breakout sessions on SkillsUSA with special professional development sessions specifically for advisors. The early registration fee for the conference is \$25.00 per participant (students and advisors) and includes registration materials, and lunch. Fall Leadership Conference t-shirts are available on a pre-order basis for \$10.00.



The State Fall Leadership Conference is **November 8, 2011** at the Causeway Bay Hotel in Lansing. Registration is as follows. More information is available at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/flc.html>. *An electronic registration form will be used this year, so please read the instructions carefully! Faxed or mailed forms will not be accepted!*

- Early Registration deadline – October 10, 2011
- Final Registration deadline – October 20, 2011

2011-2012 Membership Kits

All advisors with members last year should have received the 2011-2012 membership kit in the mail by now. If you did not receive a membership kit, please let me know and I will have one sent to you.

2011-2012 Membership Dues

The 2011-2012 membership dues are:

Student: \$14.00 = \$8.00 (national) and \$6.00 (state)

Professional: \$20.00 = \$14.00 (national) and \$6.00 (state)



2011-2012 Membership Registration Deadlines

November 15, 2011 is the deadline for your initial membership registration to be submitted to the National Office to be able to receive all four issues of *Champions*

Magazine and free teacher items. All rosters are to be submitted online at <http://www.skillsusa-register.org/>. Schools are encouraged join by November 15, 2011 in order to ensure full membership services for the year, including all mailings and magazines.

Schools that register at least 20 student members plus one professional member by November 15, 2011 will receive the new SkillsUSA book “Leveraging Your Leadership through Effective Chapter Meetings, a \$14.95 value.

January 15, 2012 is the deadline for your final membership registration to be submitted to the National Office. All students must be paid members of SkillsUSA Michigan by January 15, 2012 in order to participate in regional, state and national competitions and/or conferences. *If you have any questions/concerns about this deadline, please contact me!*

All membership registration **MUST** be submitted online at <http://www.skillsusa-register.org/>. Paper rosters are discouraged. Please make sure that all membership checks are sent directly to the National Office at their new address. When registering, be sure to also register your section under the specific program name, not just Mixed Training. This information is very helpful to the national office in determining what programs are at what schools.

SkillsUSA
Attn: Membership
14001 SkillsUSA Way
Leesburg, VA 20176-5494



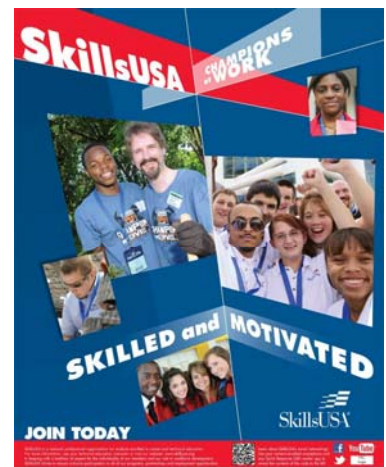
SkillsUSA Michigan is in the House!

Two SkillsUSA Michigan members are featured in the new 2011-2012 membership poster (left) and included in the 2011-2012 membership kit mentioned above! Paul Lautenschlager, an advisor from Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences, and his student are pictured in the large photo on the left side at the Timberland Pro Community Service Day.



100% Membership Sections

When registering online at <http://www.skillsusa-register.org/>, please be sure to answer the question “Are 100% of Students (in your section) in SkillsUSA?” Special incentives and events throughout the year are tied to your answer and you will be left out if you forget to answer this!



Advisor Welcome Back Letter and Information Form

All active advisors will receive a Welcome Back letter and an Advisor Information Form in the US mail in September. Please review your Advisor Information Form for accuracy, make any corrections and fax it back to the state office this month. This form is also available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>. ***Be sure we***

have your correct email address! Over 90% of our communication will be submitted electronically via email and the Internet.



