Don’t Be a Rotten Egg

When you are competing, your goal is to reach success or “win” in other words. Success can open many doors and help you in many ways. I believe all Career and Technical Education students should compete, since you will gain so much more than just a winning title; you will get the chance to practice skills needed in life like public speaking, time management, and most importantly confidence.

It takes a great deal of confidence to be able to come out of your shell and show others what you bring to the table. In some cases, people are trying to continue the legacy of their school or former classmate, which can add pressure on someone. However, if you are the one person to stand up and take on that challenge, it shows that you strive to be successful. Even though most people think of winning as the golden prize, that is not the case - everyone is a winner. For the simple fact that you are standing up and doing things that you believe in or love. You want to remember that for the next time you decide to chase after your dreams, competitions can also be a kick-start for your dreams.

Competitions give you the opportunity to be around people who are looking to support you in whatever career field you have chosen. While competing, you may run into people who are already successful in that career, as well as meet people who are well known and might have the connections you need. You may also have the great pleasure of meeting someone you look up to, and inspire to be. It is always good to know that you have people around you that want to help get to where you need to be in life. If you are someone looking to further your education in your career field, competitions can play a huge role. They give you the skills needed to reach your dream.

Furthermore, some of our skills competitions offer rewards such as scholarship opportunities to colleges. You also can visit college reps at the competitions or they might even be your judge. One thing I would defiantly recommend for you to remember is that any skills competition creates a partnership with industry, teachers, and students. It could open the doors for a job or your next opportunity in life.

Finally, I want to challenge everyone reading this to get out of your shell and be bold. Take a chance and compete this year, show people who you are and what you are made of. Show yourself that you can do anything you set your mind to as long as you want it bad enough. So, why not stop being a rotten egg and give your fear or doubt a run for it money. I want to see everyone at the State Conference doing what they want to do and represent their family, friends, and school. Break away from the pack, and take a chance on yourself.

State Leadership & Skills Conference
April 20-22 | Grand Rapids

Mark your calendar!
The 2018 SkillsUSA Michigan State Leadership and Skills Conference will be a highlight of the year for thousands of Michigan members! Join us April 20-22, 2018 in Grand Rapids, Michigan as members from across Michigan descend upon Grand Rapids to compete for a chance to represent Michigan at the 2018 National Championships!

Be sure to register today at http://miskillsusa.org/
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

- With 31 diverse degree programs, it is the 2nd largest College of Engineering Technology in the U.S.
- Faculty have distinctive industrial experience.
- Hands-on learning in premier laboratory spaces that feature the latest technological advancements.
- Participate in an assortment of professionally affiliated organizations, societies and student competitions, such as SkillsUSA at the college level.
- Variety of summer academic camps offered.
- Students highly sought out by business and industry prior to graduation with starting salaries well above average.
- Visit www.ferris.edu/admissions to learn more.
College is not for everyone so how does CTE become a first choice?  
99,000 vs. 95,687

In my last article I shared 99,000 as the number of unfilled job openings in the State of Michigan, that number is now 95,687 according to the Michigan employment job site as of November 30, 2017, down almost 4,000 jobs. That’s a great thing, right?

Not necessarily!

According to recent economic forecasts, while we have added jobs in 2017, that 4,000 job decline is most likely happening as those jobs have just disappeared and moved to another state or another country or been combined into other jobs. These jobs went unfilled due to the lack of skilled workers in our state. I also talked about the need for additional focus and funding by the State of Michigan for Career Technical Education (CTE) that will provide the training that high school students need to get these higher paying jobs. Most of these jobs do not require a 4-year college degree. Among these jobs are engineering, computer programming, accounting and many other highly paid careers.

How do we make this happen?

It’s going to take a combined effort between federal, state, and local governments providing funding and the local school districts better educating high schools parents as to career options. For example, the federal government’s proposed budget for 2018 has earmarked an additional $20M dollars for CTE. It’s small but a great start and still has yet to be approved.

Where are other states making a difference? In July, the State of California added some serious financial muscle to its efforts to improve Career and Technical Education programs. California recently added an additional annual recurring $200M to its Community College budget with those funds allocated specifically to CTE. The state also feels it’s necessary to better educate students and parents about career and technical education. The hope is that this effort will have parents and high school students see CTE for what it really is.... A great first choice for many students, especially those who are unable to afford the high cost of tuition of a traditional Bachelor’s degree. The rebranding effort has already begun in California and the belief is that it will expand and grow Career and Technical Education programs at California’s community college system. CTE can be a serious first choice for many of these 2 million students.

