

Advisor Update – 06/09/20

## **New Executive Director Named**

At the May meeting of the SkillsUSA South Carolina Board of Directors, the Board unanimously approved Madison Kenney as the next SkillsUSA South Carolina Executive Director.

Madison Kenney joined SkillsUSA in 2014 as a student. Since joining, she has been the 2015-2016 South Carolina State Officer President, an Alumni Coordinator and State Trainer since 2016. Madison has also worked as a Leverage Facilitator at the National Conference for three years, 2017-2019. Madison has also served as the SkillsUSA Alumni representative on the SkillsUSA South Carolina Board of Directors.

Madison holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of South Carolina. In her free time, she coaches gymnastics and was a part of the University of South Carolina's gymnastics team.

“I am humbled to serve as the next State Director for South Carolina SkillsUSA. SkillsUSA has made a huge impact on my life, and I'm excited to be a part of the change it is making.”

During the end of May and June, the current Executive Director, Rick Kalk, will work with Madison to provide a smooth changeover. Madison begins her official duties of Executive Director on July 1, 2020 as Rick transitions back into retirement.

## **SkillsUSA South Carolina State Officer Team Installed**

On June 9, your 2020-2021 State Officers were installed to serve as your student leadership team. The teams consists of students from four school chapters. The officer team includes:

- Daniela Alvarez - Enoree Career Center (Greenville)
- Elizabeth Brooker - Heyward Career & Technology Center (Columbia)
- Raymond Jedlicka - Center for Advanced Technical Studies (Chapin)
- Charles Jones - Heyward Career & Technology Center (Columbia)
- Tamia Smith - Donaldson Career Center (Greenville)
- Kate Stodden - Center for Advanced Technical Studies (Chapin)
- Megan vanVollenhoven - Center for Advanced Technical Studies (Chapin)

An archive video of the ceremony is posted at: <https://www.scskillsusa.org/virtual-state-officer-election-proc>

## **SkillsUSA South Carolina Announces Chapters of Excellence**

*Honored as State's Top SkillsUSA Programs for 2020*

SkillsUSA South Carolina recently recognized schools for their participation in the SkillsUSA Chapter Excellence Program for the exceptional integration and application of personal,

workplace and technical skills in this school year's SkillsUSA chapter activities. SkillsUSA is one of the nation's largest individual membership student organizations.

The SkillsUSA Chapter Excellence Program promotes the intentional learning of personal skills, workplace skills and technical skills grounded in academics as outlined in the SkillsUSA Framework for student development. Achievement is measured by the effectiveness of students' efforts in implementing essential workplace skills including personal responsibility, integrity, work ethic and organization in chapter activities. The hands-on approach of this program actualizes the SkillsUSA mission of empowering members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. SkillsUSA is an educational opportunity for students enrolled in over 130 occupational areas integrated into the technical curriculum at our nation's career and technical education programs at the middle school, high school and college/postsecondary levels.

"The Chapter Excellence program represents the highest level in chapter achievement and community involvement," said Chelle Travis, executive director of SkillsUSA. "These students represent our future skilled workforce and will be future leaders in their communities. This is a tremendous honor for each school and validates these outstanding SkillsUSA programs as some of the best in the nation."

#### **SkillsUSA South Carolina 2020 Chapters of Excellence**

SkillsUSA chapters in the state achieving essential standards of excellence are honored as a SkillsUSA Quality Chapter. Chapters recognized for going beyond basic requirements receive bronze, silver and gold awards. The 2020 SkillsUSA Chapters of Distinction include:

##### ***Gold***

***The Center for Advanced Technical Studies, Chapin***

##### ***Silver***

***J. Harley Bonds Career Center, Greer***

##### ***Quality***

***Heyward Career Center, Columbia***

Chapters receiving the gold award define excellence and are also eligible for selection as a national Model of Excellence. These chapters each receive a classroom banner and a lapel pin for the advisor. A panel of judges will evaluate gold-level schools based on their goals, plan of action, results, evaluation and SkillsUSA Framework integration. Eight schools will be recognized for each component of the Framework in the areas of personal, workplace or technical skills. These 24 schools will then participate in a competitive process that includes interviews by business and industry partners. From the top 24 schools, only three national Models of Excellence programs will be named: one school for personal skills, one school for workplace skills and one school for technical skills. **The Center for Advanced Technical Studies, Chapin, has been selected as one of the 24 Models of Excellence programs** and will compete

for this national honor. The three programs selected as the national winners will be announced on Friday, June 26 during the virtual recognitions.

