



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT/ BUSINESS & INDUSTRY Sam Bottum Snap-on Incorporated

VICE PRESIDENT/ BUSINESS & INDUSTRY Maureen Tholen 3M

SECRETARY/REGION 5/ SkillsUSA STATE ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS CHAIR Clay Mitchell California

REGION I Charles Wallace Maryland

REGION II Bryan Upton Alabama

REGION III Robert Kornack Ohio

REGION IV Becky Warren Kansas

ACTE LIASON Danny Camden Indiana

ADVANCE CTE LIASON Sarah Heath Colorado

COLLEGE / POSTSECONDARY Jennifer Worth American Association of Community Colleges

EQUITY REPRESENTATIVE Ricardo Romanillos, Ed.D. NAPE

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY Tony Ambroza Carhartt Inc.

Kira Zdunek Caterpillar Inc. John Kett Insurance Auto Auctions

Jason Scales, Ph.D. Lincoln Electric

Leigh Creech Lowe's Companies Inc.

Cheryl Schaefer State Farm Companies

Holly M. Dieterle Toyota Motor North America

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Chelle Travis



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2021

SkillsUSA Contacts:

Jane Short or Karen Kitzel

703-777-8810

jshort@skillsusa.org or kkitzel@skillsusa.org

24 SkillsUSA Schools Named National Models of Excellence

Honored as 2021's Most Outstanding SkillsUSA Programs

Leesburg, Va. — SkillsUSA has named 24 SkillsUSA schools as Models of Excellence for 2021. The annual program recognizes the exceptional integration of personal, workplace and technical skills into SkillsUSA chapter activities. This is the highest honor bestowed on chapters by SkillsUSA, which is among the largest student organizations for career and technical education.

“Our Models of Excellence represent the very best in chapter achievement and community involvement,” said Chelle Travis, executive director of SkillsUSA. “These students represent America’s future skilled workforce and are future leaders in their local

communities. It is a tremendous honor for these chapters and the recognition validates these outstanding SkillsUSA programs.”

The top 24 SkillsUSA chapters selected as Models of Excellence will be evaluated in June for top honors. A panel of judges will evaluate each of these highest-level schools based on their goals, plan of action, results, evaluation and SkillsUSA Framework integration. Business and industry partners will conduct finalist interviews with students and advisors, and then help select the top three schools to be recognized on June 24 during the National Leadership and Skills Conference Virtual Recognition Session.

The focus of Models of Excellence is student-led activation. These students learn and practice the skills that every employer seeks, including leadership, initiative, communication, teamwork and problem solving by taking the lead on all SkillsUSA activities. Their SkillsUSA instructors take the education of these students to the next level by guiding them, but never doing the work for them, elevating learning from classroom instruction to successful application of skills.

Congratulations to the following schools on being named Models of Excellence:

Apalachee High School (Ga.)
Brooke High School (W.Va.)
Cape Cod Tech (Mass.)
Catawba Valley Community College (N.C.)
Center for Advanced Technical Studies (S.C.)
Central High School (Wyo.)
Deming High School (N.M.)
Dorchester Career & Technology Center (Md.)
Elkhorn Area high School (Wis.)
Forsyth Central High School (Ga.)
Gordon Cooper Technology Center (Okla.)
Greater Lowell Tech High (Mass.)
Indian Valley Vocational Center (Ill.)
Lanier Technical College (Ga.)
Louisville High School (Neb.)
Lynn Vocational Technical Institute (Mass.)
New Madrid County R-I Technical Skills Center (Mo.)
Oak Harbor High School (Wash.)
Oneida Herkimer Madison BOCES CTEC (N.Y.)
Savannah Technical College (Ga.)
Sussex County Tech School (N.J.)
Thomas Jefferson High School (Colo.)
Upper Valley Career Center (Ohio)
Valley Academy for Career and Technology Education (Ariz.)

The Models of Excellence program promotes the intentional learning of personal, workplace and technical skills outlined in the SkillsUSA Framework for student development. Specific characteristics defined within each skill area provide tangible benchmarks for student achievement and chapter programming. Achievement is measured

by student 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. The top three schools receive national recognition and the opportunity to share their stories through SkillsUSA in publications and trainings.

About SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is a nonprofit partnership of education and industry founded in 1965 to strengthen our nation's skilled workforce. Driven by employer demand, SkillsUSA helps students develop necessary personal and workplace skills along with technical skills grounded in academics. This SkillsUSA Framework empowers every student to succeed at work and in life, while helping to close the skills gap in which millions of positions go unfilled. Through SkillsUSA's championships program and curricula, employers have ensured schools are teaching relevant technical skills, and with SkillsUSA's new credentialing process, they can now assess how ready potential employees are for the job. SkillsUSA has more than 372,000 annual members nationwide in high schools, middle schools and colleges, covering over 130 trade, technical and skilled service occupations, and is recognized by the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor as integral to career and technical education. With the addition of our alumni, membership last year was 434,141. We have served more than 14 million members since 1965. For more information: www.skillsusa.org