

## Caitlin O'Donnell

2015 – 2016 State President, SkillsUSA PA Advisor, Welding Instructor

It is the most amazing feeling to know that something I started as a high school student imprinted so heavily on my adult life. Hi, I'm Caitlin O'Donnell, the Welding Instructor and SkillsUSA Advisor at the Franklin County Career & Technology Center. Back to my roots where I sat as a student in the same school and shop, I'm now teaching young adults the world of welding. I started my SkillsUSA journey in 2013 as a student and continued until I graduated in 2016. I then reconnected when I started teaching Welding in 2022.

It all began for me as a freshman in high school. Both of my parents have been CTE instructors for 15 plus years, very involved with FFA & SkillsUSA. It was always a dream of mine to be in SkillsUSA, but never did I think I would be able to conquer those dreams with honors with my dad's help. I competed in OCC competition my freshman and sophomore year, making it to Nationals both times. My sophomore and junior year, I was a District 5 Leadership Conference Officer, and then ran to be a PA State Officer in 2015. I proudly received the SkillsUSA PA State President role for 2015-2016.

My greatest accomplishment in life aside from my family, is becoming the 2015-2016 PA State President. Although that will always rank high on my achievements list, a close second would be going to Nationals for OCC and being a part of the Central Region Leadership Conferences. For many, Nationals is the first time on a plane, cool adventures in a big city, and forever memories. I also was able to open the eyes of my youngest sister, who also became a state officer. Looking back at all the amazing people and unforgettable memories along the way, I can only think that the best way to give back is by helping students. Helping students get the chance to experience the same opportunities through competition and leadership. To create a bond through an organization that is like family and build upon them for many more years and students to come.



Never stop believing  
in yourself and be  
the best version of  
you every day!