We are working hard to change that perception as well but, significantly more effort is needed to make these programs vibrant and a clear alternative to a 4-year Bachelor’s degree in Michigan. Contact one of the SkillsUSA Michigan State Officers, like myself, and we’ll share our thoughts as to how you can help to make a difference. Contact your federal and state representatives and tell them you’re tired of seeing jobs go to other states or countries, we need these jobs here in Michigan. You want them to focus on additional funding, like California that will help to make a difference in quality of work life for many Michiganders.

I’m glad to be able to help make a difference.

Looking for a bright future? Join SkillsUSA and get the competence and confidence you need to get one these higher paying skilled jobs. Michigan needs you!

The holidays are widely recognized as a time to give and share experiences with loved ones and the members of your community. It is known as a time where friends, family, and communities can build stronger bonds and assemble as a whole instead of individuals. This is why community service can have an extraordinarily positive impact in the way the community functions and the relationships of the people who reside there. SkillsUSA believes in community service and helping others to help yourself.

There are many ways to volunteer. For example, during the holiday season, the most common places to volunteer are soup kitchens or homeless shelters. There are also opportunities to volunteer for companies such as The Salvation Army, Toys for Tots, The American Red Cross, The Angel Tree, and countless others organizations that allow ordinary citizens to spread the holiday spirit year round to the less fortunate people in their community.

• The Salvation Army accepts a plethora of volunteers to assist in fundraisers throughout the year, providing clothes and other necessities to the elderly, the homeless, and many other citizens who are struggling.

• Toys for Tots is a company that allows anyone to give gifts to a child whose family may be unable to provide gifts for their children during the holiday season. All the volunteer needs to do is simply buy a gift and deliver it to the drop off point nearest to them.

• The American Red Cross was developed to provide more for our troops, people in need and people with various medical conditions. They offer a multitude of opportunities to give back to the community including vaccinating a child in need, delivering phone cards to our troops, and even provide a home for people who have been affected by a serious disaster.

• The Angel Tree allows prisoners to provide gifts for their children during the holiday season when they don’t have a chance to do so otherwise. This is important to allow prisoners to show their children that they love them no matter the circumstance.

All of these opportunities are local and promote selflessness in order to help the people in need. Volunteering is not only beneficial for the recipients of the act, but also for the volunteers themselves. It can establish selflessness early on, creating a happier life not only for them, but for the people that they continue to help as well.

As you start 2018, ask yourself this one simple question: how can I help someone in need this year?

Volunteering is not only beneficial for the recipients of the act, but also for the volunteers themselves. It can establish selflessness early on, creating a happier life not only for them, but for the people that they continue to help as well.

As you start 2018, ask yourself this one simple question: how can I help someone in need this year?
If you’re looking for an inspiring organization to join, SkillsUSA is for you. Did you know that SkillsUSA has supporters like Mike Rowe, Harley Davidson, and Mercedes-Benz and many more others. SkillsUSA is an amazing association to become a part of and that many people have joined. SkillsUSA alone has 18,000 chapters across the country and 53 state and territorial associations, having a total of almost 400,000 yearly members. The organization encourages millions of students across the nation with its highly developed approach to cultivating young leaders for industry. SkillsUSA was fabricated in 1965, generated by scholars and educators who placed great importance on their occupations and really wanted to build more leaders in their chosen trade through training.

SkillsUSA produces opportunities to properly prepare students with industry standard technique, trainings, leadership opportunity, and contests that prove to be platforms for advancement. The perks of SkillsUSA are limitless and range from students acquiring full ride scholarships to some of the most sought after colleges in America to legitimizing students with serviceable skills that will support them to start the career they crave for and a great start on a path to a very favorable future.

SkillsUSA has transformed many students in a sizeable way, it has helped boost their assurance levels in their chosen skill and in molding them into a great leader and workers. Not only does our organization create opportunities but is active in neighborhoods. SkillsUSA chapters take out time to serve their community, rather it be helping local shelters to volunteering at local retirement homes as well.

I believe that SkillsUSA offers great opportunities and insight for any student willing to gain knowledge and to step up to the challenge. I firmly encourage you to join our organization. Every student should be prepared for the workforce and SkillsUSA does an amazing job at preparing students for the future. By joining SkillsUSA, you are making the action to making a finer life ahead. With the guidance of SkillsUSA, the possibilities are boundless. Looking for the chance to be challenged? Then determining where to go is easy, if you’re searching for a chance to widen your skills and assets to make it to your goal the decision is easy. SkillsUSA is the place for you to be. SkillsUSA!

