Leaping Into Leadership

Ariella Cuellar
State President

What is a leader? A leader can be described as a visionary, motivated, socially inclined, creative, and thorough person. These character traits are just some that are strengthened and reinforced through attending the Fall Leadership Conference in Lansing, Michigan. The Fall Leadership Conference gives SkillsUSA members from all over Michigan the opportunity to make connections, communicate, and have loads of fun with fellow SkillsUSA members.

What does the Fall Leadership Conference look like? Bright and early you will travel with your school to Lansing where the conference is being held. Once you have arrived, you will make your way into a large ballroom full of SkillsUSA members. Opening sessions will take place in that ballroom. Next come the breakout sessions, where the presiding state officers will expand your view on what it means to be a leader. The breakout sessions will be tons of fun and very informative. After the breakout sessions, a very tasty lunch will be served. Once you are finished eating lunch, a very informative presentation will be given by your state officers. The goal of these breakout sessions is to challenge you to get outside of your comfort zone, meet other SkillsUSA members, expand your knowledge on the importance of SkillsUSA and to have fun while doing these things. At the breakout sessions you attend, there is an opportunity to win a prize or two so make sure you are paying attention.

At the Fall Leadership Conference, I fully encourage you to leap into the leadership opportunities you are given in breakout session. You should also take this opportunity to introduce yourself to the SkillsUSA Michigan state officers and ask them how to become a state officer. So come join us in Lansing for a fun, informative, leadership installing conference hosted by the SkillsUSA state officer team.

The information you learn from the Fall Leadership Conference does not just have to stay in Lansing, it is important that you share what you’ve learned with your friends, fellow SkillsUSA members, and even your family. The motto of SkillsUSA is “Preparing for Leadership in the World of Work.” At the Fall Leadership Conference on November 5, 2018 in Lansing is a great way to kick off your year and to motivate your school to have a great year with SkillsUSA Michigan. The conference is a combination of team building activities and breakout sessions presented by the State Officers on SkillsUSA with special professional development sessions specifically for advisors. The early registration fee is $30.00 per participant (students and advisors) and includes registration materials, and lunch. Be sure to register today at http://miskillsusa.org/.
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You Can Do It!

Imony Dorsey  
State Vice President

Community service isn’t just words, but an opportunity in life to contribute one’s time to helping others and making a difference in society. I have had the opportunity to volunteer twice this year and it was the most amazing experience I had ever had. Doing service projects is a great way to get involved with the community. There are always people and businesses looking for help, and it is usually easy to find a way to help. I got to make new friends and learn all sorts of cool stuff during both my experiences.

This June, when I volunteered for the National Community Service Project in Louisville, Ken-
tucky, I wasn’t the happiest person. No one I knew volunteered with me, I was scared of rejection with the rest of the volunteers and I’m not really an outdoorsy person. But it turned out a lot different than my expectations. I had so much fun and everyone was so nice to me. For the project, we revived a public area in Louisville planting new plants and pulling weeds. The area looked spectacular after we were finished and it made me feel good about myself. I couldn’t wait for the locals to see the work we had done.

You can volunteer right here in Michigan! A major program Michigan has is called the Michigan Community Service Commission. Their mission is to “utilize service as a strategy to address the state’s most pressing issues and empowers volunteers to strengthen communities.” This organization commits to provide access, equal opportunity, and reasonable accommodation in its programs, activities, and materials. They have great programs from the Detroit Youth energy squad to Flint recovery corps.

Doing community service, a person will find themselves and be exposed to the lifestyles of other people. Just recently, my state officer team and I went to a local farm in Lansing and it was very exciting to see a real farm with very healthy crops. We helped a local farmer pick out his gar-
lic crops and it was more fun than I thought. A cat I named Noodles popped in quite frequently to keep us company while we worked. We harvested most of the garlic and we even got to take a fresh clove home along with a freshly grown carrot.

While some people are naturally outgo-
ing, others are shy and have a hard time meeting new people (like me). Volunteering gave me the opportunity to practice and develop my social skills, since I am meeting regularly with a group of people with common interests.

Once you have momentum, it’s easier to branch out and make more friends and contacts. Volunteering increases self-confidence. Volunteering can provide a healthy boost to your self-confidence, self-esteem, and life satisfaction. You are doing well for others and the community, which provides a natural sense of accomplishment. Your role as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity.