Calendar by Month

A Calendar by Month, listing all SkillsUSA Michigan dates and events, is now available at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>. You can also access it by scanning the QR Code on the right. It is a Google calendar and is downloadable into your personal Google calendar.



Advisor Mentoring Program

SkillsUSA Michigan is looking for experienced advisors who are willing serve as a mentor to a new SkillsUSA advisor. The mentor will assist the new advisor with understanding SkillsUSA polices, events and activities. The mentor's role includes:

1. Talking to the new advisor by phone at least once each month.
2. Answer questions regarding SkillsUSA and their program.
3. Visiting the new advisor's school at least once.
4. Providing the new advisor with an opportunity to visit your school.
5. Assist the new advisor with registrations and due dates.
6. Assist the new advisor with all necessary paperwork.
7. Assist the new advisor with the Regional, State and National Conferences.
8. Provide input and structure for the continuation of the program.

Interested individuals should complete the Advisor Mentoring Program Form and return it to the state office. The list of mentors will be posted on our web site. More information is available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/Mentor.html>.

Advisor Manual Inserts

2011-2012 Advisor Manual inserts will be sent to all Lead Advisors that had a SkillsUSA Michigan chapter last year. The inserts cover all SkillsUSA Michigan information your school will need for the coming school year. It is also available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>. Please replace the old pages with the new ones!



2012 Technical Committee Nomination Form

At the August 2010 Advisor Council meeting, it was approved that starting in 2011, **ALL** advisors must have a business and industry sponsor to serve as a member of a technical committee. This is in an effort to get more business and industry representatives on the technical committees. While this policy has been in place for new advisors since 2008, this is now required for **ALL** advisors. **ALL** advisors will need to re-apply every year. The 2012 membership form is due no later than **October 21, 2011** and is posted on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>. Each technical committee will meet in late November/early December.



Michigan Members on 2011 WorldTeam

Congrats to the two SkillsUSA Michigan members on the 2011 WorldTeam! They will be competing in London, England on October 5-8, 2011. Good luck, we are so proud of you! More info is at <http://www.skillsusa.org/compete/worldteam.shtml>.



- CNC Turning – Maxwell Hershey, WD Ford Career-Technical Center, Advisor - Kevin Ryszka
- Welding – Brad Clink, Washtenaw Community College, Advisor – Glenn Kay



2012 Intent to Compete Form

If your school intends to compete in 2012, please fill out the 2012 Intent to Compete form! This form is a critical component of the planning and scheduling of regional and state competitions. The deadline is **October 31, 2011**. Failure to return this form by the due date may result in your school not being allowed to compete in some events, or some events not being offered on the regional and/or state level. It is available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>.



Contest Name Changes

For the 2012 contests, a few contest names have changed. The name changes are also noted on the 2012 Intent to Compete Form.

- Residential Wiring is now Electrical Construction Wiring
- Tech Prep Showcase now Career Pathways Showcase

Winter 2012

2011-2012 Theme

The SkillsUSA competition theme for the 2011-2012 year is **SkillsUSA: Champions at Work, Skilled and Motivated**. This is the theme for the Chapter Display, Prepared Speech and Promotional Bulletin Board contests. More information is available at <http://skillsusa.org/about/theme.shtml>.

2012 Design Contest

The SkillsUSA Michigan 2012 Design Contest is now available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>. All SkillsUSA members are encouraged to participate. All designs must be sent via US mail to the State Office and received no later than **January 6, 2012**. The three design contest winners will be invited to the State Conference and each will receive a gold medal at the Awards Program. Three things to remember:

- All entries must incorporate the SkillsUSA Michigan 2012 theme “Explore, Expand, Excel!” in the design. The SkillsUSA Michigan 2012 theme wording can be in the design but is not required.



- The member whose design is chosen for the SkillsUSA Michigan National Conference Trading Pin will also compete in the Pin Design contest at the National Conference. Contest details are available in the 2011-2012 Technical Standards.
- The member whose design is chosen for the SkillsUSA Michigan National Official State T-Shirt will also compete in the T-Shirt Design contest at the National Conference. Contest details are available at <http://skillsusa.org/compete/demos.shtml>.