What an honor to become a State Officer to represent the State of Michigan. Here are some of the things that must be done. First, be PRE-PARED by filling out the application thoroughly before February 15, 2018. So, get started Now!

You must be dedicated to the SkillsUSA process. You must possess skills such public speaking, being professional always in and out of school while being a state officer, being able to work with a team and being responsible to be at the places on time. (Ms. Brown, your State Director, always says 10 minutes before time). You must also volunteer as a state officer for at least one of the activities as a State Officer volunteer.

Discuss with your parents first. The reason is they must be able to decide to get you to and from the events. Then there is your advisor, your employer to see if you can have certain days off, and the principal to discuss the dates of your absences.

There are several responsibilities as a State Officer which includes CTSO Workshop in May 19-21, 2018. (3 days) At this event the students will be trained in writing introductions and perform speeches in front of your peers and others, know the duties of the organization, public speaking, setting goals and the determination of state officer positions. On July 17-19, 2018, state officers will be participating in the State Officer Meeting to prepare for the Fall Leadership Conference and promote SkillsUSA to our state legislators. (3 days)

Participate in the Fall Leadership Conference where the State Officers present the topics for the event. (2 days) Participate in the State Officer Planning meeting in January 2019. (3 days). The state officers will plan the State Conference.

Preside at the SkillsUSA Michigan State Leadership and Skills Conference in April 5-7, 2019. (5 days)

Represent SkillsUSA Michigan in official dress, obtain Level 1 in the Professional Development Program (PDP), make a monthly posting on the SkillsUSA Michigan Facebook page, write at least two articles for the Michigan newsletter “Envision Tomorrow Today with SkillsUSA” and maintain a minimum 2.5 grade point average.

The election process will be to complete the application, gather all the supporting documents and send them with your application. You will receive a confirmation letter if you are accepted.

At the State Conference in April 20-22, 2018, you are to volunteer for either Friday or Saturday. On Friday, you will take the SkillsUSA State Officer Candidate Knowledge Test, be interviewed by the State Nominating Committee at the HQ hotel. At the Opening Session you will out find if you were selected to run for the office.

On Saturday, you will campaign for office 1 hour before the Delegate Meeting. At the Delegate Meeting in the afternoon you will give a one-minute campaign speech of why you think you should be a state officer, answer a problematic question (Given by the State Director, even the State Officer Coordinator does not know what it is), attend the orientation meeting for new state officers, and practice for the Installation Ceremony on Sunday.

On Sunday at the Awards Ceremony (if elected), will be installed as a new State Officer, receive a state officer pin and close the Awards Ceremony with the current State Officers.

So, what are your plans. Are you ready to represent the SkillsUSA organization and become a SkillsUSA State Officer? Apply Now!
Thinking about running for State Office? Around this time last year, I was preparing to run for a State Office. I left the 2016 Fall Leadership Conference in Lansing thinking “I can do this myself one day!”. However, I still had a long way to go before coming a State Officer, let alone State President.

If you are preparing to run for a 2018-2019 State Office, please take my tips into consideration, they may improve your chances come April 2018:

- Decide why you want to run. Being a State Officer requires dedication, hard work, and time. You must love to help others and you must always uphold SkillsUSA to its highest integrity. After all, you are representing over 4,700 SkillsUSA Michigan members.

- Start working on your speech. When writing your speech, state why you want to be an Officer, what you will do in office, and why people should vote for you. For example, “My name is Keyontae Johnson, I am a team player and a leader. If you elect me as State Officer, I will recruit members online and in my community.” See, your speech does not have to be the next “I Have A Dream.” Make it personal, that way memorizing it will be easier and you will not worry about forgetting your lines. How can you forget about how awesome of a person you are?

- Have fun! Campaigning is always exciting when you have people who genuinely want to see you win. For the sake of having an affordable budget, pass out candy and a piece of paper with your name on it. A sweet treat and a sweet speech wins every time. Take it from me, I passed out peppermints and key shaped paper that said “Keyontae Johnson for State Officer. ‘The Key to Success.’”

Your application for 2018-2019 State Office is due February 15, 2018 and can be found on our web site at www.miskillsusa.org.
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.