## **SkillsUSA South Carolina Advisor of the Year Advances**

*South Carolina Advisor Named Region II Advisor of the Year*

Joseph Chapmen, Law Enforcement Instructor and Lead Advisor at the Center for Advanced Technical Studies in Chapin has been selected as the 2020 SkillsUSA Region 2 Advisor of the Year. His dedication to the organization and his many accomplishments as a career and technical educator are evident and he has been selected as the overall winner for our region among all eligible candidates.

SkillsUSA Advisor of the Year finalists are our best advocates for the integration of the SkillsUSA Framework in CTE education. As a SkillsUSA instructor, you have successfully supported intentional, student-led learning and chapter activities as outlined in the Chapter Excellence Program and have prepared career-ready graduates.

To select the national Advisor of the Year, the five regional finalists will be interviewed by a committee comprised of business and industry, state directors and members of the national board of directors. All five finalists will be recognized, and the SkillsUSA Advisor of the Year will be announced, during a Virtual Recognition Session on Friday, June 26.

All SkillsUSA advisors are very special people who make a difference in the lives of students every day. You are the best of the best, and without teachers like you — dedicated to delivering the mission of SkillsUSA — we could not succeed in preparing America's future skilled workforce.

## **SkillsUSA South Carolina Bylaws Changes**

Throughout the past year, your SkillsUSA South Carolina Board of Directors has worked diligently to address updating the Constitution and Bylaws of the organizations to more closely align with those of the national office and other states. In doing so, the board has approved changing from a single Constitution and Bylaws document to two complimentary Bylaws documents and a set of established policies. The board approved these changes earlier in the year and recommended that they go into effect on July 1, 2020. In making these changes, there are additional positions on the board for Business and Industry, Post-Secondary and Alumni representatives. The updates also change the positions open to advisors to one (1) from each of the four (4) regions and created three (3) new At-Large positions.

The documents by be reviewed at the following links:

[SkillsUSA South Carolina, Inc Bylaws](#)

[SkillsUSA South Carolina Bylaws \(Student Bylaws\)](#)

[SkillsUSA Policies](#)

## **From the SkillsUSA National Office**

### **Official Statement From SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis on SkillsUSA's Commitment to Our Members**

Dear SkillsUSA Family,

The painful events of the last two weeks — which represent a far longer history of social injustice to members of the Black community — should remind each of us of our shared responsibility to stand against the cruel and debilitating impact of racism and discrimination in all its many forms. To our SkillsUSA members who are part of the Black community, your lives matter, and we stand with you in solidarity and support.

I want you to know that I fully embrace my responsibility as the leader of this organization to provide a safe, empathetic, respectful, and supportive SkillsUSA work and learning environment for each one of you every day.

SkillsUSA has been inspiring positive life changes for members since 1965, but sometimes societal situations like those we're now witnessing call for a renewed commitment and expression of our core values. Those values form the foundation of SkillsUSA's mission: to empower our members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. That empowerment begins when our members know — beyond a shadow of a doubt — what the organization they're a part of stands for. That's why it's our responsibility to make it irrefutably clear that SkillsUSA utterly rejects racism in all its forms.

We reject — and stand against — any behaviors that fuel the vicious and self-defeating cycle of discrimination, hatred, oppression and violence, as well as practices that perpetuate systemic and structural inequities.

Making that position clear is where the empowerment begins, but it continues through our programs and curricula. An essential element of the SkillsUSA Framework, for example, is multicultural sensitivity and awareness. We must make it clear these are indeed “essential elements” of our core value system as an organization. As builders of tomorrow's workforce and shapers of our future citizens and communities, it is our responsibility to ensure that our actions are intentional in creating an environment where the seeds of racism and discrimination cannot find fertile ground in which to grow.