2012 State National Anthem Contest

A SkillsUSA Michigan member will be selected to sing the National Anthem acapella at the Friday Opening General Session on April 20, 2012 at the State Conference. Interested members must submit an audition CD of them singing the National Anthem in order to be considered. Student must be a current member of SkillsUSA Michigan and must pay the State Conference registration fee. All audition CDs must be sent via US mail to the State Office and received no later than **January 6, 2012**. More information is available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>.



2012-2014 State Officer Coordinator

Applications are now being accepted for the 2012-2014 State Officer Coordinator! This is a paid position (\$1,000 per year) and it is for a two year term, 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years and the application is due **January 15, 2012**. All interested advisors are encouraged to apply! The application and position details are available on our web site at http://www.miskillsusa.org/files/2012/2012-2014_State_Officer_Coordinator_Application.pdf.



Announcements

SkillsUSA Michigan at 2011 National Conference

SkillsUSA Michigan had their best ever showing at the 2011 National Leadership and Skills Conference held on June 20-25, 2011 in Kansas City, Missouri. SkillsUSA Michigan was represented by 230 students, advisors, and guests from 33 High School and College/PostSecondary chapters.

SkillsUSA Michigan received a total of 36 medals, including 6 national champions, and was 6th in the overall medal ranking by state. SkillsUSA Michigan also had 79 students as one of the top 10 contestants in their contest in the country.



More than 5,000 students from every state and three territories competed in 96 contests in technical, skilled, health and service occupations on at the SkillsUSA Championships.

SkillsUSA Michigan had 141 students competing in 69 different contests. The SkillsUSA Championships is considered the largest single day of corporate volunteerism in America and valued at \$30 million in industry support of donated time, equipment, cash and material. All contests are run and judged by industry using industry standards for employment.

The national medalists from Michigan are below.
Photos of all the medalists are available at
<http://www.miskillsusa.org/photo.htm>.



Gold

- Andrew Smith, CPS, Carpentry, Washtenaw Community College
- Kelsey Wonsavage, HS, Culinary Arts, S & W Washtenaw Consortium
- Glenn Stewart, CPS, Mobile Electronics Installation, Washtenaw Community College
- Janea Chick, CPS, Nail Care, Mecosta Osceola Career Center
- Alexis Goss, CPS, Nail Care, Mecosta Osceola Career Center
- David Calamita, HS, Precision Machining Technology, St. Clair TEC

Silver

- Raymond Murphy, CPS, 3-D Visualization and Animation, Macomb Community College
- Christopher Smith, CPS, 3-D Visualization and Animation, Macomb Community College
- Robert Feldkamp, CPS, Automotive Refinishing Technology, Washtenaw Community College
- Amy Knoles, CPS, Commercial Baking, Oakland Community College
- Kevin Barbieri, HS, Computer Maintenance Technology, St. Clair TEC
- Kaytlyn Higgins, HS, Criminal Justice, Jackson Area Career Center
- Alyssa Iseler, HS, Entrepreneurship, OSTCNE
- Shardai Jacob, HS, Entrepreneurship, OSTCNE
- Mariana Martin, HS, Entrepreneurship, OSTCNE
- Stephanie Tennis, HS, Entrepreneurship, OSTCNE
- Ashlynn Balmer, HS, Job Skill Demonstration A, Lapeer County Ed Tech Center
- Boyd Quinton, HS, Mobile Electronics Installation, OSTCSW
- Calvin Hamilton, HS, Technical Drafting, Eaton ISD Career Preparation Center
- Kaleb Parsch, HS, Welding, Lapeer County Ed Tech Center

