

Envision TOMORROW TODAY

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with



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2019-2020

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Articles & Letters Welcome for Publication

The policy of SkillsUSA Michigan is that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, ethnicity, sex or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program or activity or in employment.



Life as a SkillsUSA Champion

Nadia Lawrence
State President

Being a member of SkillsUSA is one thing but being a champion is so much more. SkillsUSA is all about putting your best foot forward. Many students participate without knowing the influence and difference SkillsUSA provides.

I wasn't always the student to put myself in an uncomfortable position, yet when I took that huge step forward I soared beyond belief. You don't always have to know what you're getting into, I took that giant leap and it worked. My first encounter with SkillsUSA was during my sophomore year. During that year I decided to become a state officer and competed in a leadership competition. That was a huge step for me because one of my many priorities was to maintain a good GPA.

I knew the organization was bigger than myself and that it's one of my duties to ensure that everything runs smoothly and according to plan as a state officer. I didn't always conduct myself professionally I had to learn how to do it at all times. I am the type of person to push myself past my limits and that wasn't always a good thing. Sometimes meeting certain deadlines was a struggle for me and I am

still working on my time management skills. Even though I went through these challenging moments, it has helped me develop into the strong leader that I am today. You may not realize it now but EVERYONE is a leader, continue to push yourself to do great things in SkillsUSA and in life.



Tell your family and friends about SkillsUSA and the difference it has made to your life. And if by chance you have never heard of SkillsUSA, ask about it...now. I wouldn't have been able to meet the mayor, speak to delegates in Washington D. C., travel to SkillsUSA Nationals, conduct

speeches/ business meetings or even be able to talk to you.

Thank you SkillsUSA for providing this opportunity to use my voice and make a difference in my community. To everyone who is reading this article, please thank your family, friends or advisors who told you about SkillsUSA. Like Carl Sagan once said, "Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known." You've already found it now it's time for you to show someone else just how motivating and life changing SkillsUSA can be.

Calling all SkillsUSA Members!

Do you have cool school swag that others would love to have?

Do you like to visit MI attractions?

Do you like to go out to dinner?

Are you someone that looks for unique gift items for family or friends?

Do you like to try your luck at prizes and adventures?

The SkillsUSA Michigan Advisor Council is asking for your help! A silent auction fundraiser will be held at the 2020 SkillsUSA Michigan State Conference on April 17-19, 2020 in Grand Rapids, MI throughout the weekend, with bids closing on Sunday morning.

We are asking each school to contribute at least one item or gift basket reflective of your area in Michigan to be auctioned. Items or gift baskets should be valued at \$25.00 or better and can be brought to the SkillsUSA Michigan SkillsUSA State Conference Headquarters at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel upon arrival on Friday April 17, 2020.

Schools are welcome to bring additional items for the silent auction. Examples of items or baskets could be: School SWAG items (shirts, hoodies, hats, etc.), gift cards from local businesses, area attractions, restaurants, items from local businesses, items that are specific to your location in Michigan, handcrafted items that are made at your school, and anything else you can think of!

Thank you in advance for your support of SkillsUSA Michigan! We appreciate your help supporting opportunities for students in SkillsUSA Michigan. All funds from this fundraiser will support the State Conference.

For more information please contact Carrie Warning at cwarning@geneseeisd.org



Going from Play to Work

Kyle Lewandowski
State Vice President

In the last edition of “Envision Tomorrow, Today with SkillsUSA Michigan” I wrote about “Going from Preschool to Going PRO” In this article, I talked about influencing children to consider a career in the trades. Ever since then I realized, when playing and interacting with children, they are usually pretending to be something in a career that has skilled trades. Think about that for a minute, children are already expressing interest in the trades! Now, as children grow and begin to play less, you see less of an interest in skilled trades. I often wonder, how can we keep that interest alive? Maybe SkillsUSA is the solution in closing the skills gap. Children need to be educated about their options after High School, not just what colleges they can go to.

Maybe YOU are the solution, perhaps you could convince your friends to try a program at your Career/Tech Center or whatever option you have in the area. Just think how cool it would be to say that you played a part in closing the skills gap by having a conversation. You may ask, how do I do all of this? Well, you already know something about your trade so start from there, if that doesn't work, research and help them explore other trades they may be interested in. If our generation doesn't get involved, we could potentially face an unsafe future of an even bigger skills gap than now. The world can really benefit from your advocacy.



