



## Advisor Update *February 2008*



### SkillsUSA Michigan awarded Lowe's TeamWorks Grant

SkillsUSA Michigan has been selected to receive a \$11,800 grant from Lowe's to support our 2008 State TeamWorks competition! Along with funding the competition, Lowe's will also give the first-, second- and third-place winners a Kobalt and SkillsUSA co-branded Tool Bag with hand tools.



### 2008 Design Contest Winners

69 entries were submitted for the 2008 Design Contest. Congratulations to the winners! The following members will be recognized at the State Conference for their winning entry. The winning entries are to view on the web site at

<http://www.miskillsusa.org/files/2008%20Design%20Contest%20Winners.pdf>.

- SkillsUSA Michigan State Conference Program Cover
  - Katie Dykhouse - Allegan County Area Technical Educational Center
- SkillsUSA Michigan National Conference Trading Pin
  - Ricardo Ramirez - Breithaupt Career and Technical Center
- SkillsUSA Michigan National Conference Official State T-Shirt
  - Emilia Rauckis - Royal Oak High School

### 2008 Regional Competitions

The 2008 Regional contests are under way! Regional information will be posted on the web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/regions.html> as it become available. Please be sure that you are in the loop! Contact your regional representatives for information regarding your region's competitions.

### 2008 Region Qualifiers Number Chart

The 2008 Regional Qualifiers Number Chart is now available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>.



### New Regional Contestant Ranking Sheet!

The Regional Contestant Ranking Sheet is a new form this year and is **REQUIRED** for all contests so that we know what contestants have qualified for States. An accurate contestant count is necessary for contest supply orders, contest site set-up, conference registration, etc. This form **MUST** be filled out for all regional contests (including those contests going directly to States) and for both HS and CPS divisions. ***I cannot stress the importance of this form enough!*** This form is on the web site at

<http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms/Regional%20Contestant%20Ranking%20Sheet.pdf>.

- ***This form must be signed by the contest coordinator and faxed to your regional representative no later than 2 days after your contest.***

- *Failure to submit this form to your regional representative will result in those students NOT being allowed to compete at the State Conference!*
- *If we receive a State Conference registration for a contestant NOT on the appropriate Regional Contestant Ranking Sheet, he/she will NOT be allowed to compete!*
- **NO EXCEPTIONS!**



### **2008 State Conference Information**

The 2008 State Conference Information, including hotel registration information, is now available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/sc.html>. *This information WILL NOT be sent via the mail, you must get it from our web site!* There have been several changes since the version that is in the Advisor Manual, so please be sure to download the new information. Be sure to read all information before you submit your forms.

Significant changes for 2008:

- All State Conference registrations are to be made via mail.
- Online registration is not available.
- All hotel registrations are to faxed to the state office, not the Convention Bureau.

### **New Audio Production Contest**

We will be running a new state contest this year, Audio Production! Audio Production contest information is included in the 2008 Technical Standards.

- It is a direct to States contest (no regionals)
- 3 teams per school limit
- The gold medal winner will compete at Nationals

All student competitors must be registered as SkillsUSA members by January 31, 2008 in order to compete in Audio Production. Please remember that a Regional Contestant Ranking Sheet must be filled out and submitted to your regional representative also. Additional state contest information will be posted on the Michigan web site in the near future.

### **SkillsUSA Michigan's Advisor of the Year**

We are looking for a few good advisors! Honor that special advisor that has gone above and beyond the call of duty by nominating them for SkillsUSA Michigan's Advisor of the Year. The Advisor of the Year form is due to your regional representative by **February 29, 2008**. The nomination form is available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>.

### **Leadership Judge Nomination Form**

We are in desperate need of qualified Leadership judges for States! If you know of someone who would be a great judge for a Leadership contest, please nominate them by **March 7, 2008**. The nomination form is available <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>.

### **State Officer Application**

Being a state officer is one of the highest honors a student can achieve in SkillsUSA Michigan. It can also be one of the most rewarding experiences for a student. If you have a student who wants to run for a state office, please have them complete and submit the State Officer Application by **March 14, 2008**. The State Officer Application is available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>.



### **Technical Standards Contest Updates**

There are several important contest updates on the SkillsUSA web site at <http://www.skillsusa.org/compete/updates.shtml>. Please check this web site frequently for new updates!

### **SkillsUSA Michigan/EMU Pledge Form**

We want to grow SkillsUSA Michigan for the future and contributions can be made to SkillsUSA Michigan to that end. You can designate where your contribution will be used. The form is available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>

### **SkillsUSA Michigan Retirement/Memorial Tribute Form**

SkillsUSA Michigan is also accepting donations in tribute of a special person. You can designate where your tribute will be used. The form is available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>

### **State Advertising Design Contest – LAST CALL**

Advisors are invited to submit names of individuals from business and industry to create and/or judge the State Advertising Design contest. Individuals must be working as graphic design professionals. Please be sure these individuals are aware of the contest requirements, contest date and the duties that they need to perform at States. The names, along with contact info and credentials, must be emailed to Doug Clink at [dclink@ncresa.org](mailto:dclink@ncresa.org) by **February 15, 2008** in order to be considered.