Bronze

- Rita Stephenson, CPS, Food and Beverage Service, Oakland Community College
- John Bohnett, CPS, Graphic Communications, Ferris State University
- Jozef Hall, HS, Mechatronics, St. Clair TEC
- Thomas Morrisey, HS, Mechatronics, St. Clair TEC

- Jack Wynn, CPS, Motorcycle Service Technology, Washtenaw Community College
- Abigail Beyett, HS, Preschool Teaching Assistant, Bay Arenac Career Center
- Travis Stevens, HS, Robotics and Automation Technology, Pinckney High School
- Nicholas Thorns, HS, Robotics and Automation Technology, Pinckney High School

2011 State Contest Score Sheets

Copies of the 2011 state contest score sheets for your school that were turned in to the conference HQ were sent to your lead advisor last month. Unfortunately, not all contest score sheets were turned in and therefore, not available for us to copy.



2011-2012 Technical Standards

Instead of an annual version, the Technical Standards has returned to a two year format. The Technical Standards will be good for the 2011 and 2012 contests. Updates will be posted on the National web site at <http://skillsusa.org/compete/updates.shtml>. Order your copy of the Technical Standards at <http://www.skillsusa.org/store/contests.html>.



2012 National Conference Date Change

The National Leadership and Skills Conference in 2012 will be held two days earlier than usual, June 23-28, 2012, in order to accommodate the 2012 Major League Baseball All-Star Game being held in Kansas City that year.



SkillsUSA School Logo

Get you own SkillsUSA logo! All chapters are now able to get a customized SkillsUSA logo for their school. Let me know and I will have the National Office make one for you.



There are three basic rules for use of the logo. The same graphic standards apply as for the national and state logos. The standards are spelled out at <http://skillsusa.org/about/logos.shtml>. Please refer to this page for further details on the permitted uses.

1. Only active chapters may use the logo
2. The use must be strictly promotional and not commercial
3. The logo cannot be altered in any way

SkillsUSA Michigan Facebook and Twitter Pages

SkillsUSA Michigan is on Facebook and Twitter! You can find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/miskillsusa and Twitter at www.twitter.com/ at miskillsusa. A link to Facebook and Twitter is also on the home page of our web site at www.miskillsusa.org/. Become a fan and a follower!



Excellent

Grant Opportunities

Below are some grant opportunities that you might be interested in. Please let me know if you apply for any of them.

- Newsletter Article Regarding Obtaining Technology Grants:
<http://www.technologygrantnews.com/pdfs/CaliforniaTeacher.pdf>
- Submit Your Lesson Plans to Qualify for Grants:
http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/grant_awards
- Intel Awards – Schools of Distinction - \$10,000 & \$100,000 in Products:
<http://www.intel.com/about/corporateresponsibility/education/soda/index.htm>
- Sun Microsystems Open Gateways Grant Program – 2 Year Grants for K-12's to Transition to Network Computing:
<http://www.intel.com/about/corporateresponsibility/education/soda/index.htm>

Great Job!

Community Service Projects

Have your chapter's Community Service Project highlighted in the SkillsUSA Michigan newsletter and on the SkillsUSA Michigan web site! Send a short summary of your project and any photo(s) to tbrown51@emich.edu. Your Community Service Project will be added to the next newsletter and posted on our web site and Facebook page for all to see! View this web page at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/csp.html>.



CIP Code Chart

There has been a lot of confusion of what programs can join SkillsUSA Michigan. Eligibility is based on the CIP Code of the program. Schools which had a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) during the 2006-2007 school year and prior may continue offering that respective CTSO vendor under the CTE program CIP code in which they were previously administered. Schools wishing to join a CTSO as a new or reactivated chapter (not associated with the previous CTSO for one or more years) must join the indicated CTSO. A chart outlining what CTSO a program needs to join is available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>.

Offline.

Happy Retirement

Happy retirement to the following advisors and technical committee members! I would like to thank them for their time and energy supporting SkillsUSA Michigan over the years. If you know of any other advisors or technical committee members who retired last year, please let me know.