My commitment to you, our members, is that we will continue to proudly embrace that responsibility. Further, we will commit ourselves to identify areas where we can improve as an organization, from how the national office operates internally to the types of programs and experiences we deliver to our students and advisors. We will hold ourselves accountable for

ensuring — through actions, not just words — that we are living up to our diversity and inclusion statement, which is as follows:

“In keeping with a tradition of respect for the individuality of our members and our role in workforce development, SkillsUSA strives to ensure inclusive participation in all of our programs, partnerships and employment opportunities. SkillsUSA’s diversity encompasses differences in ethnicity, gender, language, age, sexual orientation, religion, socio-economic status, physical and mental ability, thinking styles, experience and education. We strive to make all members, partners and employees feel welcomed and valued in the SkillsUSA family. SkillsUSA believes in treating all people with respect and dignity. We want SkillsUSA to be regarded as a ‘membership organization of choice’ — one that encourages all individuals to be involved.”

True change will only come when, one-by-one, we accept our responsibilities to create positive environments of inclusion and support wherever we are and whenever we can. I assure you that SkillsUSA will live up to its responsibility, and we welcome your ideas and suggestions along the way. With your help, we will continue to change lives for the better as we build a diverse, highly skilled workforce all Americans can be proud of and communities where we all feel safe, empowered, valued, and respected.

Chelle

## **“SkillsUSA Grad Night 2020” Archived Video Now Available**

It was an exciting moment for the SkillsUSA family on Wednesday, May 27, when we held a virtual celebration to highlight all of SkillsUSA’s 2020 graduates.



Hosted by four of our talented 2019-20 SkillsUSA national officers, the 30-minute online event streamed live on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram,. The event featured music, messages of inspiration and a keynote address from Snap-on Incorporated Chairman and CEO Nick Pinchuk. Also speaking were SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis and SkillsUSA Board of Directors President Jennifer Worth.

Pinchuk spoke about SkillsUSA and the need for essential skills and essential workers now more than ever: “You see, the capabilities you learn at SkillsUSA are those that are needed to support our country in the turbulence. Now eventually, hopefully soon, the skies will clear and the virus will go away, and we'll return to our normal life. And historians at that time will start documenting this, period and when they do, they will write about the contributions of the workers and their skills and how they delivered us and kept us afloat in the flood. They will write about you and SkillsUSA. This is your time.”

If you missed this great speech and the live event, you can view the archived version on our YouTube or Facebook page and celebrate the success of our SkillsUSA members. Be sure to share the links, too!

**YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/xV7-tqk67jc>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/SkillsUSA/videos/705104440250268/>

## **NLSC Virtual Recognition Session**

Join us virtually on June 26, 2020, for the NLSC Virtual Recognition Session. This year's session will give us an opportunity to be apart "together" while we recognize key supporters and leaders in SkillsUSA. We will host three 30-minute segments at 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. EDT, during which we will recognize our Pin and T-shirt Design Challenge winners and present awards for Advisor of the Year, Outstanding Educator, President's Volunteer Service Award, Student2Student, Alumni, Honorary Life, and Chapters of Excellence. We will also meet some of our sponsors and hear a retiring address from Jarod Harris, SkillsUSA's national high school parliamentarian. Finally, we will announce the 2020-21 SkillsUSA national officer team. Look for a schedule and more information soon about how to participate and watch.

## **Free E-Learning Resources from Klein tools**

Klein Tools, a SkillsUSA partner, is providing new content for e-learning. They have developed a Tools 101 video for instructors and students on tool selection and maintenance. The videos are broken down into four segments.

To access the videos, you'll need to first complete the short form here, after which, you'll be directed to the content: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/Tools101\\_2020](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Tools101_2020)

## **SkillsUSA Seeks “Essential Skills, Essential Workers” Stories**

Recently, we asked states to share with us which SkillsUSA chapters are building or donating personal protective equipment (PPE) in light of the current pandemic. SkillsUSA is pulling together a few brief stories to highlight those chapters in our publications and social media.

