



# FRIDAY FLASH

## TOPEKA'S CITY COUNCIL RECOGNIZES WASHBURN SkillsUSA MEMBERS



On September 5, 2017, SkillsUSA Kansas members were honored by Topeka's Mayor, Larry Wolgast.

Mayor Wolgast spoke Tuesday evening during the city council meeting as Topeka's governing body honored eight Washburn Institute of Technology students.

Those honored had won medals or placed in the top 15 during the SkillsUSA National competition this past June.

The Mayor presented Dr. Farley a certificate that represents excellence in training tomorrow's workforce through the SkillsUSA Kansas Organization. Congratulations Washburn SkillsUSA Members!



## Welcome to a New School Year!

Whether you're new to SkillsUSA or an advisor with years of experience, we think you'll find our educational resources and programming instrumental as you empower students to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. As we struggle to overcome the growing skills gap and the constant need to prepare students to become career-ready, we recognize the importance that career and technical education and SkillsUSA play in this endeavor.



Thank you for committing to educating students and leading a SkillsUSA chapter. We are excited to play an integral role in your program. SkillsUSA is a vital solution to the growing U.S. skills gap and provides training so students graduate career-ready. This nonprofit partnership of students, instructors and industry ensures America has the skilled workforce it needs to stay competitive. SkillsUSA programs are integrated into career and technical education through our framework of developing personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics.

We look forward to partnering with you in preparing the future workforce and employees who are “job-ready Day One.”

## Take the First Step Toward a Successful Chapter

Every chapter deserves to experience success at the highest level possible in our organization. Listed in your membership kit, the “10 steps to a successful chapter” help ensure that goals are met and the chapter functions at the highest level possible. This week, we will kick off with Step 1, securing support from your school administrator. Even if your chapter has been active for a number of years, you might find it useful to revisit this step and reconnect with your administration for a deeper level of understanding and support of SkillsUSA.

## Secure support from your school administrator

Successful SkillsUSA chapters work with administrators from the onset. It's essential to receive permission and support from your administration to start a SkillsUSA chapter. To guide you along the formation of your chapter:

- Review the [SkillsUSA Administrator Flier](#). This flier is designed to highlight the value and importance of SkillsUSA to your administrator.
- The [Talking Points for Administrator Meeting flier](#) provides a step-by-step discussion guide for this important meeting. This is your guide to introducing the flier to your administrator and highlighting the benefits of a SkillsUSA chapter.
- Using a laptop or portable device, consider showing your administrator the personal message prepared by SkillsUSA's executive director, Tim Lawrence. This short, three-minute video packs a

punch by connecting the integral nature of SkillsUSA to the educational system and future career readiness. The message will resonate with administrators: <https://youtu.be/rr0aUjdwhGw>

- Set up a meeting with your administrator. A minimum of 30 minutes should be scheduled to allow enough time to review the materials and answer questions.
- Once you receive permission from your school administration, you are ready to move on to the next step.

## Posters, Brochures, Lesson Plans and More — Get Your Membership Kits!

Get outfitted for a new school year with posters, brochures, lesson plans and whole lot more that comes packed into your SkillsUSA membership kit. Kits have been mailed to all chapters that affiliated with SkillsUSA last year, but if you haven't received yours, then call toll-free 844-875-4557 to request a copy.

There are three unique membership kits, each designed for a specific market: middle school, high school or college/postsecondary. Each kit contains three posters, a brochure, membership cards and a chapter management guide. The guide is key to your success and includes information on establishing a chapter, engaging students in chapter activities, tools for recruitment, lesson plans, programs, scholarship and recognition opportunities, and information on educational resources.

All of the membership materials can also be downloaded at: [www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/advisors/membership-kit/](http://www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/advisors/membership-kit/)



## Need Help with Your Chapter or Registering Members?

### Call the SkillsUSA Membership Hotline Toll Free: 844-875-4557

Hotline operators are ready to answer your questions on how to start a new chapter, engage chapter members and strengthen an existing chapter — you name it, they are ready to tackle it! Operators are on call from 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (Eastern time) Monday, Wednesday and Friday and from 11 a.m.–7 p.m. (Eastern) Tuesday and Thursday. **Don't have time to call?** Send the operators an **email** at [operators@skillsusa.org](mailto:operators@skillsusa.org) or **chat** with them online at the membership registration site!

## Help SkillsUSA Texas Raise Funds for Hurricane Harvey Victims



SkillsUSA Texas is sponsoring a T-shirt fundraiser for Hurricane Harvey relief.

Purchase of this T-shirt will go directly to the [Food Bank of Corpus Christi](#), which serves 11 counties including the cities of Rockport and Aransas Pass. All of these counties suffered damage from Hurricane Harvey.

Your help refurbishing the food bank is needed and appreciated. The Food Bank of Corpus Christi has a food pantry there, but also reaches out with an air-

conditioned truck to make deliveries to those not able to commute to the pantry. The food bank is affiliated with the Emergency Food Assistance Program through USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture).

Show your support and get your shirt here: [www.customink.com/fundraising/skillsusatx-harvey](http://www.customink.com/fundraising/skillsusatx-harvey)

## Disney “Be Inspired” Grants Offered for Service

The Walt Disney Co. and Youth Service America (YSA) want your help in inspiring young people and families to make a positive impact in their community through volunteering.

