



DODIE AMIGH ~ State Officer, Teacher/Advisor, Board President, State Director

I was 15 years old when I wore the red coat for the first time, but I was 11 the first time I saw my sister, Wendy, put on hers. I was transcended as I listened to her tell stories about trips, the friendships she made, and the empowerment that appeared on her face. I knew I would one day wear the red coat too. I was going to make her proud.

In ninth grade, I toured the Altoona Area Vocational Technical School – now the Greater Altoona CTC. We met with Wendy’s former VICA advisor, and he asked, “Do you still know the Pledge?” Without hesitation, she recited the Pledge word for word and that look of empowerment returned once again. Years had passed, but she still felt it in her soul and that night she made me memorize it. The following year, when I attended my first States, I began to understand the words, the meaning, the empowerment. VICA changed my life, and it’s been part of me ever since.

Although my personal accomplishments in the organization felt incredible, it was when I became a teacher, and my students began to accomplish their goals that my feelings for VICA elevated to a new height! To mentor and train my students for greatness and then watch them meet the goals we set together was far more exhilarating than winning myself. They humbled me with their love and the comradery we created as a team.

Ironically, when my daughter was 11, she wore her first red coat alongside my husband and I. He was also a SkillsUSA Advisor. She felt it too, and so began her journey. We soared with pride when her and her amazing team won gold at Nationals. I didn’t think it could get any better than that, but truth be told, and she understands, all my “kids” in this organization fill my heart with immense joy when they find that connection with SkillsUSA. They don’t need gold; they just need to discover the empowerment that comes with getting out of your comfort zone and expanding your mind, talent, self-esteem, and love for servant leadership. SkillsUSA is my family. Together we celebrate, laugh, cry, fight, and forgive all in the name of changing lives. There is nothing like it, and I feel blessed everyday for putting on my first red coat and never taking it off. The lifelong friendships and experiences are immeasurable.

Don’t miss this opportunity to be the best version of yourself. We are here to help guide you through the moments of celebration, the inevitable disappointments along the way, and the discovery of your own empowerment. Together as one. TEAM PA



#Blessed



*1987
to Present*