Back at it Again

D'Naughtia Curry
State Secretary

Your officers are training hard and working together to be the best leader that they can possibly be. Being a SkillsUSA officer is an honor and with this honor...did you guess it, comes great responsibility. We, as officers, must prepare ourselves for the various responsibilities that we are given. Luckily for your current Michigan state officers and future officers to come there are ways to do that.

- First, by studying and practicing we can become more skillful in our duties. In the first line of the SkillsUSA Pledge it reads that “Upon my honor, I pledge: To prepare myself by diligent study and ardent practice...”; it isn't just something we say but something that we put to practice in our daily lives.
- Second, as officers we have to develop a complete knowledge of SkillsUSA constitutions and bylaws. It is important to know and understand what is going on around us in SkillsUSA.
- Third, being able to approach an issue objectively to make decisions, for the good of all members. Being a State officer means that you have to be selfless and think about others rather than yourself.

- Fourth, is to carry out duties in a timely manner, and to the best of our ability. It's essential that all things be done on time as well as doing their best on any task that they are given.
- And lastly, cooperating with one another so that leadership is strong and effective. It is important that we work together for the best possible outcome. As officers we must remember that we were elected to lead our chapters and make them stronger and better.

We officers were given a great opportunity for training as well as improvement at the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTI). Six of the Michigan SkillUSA officers were we given the chance to focus on professionalism, com-

munication, and leadership skills. We also got to meet SkillsUSA officers from different states and had the pleasure of taking our time sightseeing but we also had to get busy.

On the first day there, we held a ceremony at the SkillsUSA Leadership Center, where we had a farewell celebration for the executive director, Tim Lawrence for his retirement. Training was facilitated by the National officers. We were trained on the Framework, communicating using the POWERR formula, and preparing for our meeting with our Legislative Representatives. We went over and practiced what we were going to say to the representative and solidifying it.

During the evening, we had a test on SkillsUSA Knowledge and Civic Awareness. We also got to verbally demonstrate our knowledge about

SkillsUSA and what we learned during our training at WLTI, and a mock interview for all the officers were held. On the last day of our training we had our interview with our Representative. We also toured Washington D.C., and visited The Capitol and The Supreme Court. At the end of the day we visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers and observed the laying of the wreath. We then gathered together and had a ceremony and received our Statemen's Award pin. At the end we finished with a cherry on top and celebrate with ice cream.





Community Service

Karrissa Zerod
State Treasurer

Community service is life changing for all involved. My local SkillsUSA chapter at the Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center, participates in many community service projects such as the annual toy drive in December. This toy drive supports homeless children and households in the community that are struggling to make ends meet. Christmas wouldn't happen for these little ones at the Good Samaritan if we didn't have the opportunity to help. In January we start the canned food drive, also for the Good Samaritan to keep them fed.

In May, the SkillsUSA members raise money for a camp called "Camp Fish Tales" which is a camp for physically and cognitively-challenged individuals where they can have fun just like everyone else. There have been members that actually go and volunteer during the summer when it is open to be with the men and women so that their caregivers can have a break and they can have fun. Community service can happen anytime of the year in any form.

Some volunteering is not for the overall community but a smaller group of people, for Bay-Arenac ISD, I have volunteered my time to work alongside my advisor and help shape the future leaders of Bay-Arenac. I have stepped up with my advisor for the rallies to inform members of our progress and other things as well. I have stayed late sometimes to help with things such as parent conferences, where I guided parents to their child's classroom and showed them many things that SkillsUSA and the career center offers.

SkillsUSA members volunteer at their churches, helping out during a fundraiser dinner, or other charity events to raise money for a cause. SkillsUSA members also volunteer for the Salvation Army. All of the current and past SkillsUSA Michigan officers have participated in community service acts.

As you can see, you can volunteer almost anywhere and everywhere to perform acts of community service. It's not just in my hometown, but it is nationwide. Make this the year you make a difference. Local soup kitchens, day camps, picking up trash, school functions, etc. all need help from students and community members to continue to help other people.

Now that you know what community service is, and you've had time to think of how you can get involved speak with your advisor and make that goal happen. It is a new year so set a new year's resolution to help the community. As an organization, all of the SkillsUSA Michigan local chapters should already be very involved in community service projects. If not talk to your advisor as to how to get involved with your community. I guarantee if you participate in at least one community service project near you, you will feel so good after! Your community needs you!