Disney is awarding \$500 Be Inspired grants to young people implementing service projects in the fall in partnership with nonprofit organizations. Now is your chance to reach out to your network and encourage young change makers to submit a project. For more information, go to:

<http://ysa.org/grants/>

## Coming Your Way, Surveys in the Mail

The world of education and work continues to shift, just as student perceptions about these areas do. That is why the [Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning \(P21\)](#), [America's Promise Alliance](#), [SkillsUSA](#) and the [Educational Research Center of America \(ERCA\)](#) are collaborating on a research project focused on high school students' perceptions of career paths and 21st Century Skills. The [Student Research Foundation](#) works closely with the research consortium to analyze and present the resulting data.



[In previous research](#), the consortium found that 77 percent of high school students had started to consider a career pathway to pursue (another 19 percent said “maybe”). However, it is not always clear that students know about the range of possibilities available to them in our changing world, according to the same group. Its ultimate objective is to stimulate a dialogue on career pathways among parents, teachers and students.

By including your students as part of this important research project, you can help them:

- further consider their strengths, interests and the career options open to them
- receive information from colleges, universities, career and technical schools, and other postsecondary institutions seeking to recruit students with their specific interests, talents, skill sets and career goals
- gain more access to postsecondary scholarship opportunities through our partners and sponsors

Please watch your inbox during the back-to-school season for a package from The Research Consortium on Career Pathways and 21st Century Skills. To make sure you receive this package, [please fill out this simple online form](#) or email [info@studentresearch.org](mailto:info@studentresearch.org) to make sure you’re on the list. Visit the consortium websites for postings about its research and for other useful information.

## Join the New Public Relations Challenge

Start planning now for the 2017-18 SkillsUSA Public Relations Challenge. This new online challenge encourages local chapters to demonstrate how they showcase SkillsUSA to the news media in ways that highlight CTE and student success. The purpose of the challenge is to help students grow in their communication and teamwork skills while promoting SkillsUSA to a wider audience.

The SkillsUSA Public Relations Challenge is open Sept. 1, 2017, to March 30, 2018. The media coverage period must be three months to six months, starting Sept. 1. You must complete an application and document all news coverage. Teams will promote SkillsUSA to a minimum of three identified audiences in your community, and then document your media coverage. For example, promote SkillsUSA and your local or state programs to potential students, parents and business leaders to gain positive local media attention for your schools, programs and events. Participation in the challenge supports a balanced Program of Work and a quality chapter by helping document outreach efforts.

Student officers and advisors, state officers and state staff can join the new SkillsUSA Public Relations and Advocacy Facebook group, “Must Love Red.” This is a closed group that will provide resources for your public relations and advocacy efforts starting in August, so join now: [www.facebook.com/groups/421237134924875/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/421237134924875/)

Three schools will be selected as winners. One state officer team will also be recognized. Winners will receive a check payable to their school or state association.

- SkillsUSA Media Champion (first-place school or section): \$900
- SkillsUSA Media Boss (second-place school or section): \$300
- SkillsUSA Media Whiz (third-place school or section): \$200
- State Advocacy Award (first-place State Officer Team): \$900

The SkillsUSA Public Relations Challenge entry application will be posted Sept. 1. For questions, contact Karen Kitzel, [kkitzel@skillsusa.org](mailto:kkitzel@skillsusa.org) or 703-737-0607. For complete rules, go to: [www.skillsusa.org/competitions/skillsusa-pr-challenge/](http://www.skillsusa.org/competitions/skillsusa-pr-challenge/)

## Upcoming FALL SEMESTER DEADLINES & DATES:

- September 7** District Conference Registration Deadline
- September 11 SE District #7 Meeting, Neodesha High School, Neodesha, KS
- September 12 SC District # 6 Meeting, Cowley College, Arkansas, KS
- September 13 Wichita District #4 Meeting, Wichita North High School, Wichita, KS
- September 14 SW District #5 Meeting, Meade High School, Meade, KS
- September 15 NW District #1 Meeting, Northwest Kansas TC, Goodland
- September 18 NC District #2 Meeting, Manhattan Technical College, Manhattan, KS
- September 19 NE District #3 Meeting, Washburn Tech College, Topeka, KS
- September 23-27 Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTi), Washington D.C.
- October 1** Kansas Fall Leadership Conference Registration Deadline
- October 1** Mid-America Conference Registration Deadline
- October 10-11 Kansas Fall Leadership Conference, Wheat State Camp, Augusta, KS
- October 12 Kansas Middle School Leadership Conference, Wheat State Camp
- October 19-22 Mid-America Conference, Columbus, NE
- November 2-4 Career Technical State Officer (CTSO) Conference, Emporia, KS
- November 15** Fall **Membership DUE** (Middle School, High School, & Fall semester College/Postsecondary)
- December 1-2 State Officer Meeting, Hutchinson, KS

**Becky Warren, SkillsUSA Kansas State Director**

Phone: 620-820-9367

Email: [bwarren@ksde.org](mailto:bwarren@ksde.org)

**Kelli Byrne, SkillsUSA Kansas Assistant**

Phone: 785-296-3784

Email: [kbyrne@ksde.org](mailto:kbyrne@ksde.org)

SkillsUSA Kansas Website: [www.SkillsUSAKansas.org](http://www.SkillsUSAKansas.org)