### **No State Run Contest Survey – LAST CALL**

For those contests that do not have a state-run competition, SkillsUSA Michigan can still send a contestant to Nationals to represent our state! If you are interested in any of the contests below, please let me know by **February 15, 2008**. If more than one school is interested in a contest, I will contact the advisors involved and they will have to hold and run a state-level contest at a location of their choosing. The students in these contests need to be on your official roster by January 31, 2008 in order to compete.

Information on official contests is available in the 2008 Technical Standards or at <http://skillsusa.org/compete/demos.shtml> for demo contests.

- Actions Skills (special needs only)
- Aviation Maintenance Technology
- Broadcast News Production

- Cabinetmaking
- Civil Engineering – Surveying (demo)
- Civil Engineering – Highways (demo)
- Computer Programming\* - open only to students who are NOT in the CIP code 11.1000 (Information Technology)
- Engineering Technology (demo)
- Geospatial Technology
- Major Appliance Technology
- Mechatronics
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Screen Printing Technology (demo)
- Tech Prep Showcase
- Telecommunications Cabling\* - open only to students who are NOT in the CIP code 11.1000 (Information Technology)
- Total Quality Management
- Video Product Development (demo)

### **Lowe's CareerSafe Voucher Grants**

For the 2007-2008 school year, a total of 2,500 SkillsUSA construction trades students received CareerSafe vouchers from Lowe's for online safety training. Peggy Plowman was able to obtain 104 of these vouchers for SkillsUSA Michigan! These vouchers are available to construction trades students only to cover the cost of the CareerSafe training and must be used by the end of the 2007-2008 school year. If you are interested in receiving some of these vouchers, please contact Peggy Plowman at [paplowman@comcast.net](mailto:paplowman@comcast.net) or 517-937-2538. The CareerSafe Online program is a 10 hour OSHA safety training program includes both classroom and Web-based training at little or no cost to students and educators. More info on CareerSafe is available at <http://www.careersafeonline.com/>.

### ***SkillsUSA Michigan Dates to Remember***

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Where</u></b>
February 2008	Regional Competitions – For more information, go to <a href="http://www.miskillsusa.org/regions.html">http://www.miskillsusa.org/regions.html</a> or contact your regional representatives!	Various Locations
February 2008 – 2 days after regional contest	Regional Contestant Ranking Sheet Due	Regional Rep
Feb 15, 2008	State Advertising Design Contest Names Due	Doug Clink
Feb 15, 2008	No State Run Contest Survey Due	State Office
Feb 29, 2008	Advisor of the Year Applications Due	Regional Rep

Mar 7, 2008	Leadership Judge Nomination Form Due	State Office
Mar 14, 2008	State Officer Applications Due	State Office
Mar 18, 2008	State Conference Early Conference Registration Due	State Office
Mar 21, 2008	State Conference Hotel Registration Due	State Office
Apr 7, 2008	State Conference Regular Conference Registration Due	State Office
Apr 7, 2008	State Conference Changes Due	State Office
Apr 14, 2008	Final Hotel Cancellations Due	Assigned Hotel
Apr 18-20, 2008	State Conference	Lansing
June 23-28, 2008	National Conference	Kansas City, MO

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*From the National Office –*

**Travel Stipend for TeamWorks Competitors**

We have received notification from our National TeamWorks Technical Committee that the travel stipend provided for the teams to attend the 2008 NLSC will be reduced from \$300 per competitor (\$1,200 per team) to \$200 per competitor for a total of \$800 per team.

**Nationals Back in Louisville, KY in 2015**

The below letter was received from Tim Lawrence on January 16, 2008:

Friends keep friends informed. That's why I'm writing to let everyone involved in our National Leadership and Skills Conference know that SkillsUSA is announcing today that the national conference will be moving in 2015 to Louisville, Kentucky for six years.

That's a long time from now. SkillsUSA looks forward to seven more great years in Kansas City. Furthermore, we hope we can return to Kansas City sometime in the future. We have good friends there and we want to keep them. At the same time, SkillsUSA looks forward to renewing old friendships in Louisville from our conferences held in 1982 - 1984 and 1991 - 1993.

Why has the board of directors made the difficult decision to move? Space. We need more space to grow our conference in the interests of our student, instructor and industry partners. Current plans in Kansas City don't include expansion of either the

convention or hotel space. At the same time, SkillsUSA wants to grow and serve our members and sponsors by expanding opportunities for our students. This is a way to do it.