- Bob Hughes – Oakland Schools Technical Center SW Campus
- Stu Glenn – Lapeer County Ed Tech Center
- John Wunch – St. Clair TEC
- Scott Robinson – Kent Career Technical Center

SkillsUSA Michigan Dates to Remember

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Where</u>
Oct 6, 2011	New Advisor Workshop	Ypsilanti
Oct 10, 2011	State Fall Leadership Conference Early Registration Due	State Office
Oct 20, 2011	State Fall Leadership Conference Final Registration Due	State Office
Oct 21, 2011	Technical Committee Membership Forms Due	State Office
Oct 31, 2011	Intent to Compete Due	State Office
Nov 8, 2011	State Fall Leadership Conference	Lansing
Nov 15, 2011	Initial Membership Registration Due www.skillsusa-register.org	National Office
Jan 15, 2012	Final Membership Registration Due www.skillsusa-register.org	National Office
Jan 6, 2012	Design Contest Entries Due	State Office
Jan 6, 2012	State National Anthem Contest Audition DVDs Due	State Office
Apr 20-22, 2012	State Conference	Lansing
June 23-28, 2012	National Conference	Kansas City, MO

From the National Office –



Proven.com and SkillsUSA Partnership

SkillsUSA is pleased to announce a partnership with **Proven.com** to assist SkillsUSA alumni and graduating students with job networking opportunities and to help our partner companies hire qualified skilled workers.

Proven.com is an innovative company offering skilled workers free tools to showcase their skills. Companies can hire exactly who they need and can access education and work history and information such as background checks, DMV records and drug tests for those who choose to share it on their profile. The basic product is free of charge, with more advanced premium recruiting tools coming soon. Companies who sign up on Proven.com can hire SkillsUSA alumni or one of the thousands of other skilled workers currently on the site.

Proven.com is directly donating to SkillsUSA's Youth Development Foundation a percentage of the fees generated from SkillsUSA partner companies that hire through Proven.com.

You are welcome to explore Proven.com's website at <http://www.proven.com/>.



Lowe's Community Improvement and Community Rebuilding Grants

SkillsUSA is pleased to announce a continuing partnership with Lowe's for 2012. As part of their overall grant to SkillsUSA, Lowe's will be awarding grants to local chapters of up to \$25,000 each for Community Improvement and Community Rebuilding Grants implemented in 2012.



The Community Improvement: Champions Serving Others grant category is for those schools that are proposing a project that will focus on benefiting their local community or school. In choosing grant winners for the upcoming year, projects that focus on a local need vs. want will stand a greater chance of receiving funding. For this category, a maximum of \$10,000 per grant winner will be awarded.

The Community Rebuilding: Reaching Out and Partnering grant category brings grant project opportunities to a new level in both funding and building leadership skills! Proposed projects in this category will combine the efforts of two SkillsUSA Chapters partnering and reaching out to a community or school that has been drastically affected by a natural disaster. One of the partnering chapters may be the beneficiary of the project. The maximum grant in this category will be \$25,000. Community Rebuilding grant winners will be highlighted on stage at the 2012 NLSC closing ceremony with a video/photo presentation of their project.

Lowe's will be reviewing the top applications, as submitted by a SkillsUSA staff committee, and selecting the chapters to receive the funding. Grant applications must be submitted by **November 1, 2011**. Notification of successful applicants will be in January of 2012. Projects may be implemented during the spring or fall semesters in 2012 and must be completed by November 30, 2012.

New this year, in support of chapters applying for grants, a series of webinars will be held to help chapters through the grant application process. September 14 and 15, 2011, at 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. (Eastern time), the first webinar on "Getting Kids Excited About Community Service" will be held. Chapters attending the first webinar will receive a free copy of the new Champions Serving Others curriculum. On September 27 and 28, 2011, at 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. (Eastern time), the second webinar will address "Writing a Quality Application." Refer to the SkillsUSA website to confirm times of the webinars as these dates approach.