So what are you waiting for? Jump into your community, make a change and give a better outlook to the youth.

Former SkillsUSA Michigan Member Selected to the WorldSkills Champion Trust

Kieron Kohlmann, a former SkillsUSA Championships and SkillsUSA WorldTeam competitor, has been chosen to represent the western hemisphere’s WorldSkills Americas as a member of the WorldSkills Champions Trust (WSCT). Each WSCT ambassador was a WorldSkills competitor in 2013, 2015 or 2017.

The WSCT is an international team of nine technical education ambassadors made up of past WorldSkills Competition competitors. The WSCT was created by WorldSkills International to help bridge the gap between champions and WorldSkills beyond the competition experience. SkillsUSA is the organization that represents the United States in the WorldSkills Competition.

Kohlmann is currently an automotive diagnostic development engineer for SolvIT in Auburn Hills, Mich. He is a graduate of Ferris State University with a B.S. in Automotive Engineering Technology, an A.S. in Automotive Service Technology and a quality control certificate. He is also an ASE Certified Master Automotive Technician, an ASE Certified Master Heavy Truck Technician and an ASE Certified Advanced Level Specialist.

Kohlmann received a gold medal in the 2010 SkillsUSA Championships Automotive Service Technology competition. He was a gold medalist in the 2012 WorldSkills Americas automobile technology competition in São Paulo, Brazil, and a 2013 Medallion of Excellence winner at the WorldSkills Competition in Leipzig, Germany.
At the 2018 National Leadership and Skills Conference held on June 25-30, 2018 in Louisville, KY, the 2019 WorldSkills team was selected. The finalists in 19 contests competed against each other, side by side with the national competitors, for the chance to represent the USA at the 2019 WorldSkills on August 22-27, 2019 in Kazan, Russia.

Of the 20 members selected to be on the 2019 WorldSkills team, three competitors are from Michigan! They are:

- Scott Curtiz May  
  CNC Milling
- Anthony Moore  
  Graphic Design Technology
- Ryan Meppelink  
  Heavy Vehicle Maintenance

The purpose of having the SkillsUSA Championships is to reward students for excellence, and to keep training relevant to employers’ needs. It benefits the students because the whole professional organization is run by students for their own benefit and growth. The members of SkillsUSA become well rounded individuals in personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics that’ll help them develop a successful career.

The competitions are judged by people who already have experience in the career field that you may have chosen, they volunteer their time to come listen and watch each competitor’s performance, this way everyone has a fair chance of winning. The judges show that they want nothing but the best for you in multiple ways by critiquing and or asking questions if needed while scoring. They take the time to make sure that every competitor feels like a winner by giving you pointers of what you should work on next time, so don’t be fooled by their intimidating demeanor when first meeting.

Everyone should use competition to their advantage, whether they are competing at a local level or not. Use it to push yourself into bettering your craft. I know from experience that after competing you feel “over the moon” because you had the guts to do something big while using your skill. When you work towards your goals and actually achieve them, there’s this overwhelming feeling that you can do anything, it builds your confidence and your social skills. Just remember - everyone’s a winner, so don’t let the new confidence boost go to your head. If you’re a winner who’s received a medal, help build up someone else’s self-esteem by letting them know that they’re a winner also, even if they didn’t receive the title.

The SkillsUSA Championships showcase the best career and technical education students in the nation. The contest begins locally then moves to the state level, which is in Grand Rapids, and then the national level, which takes place in Louisville Kentucky. Each level has a first, second, and third place, just like the Olympics they receive gold, silver, and bronze medals. The space for the events at the National Conference takes up to around the size of twenty footballs fields, due to the investments of business and industry partners of approx. $36 million dollars. The skills competitions range from American Spirit, Collision Repair Technology, Job Skill Demonstration, Welding, Pin Design, Cosmetology, Opening and Closing Ceremonies, and so much more.

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My name is Tamera Motley. Being the State Treasurer has provided incredible opportunities and experiences for me. Being a state officer allows you to travel and inform people about what SkillsUSA.

In July, I and my state officer team visited with a few of our state legislators in Lansing, Michigan. My team and I met with the legislators to chat with them about what SkillsUSA and career and technical education (CTE) stands for and the different competitions students participate in. The legislators were all members of the Michigan House Education Committee. My team and I sat with the legislators and explained to them what being state officer was like and some of our personal experiences we have had with SkillsUSA.