Why make the decision seven years ahead of time? There are only a few cities across the country that have the conference and hotel space we need at prices that a non-profit association such as SkillsUSA and our members can afford. To make sure we have the space we need, on the dates we need it, we had to make this decision seven years in advance.

Appearing below in this e-mail is the text of the news release sent out in Kansas City today. The news releases sent to Kansas City and to Louisville news media will appear today on our Web site at <http://www.skillsusa.org/about/news.shtml>

Wishing you all the best and thank you, again, for all you do to support the outstanding students and instructors we serve.

Tim Lawrence  
Executive Director  
SkillsUSA

**Expanding SkillsUSA National Conference to Move from Kansas City in 2015**  
Leesburg, Va., January 16, 2008 - SkillsUSA, a national organization of career and technical education students, instructors and business partners announced today that in 2015 its National Leadership and Skills Conference will move from Kansas City, Mo., to Louisville, Ky. During the past 13 years, while holding its annual national conference in Kansas City, SkillsUSA has grown into one of the largest student groups in the country. The conference's phenomenal growth requires more convention space in a central location and more hotel rooms nearby. Space availability is the reason for the move.

"SkillsUSA loves Kansas City. We'll be here for seven more years and we'd love to come back," said Tim Lawrence, executive director of SkillsUSA. "What we had to consider is our mission to prepare America's skilled work force. Our national conference and SkillsUSA Championships is the nation's biggest and best showcase for career and technical education students and the skilled work force it prepares. We have an obligation to our members and sponsors to keep it growing," Lawrence said. "During our time here, our need for floor space for the Championships alone has grown 45 percent. By 2014, at our rate of growth we could use more than twice the space we did in 1994 if the space were available. And, our conference registration will nearly have doubled in the same time so SkillsUSA will need 6,000 hotel rooms nearby."

"Our conference has had wonderful support and success in Kansas City for the past 13 years and we're looking forward to the next seven," said Gary Diehl, chief operating officer and corporate treasurer of SkillsUSA. "Staying 20 years in one

location is very unusual for a national conference. In large part, SkillsUSA has stayed in Kansas City because of the support of hundreds of local businesses and schools. There have been many benefits to Kansas City as well. We've introduced hundreds of thousands of people to Kansas City and by 2014, our conference will have brought in nearly \$240 million to the local economy. We've even brought in other conventions. SkillsUSA has become - and will continue to be - part of the Kansas City community."

Since 2000, the Kansas City Metropolitan Area SkillsUSA Program has been at work in the city area schools to benefit local career and technical education students and instructional programs. More than 5,000 students have participated and graduates have started careers at more than 43 large and small local employers. Among the many goals of the program: establishing and carrying out leadership activities; and, building stronger industry partnerships between the schools and local industry including internships and work-study programs. SkillsUSA plans to keep this program going after the conference moves.

"SkillsUSA will continue to be part of the Kansas City community," said Lawrence. "Our schools program will keep on going and I'm sure it will continue the kinds of community service activities SkillsUSA conducts here every year. SkillsUSA has counted on over 750 businesses, unions and schools in Kansas City and we'll continue to count on them in the years ahead. As far as SkillsUSA is concerned, they're friends for life."

The SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference has grown since its arrival in 1994, when a registration of 6,458 required 16,000 hotel room nights. The SkillsUSA Championships that year comprised 54 contests, 400 corporate and labor sponsors and required 10 acres (430,000 square feet) of floor space. In 2007, the conference had grown to 8,841 registrants requiring 24,998 hotel room nights. The championships comprised 87 contests, 1,200 corporate and labor sponsors and required 18 acres (792,000 square feet) of floor space. By 2014, SkillsUSA projects it will have 11,730 registrants requiring 30,000 hotel room nights (6,000 rooms) within a half-hour driving/bussing radius from the conference site. At the current rate of expansion, the SkillsUSA Championships would need 22.4 acres of floor space in a central location. That space is neither available now nor projected to be available in Kansas City in 2014.

The SkillsUSA Championships currently are held in H. Roe Bartle Hall, Municipal Auditorium, American Royal and in hotels around the downtown area. Students work against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in occupations like electronics, computer-aided drafting, precision machining, medical assisting and culinary arts. Contests are run with the help of industry, trade associations, and labor organizations, and test competencies are set by industry.

Leadership contestants demonstrate skills including extemporaneous speaking and conducting meetings by parliamentary procedure. The competitions are open to the public and free of charge.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. The organization serves more than 285,000 students and instructors annually, with 15,000 school chapters in 54 state and territorial associations. More than 15,600 instructors and administrators are professional members of SkillsUSA.