Success

Corey Haney
State Parliamentarian

"Your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your altitude" by Zig Ziglar. If striving high to reach your goals is important to you, then SkillsUSA is the place for you. SkillsUSA members strive high to reach their goals and achieve them. The education that you receive at your Career



Tech Center is already helping you meet some of these career goals.

David M. Burns once said "Aim for success, not perfection". Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life. Remember that fear always lurks behind perfectionism. Perfection is not always the way to go because you'll never have anything to improve on, it's ok to be wrong then you'll see what you need to work on in order to get better at what you're doing. It's like getting an answer wrong on a test that you take, then when you review it, you can see where you made mistakes so you can correct it.

No one is perfect, everyone makes mistakes. Dr. Seuss said "you're off to great places, today is your day!" Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way. Joining SkillsUSA is a great start. Start achieving goals that you set. Stepping out of your comfort zone is key and the hardest to do. So take your first step.



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You've Got Q's and We've Got A's

Natalie Wallas
Chairperson of Public Relations

In early November, SkillsUSA Michigan had their 2019 Fall Leadership Conference in Lansing. If you're like most you might be wondering what kind of event this is and what do SkillsUSA members do there. This year was my first time attending a SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference (FLC). Going into the event I didn't know what to expect but now that I was able to experience and be a part of FLC, I feel confident answering some of the questions I had and have received about the entire process and what happened there.

Q: Who was at the Fall Leadership Conference?

A: SkillsUSA members and advisors from all over Michigan! Everyone is invited and welcome to attend. Most people that participate are students who are involved in SkillsUSA or curious about the organization and what it has to offer.

Q: What do you do at the Fall Leadership Conference?

A: This year SkillsUSA had four breakout sessions led by two or three state officers. Here students could learn about Public Relations, Ways and Means, Community Service, and Social Events. At each of these sessions the members participated in an ice breaker to meet more members, a lesson to learn about the topic presented, and an activity to demonstrate or practice what was taught. After these breakout sessions members were provided with a box lunch and drinks. Following this, SkillsUSA state officers and members all participated in leadership training provided by an organization called FOCUS Training. Combining fun activities with important lessons made for a great day of networking and learning.

Q: Where was the Fall Leadership Conference?

A: The Fall Leadership Conference was held at the Lansing Center in downtown Lansing.

Q: When was the Fall Leadership Conference?

A: This year the Fall Leadership Conference was on November 4, 2019.

Q: Why do we have the Fall Leadership Conference?

A: The Fall Leadership Conference is to not only teach our members important parts of SkillsUSA and leadership skills, but also to help us meet new people who are also a part of our organization. The day is an amazing opportunity for state officers, members, and advisors to learn new things, and practice basic networking skills.

Q: How do you find more information or sign up for next year?

A: Follow our SkillsUSA Michigan Facebook page! Check it out by going to: @miskillsusa. You can also follow our Instagram and Twitter with this username! If you're looking to sign up for next year just talk to your advisor at your Career Preparation Center and they can help you get on track!



Are You Prepared for the Interview?

Rosa L. Williams
State Officer Coordinator

Are you ready to search where you like to be employed? So, to be prepared for one the thing you need is an interview. The goal of an interview is to communicate to your professionalism and enthusiasm for the company you are working for. Knowing that your people skills are needed to work as these will indicate how much of an asset you will be in the work the environment.

Since you have met the basic requirements for the interview it is an opportunity to sell yourself. The key thing to remember is not only how well skilled and qualified you are for the position, but how motivated you are towards your potential employer. If there is no motivated or desire to perform a job, nothing will be accomplished.

No one expects you to know all the answers during the interview. You want to find a work environment that suites your personality and work preferences. As you prepare your answers there are some difficulty in answering the questions. Don't let the weird questions throw you off your game. If you are the most prepared person your job interview can make you very uncomfortable.

Working hard starts when you prepare for the interview which means is not just making sure the interview answers are authentic but knowing which questions to answer, you have to stand out from the crowd. Answering questions effectively is to prepare you for it. When discussing your strengths and weaknesses it can be difficult as part of the interview process. Many questions are to be expected. List your strong points that you know you have and the best way to differentiate yourself by providing evidence of your skills. So tell a good story.