Marquee Sponsor
Michigan Department of Talent and Economic Development
Michigan Talent Investment Agency
Michigan Advanced Technician Training

American Sponsors
Lowe’s
U.S. Army

3M Automotive Aftermarket Division
AAA of Michigan
Access Business Group
ACMC
Advanced Technologies Consultants, Inc.
Aerotek Inc.
Air National Guard
AIS Construction Equipment
Akao Nobel
All Day Interactive LLC
Alpen Rose
Altman Contractors, Inc.
Altra Products
American Speed Co.
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel
Ann Arbor Welding Supply
APEX Controls, Inc.
Architectural Resources LLC
Art Institute of Michigan
Associated General Contractors
AVI
Axtalan Engineering, Inc.
BAC Local 2
Baker College
Baker College of Flint
Baker College of Jackson
Baker College of Muskegon
Baker College of Owosso
Bay College
Benzo Insurance Agency
Bongero Construction, Inc.
Booker Page Design
Boone Consultants
Bosch
Bound Tree Medical
Brenner Electric LLC
Bricklayers & Masons Union
Bryan Engineering
Capital Area New Sales
Bumax
Camcra Inc.
CAPA Certified
Capital Area Michigan Works!
Carden Construction Company
Car-O-Liner Co.
CEI – Community Mental Health Authority
Central Power Systems
Chef Martell’s Restaurant
Chief Architect, Inc.
Children’s Museum
Chrysler
CISCO Systems
Clausing Industrial
Cleary University
CND
Coldwell Banker AIS Schmidt
Collison Repair Education Foundation
Commercial Tool & Die
Community Schools in Schools
Culinary Institute of Michigan – Port Huron
Custom Design & Build, Inc.
DADA Education Foundation
Dave Knapp Ford
Davenport University
Delcam
Detroit College
Denken Engineered Electric, Inc.
Detroit Creative Group

Professional Sponsors
Ferris State University
SolidWorks

Leader Sponsors
Advanced Technician Consultants, Inc.
DASI Solutions

Trainee Sponsor
SOPAC International (The Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals in Business)

Association Sponsors
Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan
Michigan Construction
SME

Precision Machined Products
Protége Game Studios, LLC
Purity Gas
Rational USA
Ray Laethem Buick GMC
Red Wagon Motors
Reed CAD Inc.
Regis Corporation
Riolo Creative Engineering
Robert Lipka Architect PC
Rockford Fire Department
Rocks and Robots LLC
Sata Spray Equipment
Schoolcraft College
SGK Architecture
Smash Salon
Snap-On
Society of Manufacturing Engineers
Sound Of Signal
South Park Welding
Specialty Graphic Imaging Association
Spectrum Health
St Clair County Sheriff Dept
St. Clair County Community College
Stampede Die and Engineering
State Farm
Steelcase
Steelman Welding, Inc.
Steve L. Lucchini Inc.
Tammy Taylor Nails
Tasty Layers Custom Cakes
Technical Education Magazine
The Art Institutes
The Crown Group
The Culinary Institute of America
The Hair Shop
The Next Generation Press
Toastmasters
Tough Dog Solutions
Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc.
Trillium Technologies
U.SA 174
UA Local 174
UA Local 333
Uniform Advantage
United Way
Universal Forest Products, Inc.
Universal Technical Institute
University of Northwestern Ohio
USA Financial
Virtually for You Business Solutions
Washenaw Community College
Wauget Electrical Service
Wayne State University
WBFF 88.1 FM, The Biff
Weir Construction
West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology
West Michigan Mechanical Contractors

Ann
West Michigan Precision Metalforming Association
West Michigan Works
Western Michigan University
Workforce Ready System
Workforce Development Agency
Ypsilanti Auto Parts & Paint

Thank You!
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.

• Women: School-logo collared shirt, dress pants or skirt no shorter than 2” above the knee, skin-tone seamless hose, and close toed dress shoes OR white collared shirt, black pants or skirt no shorter than 2” above the knee, skin-tone seamless hose, and close toed dress shoes.
• Men: School-logo collared shirt, dress pants, dress socks, and dress shoes OR white collared shirt, black pants, black socks, and 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 2018 Technical Standards for the National competition clothing requirements for your contest.

• Women: White collared shirt, black pants or skirt no shorter than 2” above the knee, skin-tone seamless hose, and close toed dress shoes OR appropriate National competition clothing.
• Men: White collared shirt, black pants, black socks, and dress shoes OR appropriate National competition clothing.

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.

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: wda-mat2@michigan.gov • 1-888-522-0103
Undergraduate Programs

Apparel, Textiles and Merchandising
Applied Technology
Aviation
Business, Management, Marketing, and Technology
Communication Technology
Computer Engineering Technology
Construction Management
Electronic Engineering Technology
Hotel & Restaurant Management
Information Assurance
Interior Design
Mechanical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering Technology
Military Science and Leadership
Paralegal Studies
Product Design and Development
Simulation, Animation, and Gaming
Technology Management

For more information visit www.emich.edu/cot or call 734.487.8659