In addition, CareerSafe Online training vouchers to promote safety among technical students will again be available in 2012.



If you have questions on the grant program, please contact Lowe's grants manager, Carol Lowery, at 641-512-0504 or 641-456-4515 or clowery@skillsusa.org.

For more information and to reach the online application, go to the following: www.skillsusa.org/educators/lowes.shtml.



State Farm Project Ignition Grants

The National Youth Leadership Council® and State Farm® are pleased to announce the availability of \$2,000 Project Ignition grants for public high school students and teachers to address teen driver safety through service-learning.



Car crashes remain the number one cause of death for adolescents. That's a staggering statistic, but one that young people, in partnership with their teachers and community, can and are changing through Project Ignition.

For the past eight years, high school students in public schools throughout the United States and in three Canadian provinces have been using service learning to tie their academic objectives to this important issue. They do this by getting the facts out, engaging their audiences and working to ultimately influence driving behaviors and save lives on the road.

Students use their own creativity to create impactful awareness and engagement campaigns. Strategies used in the past have included: hosting events and demonstrations; forming community-wide partnerships; working on local and state policy; producing public service announcements; and, more.

Twenty-five schools will be chosen to receive \$2,000 grants to support the implementation of their campaigns between January and April 2012. Ten of these 25 schools will be granted an additional \$5,000 to support their participation in a significant national conference or event – including the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. They will also be given the opportunity to be named "National Leader Schools" and receive an additional \$2,500 to go deeper with their campaigns during the 2012-2013 school year.

Applications are due **November 15, 2011**. To apply, go to <http://www.sfprojectignition.com/>

State Farm High School Football Season Video Contest

State Farm® Insurance Companies recently kicked off Friday Night Feats, a national high school football video contest. Beginning August 25, the biggest moments of the

season as captured by players, parents and fans can win up to \$17,500 for their high school.

Eligible fans, coaches, players and community members can submit videos to the State Farm Friday Night Feats contest page at <http://fridaynightfeats.com/fnf/> from Aug. 25 until Nov. 28 to be considered as the best Friday night feat of the 2011 high school football season.

For more information go to:

http://www.statefarm.com/aboutus/_pressreleases/2011/august/25/friday-night-feats-program.asp

New SkillsUSA PSAs Produced Featuring Wendy Venturini

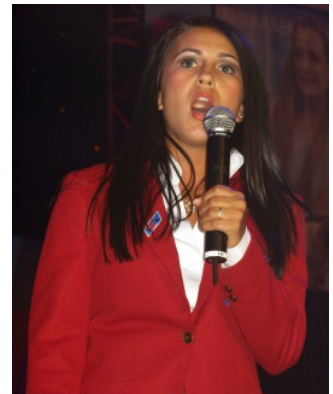
SkillsUSA has recently produced two video and three audio public service announcements featuring Wendy Venturini, correspondent for the SPEED channel's "NASCAR Raceday" program and a former SkillsUSA student.

Download the PSAs and get additional information here:

<http://www.skillsusa.org/educators/psa.shtml>.

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, 2012** to: Heidi Ambrose, SkillsUSA, 14001 SkillsUSA Way, Leesburg, VA 20176. Questions may be directed to Heidi at 703-737-0610 or hambrose@skillsusa.org.



Work Force Ready System Web site

SkillsUSA offers 47 technical and employability assessments in 11 cluster areas including four co-branded assessments with ASE/AYES and five co-branded assessments with PrintED/GAERF. A complete list of available assessments can be found on our Work Force Ready System web site at http://www.workforcereadysystem.org/technical_areas.shtml. The price for the Skill Connect assessments remains \$10 for SkillsUSA members and \$20 for non-members for the 2011-12 school year.

For additional information on assessments visit our Work Force Ready System web site at <http://www.workforcereadysystem.org> or contact Patty Duncan at 703-737-0633.