In order to create a successful interview there are three things that is important that you must be involved in is the preparation (mental and physical), presentation and personality knowing

these skills will allow you to have a successful presentation.

In any case, however, if you do not get the job you have to contact the interviewer and find out the reason why you're not hired. Learn what you can get from them, because many times you will be surprised often the things you do not think about were the causes and not was not a lack of skill. Learn from the experience so that you will be better prepared for the next interview.





Team Synergy

Blake Brannam
State Reporter

The A-Team, the Mighty Ducks, the X-Men, the Avengers, and the Wonderpets. We all know that having a good strong team can make a world of difference. We all know that working together is more efficient than alone, but exactly how much more efficient is it? Well, it's the difference between simply working with someone and working as a strong cohesive team. When you simply work together, the team's value is simply the sum of its members. $1+1+1=3$. On the contrary, when each member has a strong bond and works to help others as well as themselves, the value of the team is much greater than the sum of its parts. $1+1+1=\text{infinity}$. This concept is called Synergy. When we work with and for each other in a team, we synergize and become a much stronger and more efficient team.

How does this relate to SkillsUSA, and further, our state officer team? Well, for those of you that attended the Fall Leadership Conference, you already know. For those of you that weren't able to attend, allow me to break it down. Let's say for example you and your chapter members decide to do some fundraising for an upcoming event. The concept of synergy can be used every step of the way, from brainstorming and planning all

the way to the execution of the plan. When each person involved in brainstorming only considers their own ideas and is unwilling to make steps toward compromise, the team gets nowhere.



I'm sure we've all had to deal with those people or even been ourselves (I know I've been that person from time to time). In this situation, $1+1+1=0$. Now what if every person approaches the brainstorming with an open mind and a willingness to compromise and work together toward a common goal. Things go much better this way, and a decision is normally made that everyone is pleased with. In this situation $1+1+1=100$.

In the execution of the plan, when each person simply does their job and nothing more, $1+1+1=3$. When we go above and beyond and not only do our jobs, but assist each other and go the extra mile, $1+1+1=1,000$.

When we first met as an officer team, we were the sum of our parts, but now that we understand and utilize the concept of synergy, we are exponentially more than the sum of our parts. When we not only work together, but also for each other, we are able to do great things, like plan and host fundraising events, conferences, rallies, community service projects, to everyday things like effectively communicating and technical application in our career centers. Without synergy, we wouldn't have been able to host the Fall Leadership Conference, represent the many chapters and members across Michigan, or even bring you this newsletter.

The next time you are in a chapter meeting or doing a group project for school, I want you to remember one thing; when you synergize, $1+1+1$ does not equal 3, but infinity. On our own we are powerful, but together, we are unstoppable!



Getting Prepared for Competition

Aracely Hernandez-Ramos
Chairperson of Community Service

Fellow SkillsUSA members, these past few months, most of you have been preparing for your competitions. Some of you might have already competed while others are just about to have your first one. In the meantime, I hope you have all been enjoying yourselves preparing and taking this time seriously. This time has given you an opportunity to see what the real world will be like and gain the knowledge to not step into it empty handed. While being in the field you like, it should not be all fun and games. Some students have gotten well-paid opportunities right after high school from the experience they have gained from being in the same position as you are in now. With the time you've had since school has started, you must have learned that in the real world, there is always competition. There's competition for getting a job, staying in the job, and moving up to different positions. In these competitions, hopefully you can see and gain experience while also having fun. You're still in high school, so take advantage; learn and have fun.

In order to prepare for competition, you can take advantage of those who competed before you and still attend your school. At my school:

- Three girls in Cosmetology competed in Esthetics, which is all make-up and creativity, she did Fantasy to be more specific; Cosmetology Mannequin; and Job Interview, a competition where you're put in a mock interview, but should still be taken seriously. They all agree it was very stressful and competitive. One of them wished they had prepared better for the interview, and the other was too much of a perfec-

tionist, which caused her stress herself out even more.

- A Welding student competed in Arc Welding, which consists of using electricity produced by special equipment to create heat to melt and join two pieces of metal together. He had a good time and enjoyed doing what he is interested in.
- A couple of Automotive students competed in Job Demonstration Open, Automotive New Car Prep, and Power Equipment. Job Demonstration consists of demonstrating how to solve a problem while being hands-on in a certain amount of time. He believed the competition was very broad, resulting in a confusion on what to do. An essential is to know the judges are your priority. It is them who should be able to know what you are doing. Automotive New Car Prep is about doing pre-inspection tasks to make sure the car is in good condition to get sold while knowing a few other aspects of Automotive. Power Equipment focused on smaller engines and how to put them together. Many said that they got flustered and stressed out. As a result, they didn't do well.