In addition to healthcare stories, we also seek essential workers in fields such as automotive technology, culinary arts, welding, cabling or other areas where CTE skills are supporting communities during the current crisis. If you know of any students, advisors or chapters who are helping in this way, please share those stories and contact information so we can get the details. Photos are also greatly appreciated! Send your materials to Jane Short at [jshort@skillsusa.org](mailto:jshort@skillsusa.org).

## **Essential SkillsUSA Collection from the SkillsUSA Store**

The SkillsUSA Store is working to help showcase the essential nature of SkillsUSA as an organization. Members, advisors, educators and alumni alike should have the utmost pride in their work and should have every opportunity to outwardly express that pride. This summer,

the SkillsUSA Store is introducing a collection of limited-time Essential Skills Essential Workers products, with new exciting options rolling out each week. Follow the @SkillsUSASTore Instagram page for new product alerts and check out the store homepage each week to see what's new!

## **The SkillsUSA Digital Cinema Contest begins on June 22, 2020.**

That's right, the show must go on!

Every SkillsUSA-registered school in the country is encouraged to rally the best of their Digital Cinema students to go head-to-head in competition for major prizes this summer. To participate, register your school for free on SneakOnTheLot.com. Add your students to the class and get started with the "SkillsUSA Digital Cinema Contest 2020" course. Each student will need to complete the course.

A large part of being a great filmmaker is knowing those talented individuals who came before you and being familiar with their work. As part of the contest, students will be asked to make their films in the style of one of the following directors:

- Steven Spielberg (Close Encounters of the Third Kind, E.T., Raiders of the Lost Ark)
- Nora Ephron (You've Got Mail, Sleepless in Seattle, Julie and Julia)
- Alfred Hitchcock (Rope, North by Northwest, Rear Window)

Here's the trick: You don't know which director is going to be chosen. The students must be familiar with each director's style before the contest begins. We have provided three films to watch from each director. They can start this portion of the contest whenever they like. The more you know about these three directors, the better. The chosen director will be announced at 7:00 a.m. PT on June 22.

To see how familiar you are with the chosen director, judges will be looking for camera movement, composition, blocking, lighting, pacing and music. All participants are encouraged to follow all of their state and local laws concerning COVID-19 protection. We want you all to stay safe and obey your local guidelines.

The contest begins on June 22 and will run for an entire week. The contest will end on June 26 at 11:59 p.m. PT. Film uploads must be completed prior to that time. Make sure you do not wait until the last minute to upload your films.

### **Equipment**

Students may use any equipment they can get their hands on. Some students may have access to better equipment than others, but the true test of any great filmmaker is their own level of creativity. We see this over and over in Hollywood. The lack of money, equipment and resources often forces the filmmakers to be more creative. This creativity is what makes a great film. On The flip side, having all the money, equipment and resources often does not make for a

great film, just an expensive bad film. It's not the quality of the camera but rather the creativity of the one behind it that makes the difference. So be creative and win the day.

### **Prizes**

Over \$20,000 worth of prizes for your filmmaking programs are up for grabs. The prize packages have not been finalized, but as of this writing they are:

#### **1st Place:**

- Lighting gear from LiteGear and Quasar (\$3,000 value)
- Grip equipment from Matthews (\$1000 value)
- A camera (we're talking to several companies now)
- We're talking to even more companies about additional gear
- One teacher grant to Sneak On The Lot 2021 Summer Works (\$5000 value)
- Two student grants to Sneak On The Lot 2021 Summer Workshop (\$7,000 value)
- Three-year subscription to Sneak On The Lot website
- Zoom meeting with USC film professor
- Letters of recommendation from Sneak On The Lot for college applications

#### **2nd Place:**

- One Teacher subscription to Sneak On The Lot for winning school
- Two-year subscription to Sneak On The Lot website
- Letters of recommendation from Sneak On The Lot for college applications

#### **3rd Place:**

- 1-year subscription to Sneak On The Lot website
- Letters of recommendation from Sneak On The Lot for college applications