We met with Rep. Julie Alexander from Jackson and she was a very nice person. She informed us that when she was in high school that she was a part of a career and technical organization that was similar to SkillsUSA. One of her sons is a construction worker and he was a member of SkillsUSA in high school. Her daughter was in SkillsUSA and she now works in a hair salon. We talked about how she ended up working as a legislator and her story was interesting. She used to be a teacher and she still has a passion for education. She told me and my team that we could be anything in life if we just put our minds to it. I fully believe that coming from her because she never knew she would be a legislator.

We then met with Jeremy Glick from Rep. Adam Zemke’s office. He was working for the legislative branch and he is still in school. He talked about how he was going to law school to further his education. He has attended Michigan State University. He said he didn’t even know in high school that schools had career and technical organizations opportunities like SkillsUSA was available.

We also met with the Talent Investment Agency (TIA) and about their program named Going Pro. We met in a conference room with representatives from several different programs and explained to them what SkillsUSA is and some of the things we have done with the organization. TIA gave us a book bag filled with a coffee mug, t-shirt, a pen, sun glasses and a phone gripper that can be attached to your smartphone to grip better. We individually introduced ourselves, why we wanted to become a state officer and what we have gained from being a SkillsUSA member.

A representative asked me what was a challenge I faced and I explained to her that being a state officer has taught me how to be professional and how to talk in front of people. It’s still all a learning experience. The agency asked me and my team lots of interesting questions. Some of the representatives specialized in human sources and education, which was perfect for me because at my career and technical school I study Careers in Education.

After saying farewell to the new people we had just met, we thanked them for their time with SkillsUSA souvenirs. Some of the people enjoyed talking to us so much they asked for our State Officer business cards.

We also visited the Michigan state capital as well, where we went on a tour and learned about the history of it.

Advocating for SkillsUSA and CTE

Tamera Motley
State Treasurer

Entering today’s high-tech job market is difficult without the hands on work experience that employers are looking for.

The Michigan Advanced Technician Training (MAT2) Program Gives Students a Competitive Advantage!

MAT2 matches students’ career goals with the needs of industry partners to produce a pipeline of educated and highly qualified technical employees. During the three-year program, students will alternate between classrooms, labs and the work site, gaining hands-on, marketable skills.

**MAT2 PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH:**
- College tuition paid by the employer
- On-the-job training with pay
- An associate’s degree in a high-tech, in-demand field
- A job upon successful completion of the program

This isn’t the production line technology of your grandparents’ or your parents’ careers – these cutting-edge careers in advanced manufacturing use 3-D models, computer simulations, software development, and more.

MAT2 is an opportunity for students to secure a well-paying manufacturing or technology career without the worry of tuition.

Visit mitalent.org/MAT2 or Contact the MAT2 Team:
wdac-mat2@michigan.gov • 1-888-522-0103
There are six points to the creed:

- I believe in the dignity of work
- I believe in the American way of life
- I believe in education
- I believe in fair play
- I believe satisfaction is achieved by good work
- I believe in high morals and spiritual standards

Creed is defined as a set of beliefs that influence the way you live. In my opinion, let me explain each point of the creed the way I see it.

I believe in the dignity of work.
Dignity is the sense of pride in oneself. Having dignity means being treated with respect and treating others with respect. Being able to achieve your goals in your profession which will catapult you to new heights.

I believe in the American way of life.
The American way of life is simply the unique lifestyle of the people. Knowing that you uphold the ideals of your culture. It stems from the premise that people came to America for a better life.

I believe in education.
Education is one of the keys to success. Education is a preparation for life, in that we learn, apply, unlearn, and relearn. Learn all that you can and know that it is you who will get you where you want to go, no one else. Education has no limitations accept the ones that you place on yourself.

I believe in fair play.
Honesty and fair play are constituted by the rights of others. Treating others as you want to be treated, respecting the equal treatment for all concerned. When you are honest you build strength of character that will allow you to be a great service to others.