### **The Drive for Five**

Tim Lawrence is asking for your personal support of a goal that is very near and dear to his heart: that of reaching a SkillsUSA national membership threshold of 300,000 members. Membership is not just reaching a new number or an arbitrary goal-growth means the opportunity to create a larger and stronger voice for SkillsUSA and career and technical education as a whole, both in Washington, D.C. and all across the nation.

### *The Campaign*

SkillsUSA is launching the Drive for Five Campaign by sending a mailing to all 15,000 local chapters of SkillsUSA. To participate, each instructor will be invited to complete a Pledge Card stating that his or her school chapter or section will set a goal of adding five additional members over the previous school year. These five memberships may be paid student members or paid professional members, or any combination of the two. Pledge cards may be submitted by fax, by mail or online.

### *Recognition*

SkillsUSA will validate all pledge cards at the end of the school year, verify chapter membership increases and send each instructor-who completed a pledge card and who met their goal-a limited edition SkillsUSA Champions Campaign lapel pin and a full color certificate for their classroom or lab. Every SkillsUSA instructor has the opportunity to earn this unique award. Please help SkillsUSA to reach this important milestone, and be a champion for SkillsUSA!



Watch your mailbox for a special campaign mailing from SkillsUSA and a free gift of a useful product from our campaign sponsor, Jig-A-Loo. To show our appreciation for your support, each school will be receiving a package and the gifts inside should be distributed to each SkillsUSA instructor in the school (one gift per instructor). In addition, every instructor who reaches the goal of five new members will be entered into a drawing for five awards of \$500. One instructor in each of our five regions will be selected in a random drawing to receive these \$500 awards. To fill out a campaign pledge card online, go to: <http://www.skillsusa.org/educators/championscampaign.shtml>

If you have any questions on the campaign or need additional materials, contact Karen Perrino at 703-737-0610 or [kperrino@skillsusa.org](mailto:kperrino@skillsusa.org).

Thank you in advance for your support of this SkillsUSA campaign. Let's work together to make history!

### **SkillsUSA Peer Recruitment Video Competition**

SkillsUSA is partnering with SchoolTube on an exciting new venture to bring high quality videos and opportunities for creative expression to career and technical students. Through the Peer Recruitment Video Competition, local SkillsUSA members can make a recruiting video that will get other students excited about the SkillsUSA program. We know that our own SkillsUSA members know best what other students will find entertaining and informative.

Winners will be recognized and receive an award. The winning videos may be distributed through SkillsUSA outlets. All videos must be two minutes long, and the deadline for entries is **February 15, 2008**. For more information, go to the National web site at <http://www.skillsusa.org/compete/schooltubevid.shtml>.

### **NTHS Scholarship Reminder**

SkillsUSA has once again teamed up with the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) to promote outstanding student achievement within career and technical education. SkillsUSA is offering two \$1,000 scholarships through NTHS, and these will be awarded at the 2008 national conference. An essay and application are required. The deadline is **March 1, 2008**. For more information, go to <http://www.skillsusa.org/students/nths.shtml>. Please encourage your state officers or other qualified students to apply for these scholarships.

### **SkillUSA Alumni and Friends Merit Scholarship**

The SkillsUSA Alumni & Friends Association is offering two merit-based \$500 scholarships to qualifying students. The \$500 scholarships recognize the outstanding qualities of SkillsUSA students including leadership, commitment to community service, improving the image of career and technical education, and improving the image of his/her chosen occupation. This competition is open to all SkillsUSA members who plan to attend a college/postsecondary training program in 2008-2009. Candidates may nominate themselves. All nominations must include two letters of recommendation. Nominations must be postmarked by **May 1, 2008**. If you have questions, please contact Katie Mooney at 703-737-0639 or e-mail [kmooney@skillsusa.org](mailto:kmooney@skillsusa.org). Scholarship winners will be announced during the 2008 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City in June.

### ***SkillsUSA Champions Magazine Photos***

SkillsUSA features photography on the "Image" page of the *SkillsUSA Champions* magazine. The editorial staff is looking for images of SkillsUSA chapters in action, or the kind that show individual members' concentration or perseverance. The photographer's chapter is awarded \$150 if his or her work is published. Local chapters are also encouraged to share interesting or unusual chapter activities or news stories and photos by mail or e-mail to Tom Hall, director of publications, at [thall@skillsusa.org](mailto:thall@skillsusa.org). Or, mail articles and photos to SkillsUSA Champions, P.O. Box 3000, Leesburg, VA 20177.

**Share Your Great Ideas!**

SkillsUSA is known for its outstanding local chapter projects and activities. Encourage your local chapters to share their best activities at our "Share Your Great Ideas" Web pages: <http://www.skillsusa.org/students/ideas.shtml>. Local chapter photos and stories can also be e-mailed to the director of publications, Tom Hall, at [thall@skillsusa.org](mailto:thall@skillsusa.org) for possible publication on the Web site or in the *SkillsUSA Champions* magazine.