



FRIDAY FLASH



» Nominate a Student for the Skills Jam Docuseries

We are excited to announce that SkillsUSA has partnered with the [Skilled Careers Coalition](#) to produce Skills Jam — a docuseries that follows SkillsUSA students on their journeys to the SkillsUSA Championships, part of our National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta. Here are some of the credentials we're looking for in applicants:



- High school students only
- Highly skilled students with the anticipation of doing well at state competitions
- Able to discuss their SkillsUSA journey and passion for their craft confidently and comfortably in front of a camera

The docuseries will focus on competitors with skills that are pertinent to the entertainment industry. However, students don't need to be interested in a career within the entertainment industry to participate. For more information and a full list of the 29 SkillsUSA competitions that apply to this project, [visit the Skills Jam page on our website](#).

Do you know of an excellent student to nominate for the Skills Jam video series? [Submit your nomination form](#) by **March 24**.

» Final Call to Join “The SkillsUSA Advantage” Report Webinar

Join other advisors and stakeholders on March 21 at 3:30 p.m. ET for a webinar on the [new “SkillsUSA Advantage” report](#), which highlights how SkillsUSA experiences create purpose, passion and skill in every student. SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis and Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Ricardo Romanillos will discuss the report's findings that SkillsUSA members consistently outperform peers who are not enrolled in career and technical student organizations (CTSOs). Attendees will receive resources, including two digital reports and a PowerPoint deck to help you share this information with school administrators, community leaders and others as you advocate for SkillsUSA and career and technical education. [Register by March 19](#) and participate in the session to be eligible for door prizes.

» College Grants Available from the ECMC Foundation

[Takeoff: Institutional Innovations for College Men of Color](#) is a project funded by ECMC Foundation and led by the USC Race and Equity Center. It invites community colleges nationwide to submit proposals for

one of 12 funding and support opportunities. Through this partnership, the USC Race and Equity Center will subgrant and provide technical support to colleges leading innovations that advance postsecondary outcomes for men of color. Each participating college will receive \$75,000 to fund their existing or aspiring efforts to support men of color over the course of two academic years. Applications close **April 10 at 11:59 p.m. PT.**

»» College Gable Grants from Lowe's

The Lowe's Foundation has launched Gable Grants: a commitment to preparing the next generation of skilled tradespeople. Through the Gable Grants program, the Lowe's Foundation will provide \$50 million over the next five years to community and technical colleges and community-based nonprofit organizations. Those funds will help prepare 50,000 people for skilled trades careers. This program will provide grantees with funding for two years, helping develop a community of skilled tradespeople. Lowe's is looking for community and technical colleges working to increase the number of young and diverse people in the workforce, especially from underrepresented and rural communities. Lowe's is currently accepting [unrestricted grant applications](#) from community and technical colleges through **April 10**. An informational webinar with the newly appointed Lowe's Foundation Director Betsy Conway will be held on [March 22](#).

»» Architectural Drafting Scholarship Opportunity

SkillsUSA members in the 11th and 12th grades enrolled in an architectural drafting program are encouraged to apply for the Larry Rash Memorial Scholarship through SkillsUSA. It is a \$2,500 scholarship award to support the recipient in continuing architectural drafting studies at the college or postsecondary institution of their choice. Eligible SkillsUSA members are encouraged to [apply by April 1](#). For questions, email [Megan Flinn](#).

[Learn more about additional SkillsUSA scholarships.](#)

»» Focus Students on Safety

The CareerSafe National Youth Safety Video Contest challenges students to create a two-minute video demonstrating workplace safety. Send submissions to CareerSafe by **April 30**. The winning students will receive a SkillsUSA prize pack and a scholarship of up to \$2,500, and the winning school will receive a prize of up to \$5,000. For more information and to submit your entry, [visit the CareerSafe website](#).

»» Seeking Musical Talent to Perform National Anthem at NLSC

Do you have a musical gift to share with the SkillsUSA community? If so, apply to perform the national anthem at the opening session of SkillsUSA's National Leadership & Skills Conference this June. The chosen performer will be offered complimentary conference registration if their sole purpose of attendance is to perform the national anthem. [Apply by 5 p.m. ET on Friday, April 28](#). For questions, contact [Joey Baker](#).

»» Earn Recognition and Presidential Honors

SkillsUSA will recognize advisors, students and registered alumni for their community service through the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA). To qualify, SkillsUSA members must submit a record of their service hours. With SkillsUSA's focus on community service, you may have already met the

requirements. For details on how to apply, [visit the website](#). Applications must be received by **April 1**. For questions, contact [Megan Flinn](#).

»» Plan Now for SkillsUSA National Signing Day on May 4

On May 4, [SkillsUSA National Signing Day](#) will celebrate high school seniors and college/postsecondary students who have chosen to pursue careers as professionals in the skilled trades. SkillsUSA chapters are encouraged to host a Signing Day event and invite business partners, school administrators, teachers, elected officials, SkillsUSA alumni, family and friends to honor graduating seniors as they sign “letters of intent” for a job offer, apprenticeship or advanced technical training. Early bird registration opened **March 13** and runs through **April 3**. Registration closes **April 21**.



National Signing Day application-based opportunities

- Students can [apply for a \\$1,000 scholarship](#) (25 to be awarded during the March 13-April 3 application period).
- Signing Day supply bundles valued at \$500 will be awarded to 10 schools (schools must register five or more students and complete the [supply bundle application](#) by April 3 to be eligible).
- [Signing Day school grants](#) of \$250 will be awarded to 50 schools to enhance their event (schools must register five or more students to be eligible).

Chapter opportunities

- The first 50 chapters that register five or more students by April 3 will receive a Signing Day Welcome package with a poster, a vinyl NSD podium sign and 35 Signing Day certificates with sleeves.
- The first ten schools that register five or more students by April 3 will receive a large step-and-repeat banner and a tablecloth with the SkillsUSA logo, the Signing Day logo and the school's name.

Early registrant opportunities

- First 500 registrants receive Signing Day baseball caps.
- First 250 advisors who register five or more students receive a \$50 Lowe's gift card.
- Registrants will receive Signing Day table runners (while supplies last).

Advisors, check out the digital [Signing Day toolkit](#) to help plan your event and details on how to apply for these incentives. Learn more on the [Signing Day](#) webpage.

»» The SkillsUSA Store – Cluster Lapel Pins

Show your pride in your technical skills with a new [Career Cluster Lapel Pin](#). The 14 lapel pin options represent a wide variety of career pathways, from Agriculture and Natural Resources to Transportation Distribution and Logistics. Also showcased is the [SkillsUSA Career Cluster T-Shirt Collection](#), corresponding with the industries on the pin. Wear your career today!



»» NLSC 2023 Courtesy Corps Members Needed

SkillsUSA needs 120 or more National Courtesy Corps (NCC) members to support the 2023 National Leadership & Skills Conference. This much-appreciated group supports the technical committees and the overall conference experience, and it's a great way for students to network with industry partners and SkillsUSA students from across the nation. NCC members receive free registration plus housing, local transportation, meals and entertainment. NCC participants are housed at the Georgia Tech Woodruff North Residence Hall in Atlanta. Advisors must supervise their participating students. NCC candidates should seek approval of their [state SkillsUSA director](#). For eligibility requirements, visit the [National Courtesy Corps](#) web page. For questions, contact [Tracy Whitehead](#). The deadline for [nominations](#) is **May 16**. Candidate status notification will be sent to each NCC nominee by **May 24**. This email will include an acceptance form if a position on Courtesy Corps is available along with conference attendee information.