I believe satisfaction is achieved by good work.
Satisfaction is the fulfillment of a desire and a need. The measure of work and opportunities to use your skills and abilities, no matter what career you are connected to, you will be the best at what you have accomplished in your profession. If you are not allowing yourself to live your dreams because you are living your fears, it can be a problem for your future endeavors.

I believe in high morals and spiritual standards.
High moral standards are those that you demand of yourself. Conducting yourself in such a way as to fulfilling the responsibilities as a citizen. The meaning of purpose to your life is when you live your life that are based on compassion courage, honesty, modesty and forgiveness, then you can form a positive bond with others.

The SkillsUSA Creed

Each year, SkillsUSA Michigan selects an outstanding advisor who goes above and beyond the call of duty. At the 2018 State Leadership and Skills Conference, David Urlaub from Bay Arenac ISD Career Center was honored as the SkillsUSA Michigan Advisor of the Year for his dedication to his students, his chapter and to SkillsUSA.

Mr. Urlaub is a person who is described as passionate about their work. He is a big influence in the lives of his students but also in the lives of all the SkillsUSA members in Michigan. A long standing member of the Michigan Advisor Council, he has the members’ best interest at heart when guiding SkillsUSA Michigan’s path. As the Student Counselor at Bay Arenac ISD Career Center, he is currently the President of the Advisor Council and an unwavering supporter of SkillsUSA Michigan.

Congratulations to Mr. Urlaub and thank you for your tireless dedication to SkillsUSA Michigan!
SkillsUSA Michigan had great showing at the 2018 National Leadership and Skills Conference held on June 25-30, 2018 in Louisville, KY. SkillsUSA Michigan was represented by 217 students, advisors, and guests from 38 High School and College/Postsecondary chapters. SkillsUSA Michigan received a total of 25 national medals, including 12 national champions.

The national medalists from Michigan are below.

**Gold**

3-D Visualization and Animation  
*College*  
Keith Takens & Ben Waters  
Ferris State University

Automated Manufacturing  
*Technology*  
*High School*  
Trent Trout, Adam Rowland & Jake Stein  
S & W Washtenaw Consortium

CNC Milling Specialist  
*High School*  
Stephen Kelly  
Saint Clair TEC

Cosmetology  
*College*  
Jenna L French  
Mecosta Osceola Career Center

Diesel Equipment Technology  
*High School*  
Nathan Graveling  
Careerline Tech Center

Restaurant Service  
*College*  
Kacy Wolfram  
Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Campus

Web Design  
*College*  
Morgan Lashbrook & Micaela Frakes-Zieger  
Macomb Community College

Welding  
*College*  
Raymond Papierniak  
Washtenaw Community College

**Silver**

Automotive Refinishing Technology  
*College*  
Ashley Carravallah  
Washtenaw Community College

Aviation Maintenance Technology  
*College*  
Alex C Giglio  
Western Michigan University

Marine Service Technology  
*High School*  
Caleb LaFond  
Wexford-Missaukee Area CTC

Mechatronics  
*High School*  
Dalton Lanksy & Zachary Van Hooser  
Lapeer County Ed Tech Center

**Bronze**

Advertising Design  
*College*  
Michael Pawlusiak  
Macomb Community College

Architectural Drafting  
*College*  
Jeanette Woolridge  
Ferris State University

Culinary Arts  
*High School*  
Christopher M Lowe  
Saginaw Career Complex

Information Technology Services  
*High School*  
Kallen Filburn  
Saint Clair TEC

Restaurant Service  
*High School*  
Haley Robison  
Branch Area Careers Center

Screen Printing Technology  
*High School*  
Gabe Waldrup  
S & W Washtenaw Consortium
Architecture  
Automotive  
CAD Drafting/Tool Design  
Computer Networks  
Construction  
Electrical/Electronics  
Heavy Equipment  
HVACR and Energy  
Manufacturing  
Mechanical Engineering  
Plastics and Rubber  
Product Design  
Surveying  
Welding

Ferris State University's College of Engineering Technology offers a wide variety of programs driven by industry demand.

Here, you'll have hands-on learning experiences in premier lab spaces that offer the latest technology. You'll also benefit from our small class sizes, exceptional internship opportunities and expert faculty.

Ferris students also take part in a great variety of professionally connected student organizations, societies and competitions, such as SkillsUSA at the college level.

Get the education that puts so many of our graduates in high demand and on paths to careers with above-average starting salaries.

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