Many of these same students had suggestions for other students to take. A main piece of advice that they all suggested was to practice and have fun. Studying and knowing your material for your competition is crucial, and it allows for stress and anxiety to

be minimized. Although it's stressful, they also want you to have fun. You should enjoy the moment and make memories with everyone. One specific student recommended that you should take any opportunity to ask questions to gain knowledge. As a result, you will gain experience for the real world.

In the end, they all agreed that in some way, these competitions allowed students to prepare for the workforce. The main points they touched on was time management, professionalism, preparation, and competition. The world will not wait for you, and you will have to attend a customer within a certain time limit. You will also be expected to follow certain policies and dress codes. You have to appear appropriate in order to attend the customer. As a worker, you will be expected to think on your feet and know how to deal with the unexpected. Lastly, know you are always competing with someone for the same results, so have fun out there and enjoy the experience. Good luck to you all!



New Description Released for SkillsUSA Official Attire

Wearing the official SkillsUSA attire adds a sense of unity and identification, as well as enthusiasm, to meetings, ceremonies, presentations and activities. Members are encouraged to strictly follow the guidelines for official attire during ceremonies, visits with dignitaries, officer campaigns and similar occasions.

In keeping up with the times, students may select the attire that best fits the gender with which they identify. This is a personal choice as long as the SkillsUSA guidelines are followed. This also applies to competition uniforms for the SkillsUSA Championships as long as clothing meets the stated contest guidelines.

SkillsUSA Official Attire:

- Red SkillsUSA blazer, windbreaker or sweater, or black or red SkillsUSA jacket
- Button-up, collared, white dress shirt (accompanied by a plain, solid black tie) OR white blouse (collarless or small-collared) or white turtleneck, with any collar not to extend into the lapel area of the blazer, sweater, windbreaker or jacket
- Black dress slacks (accompanied by black dress socks or black or skin-tone seamless hose) OR black dress skirt (knee-length, accompanied by black or skin-tone seamless hose)
- Black dress shoes

State Conference Dress Code

In preparing for your competition, we want to remind everyone of the State Conference Dress Code. How you present yourself is just as important as how you perform! The State Conference Dress Code applies to both students and advisors.

IMPORTANT NOTE: At the Sunday Morning Awards Ceremony at the State Conference, all state contest medalists need to be properly dressed in order to be allowed on stage. Make sure you have the right clothes!

Friday Night General Session and Saturday Delegate Meeting:

School-logo attire or SkillsUSA Michigan attire is required. A SkillsUSA blazer, sweater or windbreaker is encouraged but not required. Business attire is NOT allowed.

- School-logo collared shirt
- Black dress slacks (accompanied by black dress socks or black or skin-tone seamless hose) or black dress skirt (knee-length, accompanied by black or skin tone seamless hose)
- Closed toed dress shoes

Sunday Morning Awards Ceremony: SkillsUSA Michigan attire or appropriate National Competition clothing is required. A SkillsUSA blazer, sweater or windbreaker is encouraged but not required. Business attire and school-logo attire are NOT allowed. Please refer to the 2020 Technical Standards for the National competition clothing requirements for your contest.

- Button-up, collared, white dress shirt (accompanied by a plain, solid black tie) or white blouse (collarless or small-collared) or white turtleneck, with any collar not to extend into the lapel area of the blazer, sweater, windbreaker or jacket
- Black dress slacks (accompanied by black dress socks or black or skin-tone seamless hose) or black dress skirt (knee-length, accompanied by black or skin tone seamless hose)
- Closed toed dress shoes

Social and Free Time: Neat casual clothing is acceptable. Shoes must be worn when in public areas. Items not acceptable include hats, bathing suits (unless at the pool), and suggestive attire. Shirts must have sleeves and no bare midriff. Skirts and shorts must be at least fingertip length.



Thank You!

SkillsUSA Michigan would like to express a special thanks to the following supporters for their contributions in the form of time, prizes, scholarships, donations and contest materials.

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