

From: Tim Lawrence
To: SkillsUSA Active Advisors
Date: January 14, 2010
Subject: New Year Edition Advisor Update

Happy 2010. I hope your holiday break was an enjoyable and a happy time with family and friends. As the new year gets into full swing, I wanted to write and say how much I appreciate all you do and provide you with a few short pieces of information that I hope will be helpful to you and your students.

THE PEOPLE OF HAITI NEED OUR HELP

SkillsUSA is deeply concerned about the Haitian disaster and we encourage our chapters to support efforts that bring quick aid and relief to the Haitian people. The need is so immediate that a national effort or fundraising campaign by SkillsUSA would probably be too late to help those in such desperate need.

Therefore, SkillsUSA's efforts will be directed to national charities and relief agencies that already have programs in place. We strongly urge our chapters and members to support the efforts of The American Red Cross. For information go to <http://newsroom.redcross.org/category/haiti-earthquake-Jan-2010/>

We also believe the "Text 90999 Project" is an appropriate and powerful way for an individual to make a personal contribution immediately to disaster relief efforts in Haiti. Text the word Haiti to 90999 and \$10 will be charged to your phone bill and given to relief projects run through the Red Cross.

Of course local chapters will (and should) have student led efforts to help the victims of this disaster. We are asking for reports from our chapters and state associations on these efforts and will publish these as best practice ideas for other schools to follow. Send your stories by clicking the "Contact Us" link at the top of our Web page at <http://www.skillsusa.org> Thank you for your support. I know our members will step up, as always, to provide service and support to those less fortunate.

MEMBERSHIP

SkillsUSA membership is coming in rapidly and chapters are finding online registration is easier than ever. Remember to check your state deadline and get your membership in to ensure your members are able to enjoy all member benefits, including the opportunity to compete, run for office or serve as a voting delegate. The national deadline is March 2, 2010.

We also encourage all chapter advisors to join SkillsUSA as professional members. This ensures that everyone who supports our program is counted as an official member and receives all mailings. Those not joining on school rosters can join online or download a professional membership application at: <http://www.skillsusa.org/join/materials.shtml> If you need contact information for your state association director, go to <http://skillsusa.org/about/dir4.shtml>

NEW RESOURCE FOR INSTRUCTORS

The newly revised Advisor's Success Kit (ASK) Tools for SkillsUSA Chapter Management is now available. With live links to SkillsUSA's many Web resources, links to a series of online e-learning tutorials, teacher-generated tips, interactive forms to facilitate chapter operations, and sample documents, you'll have what you need to guide your students as they learn to run their SkillsUSA chapter. The development of ASK was sponsored, in part, Newell Rubbermaid. For more information go to <http://www.skillsusa.org/shop/ask.shtml>

SEE PDP AS NEVER BEFORE

All levels of the all-new version of PDP Online are now available. This includes, for the first time online, the SkillsUSA competencies. The SkillsUSA student competencies feature 20 SkillsUSA-related competencies, plus the guidelines for completing the American Degree.

PDP Online is an exciting way for your students to connect to their careers, communities and futures. With content that now matches the latest printed edition, it's a flexible way for students to build the career-enhancement skills they'll need to succeed. For more information and to see a demonstration, go to <http://www.skillsusa.org/educators/pdponline.shtml>

CTE MONTH AND SKILLSUSA WEEK EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

February is Career and Technical Education Month and February 7-13 is SkillsUSA Week. SkillsUSA Week activities are a great way to highlight the good work your state association and local chapters are doing. For SkillsUSA Week ideas, see the Chapter Management section on the SkillsUSA Web site. SkillsUSA offers downloadable public service announcements at: <http://www.skillsusa.org/educators/skillsusaweek.shtml>

On February 10th at 3:00 p.m., SkillsUSA will be holding a live teacher event at the SkillsUSA National Leadership Center. On February 11th at 11:30 a.m., SkillsUSA will be holding a Web conference. Both the event and the Web conference will be held to announce the release of the new ASK: Advisor's Success Kit and the newly updated PDP Online. Attendees at the teacher meeting at the National Leadership Center and those who register in advance for the Web conference will receive a free copy of the new ASK: Advisor's Success kit and other SkillsUSA materials (total value of \$50 or more). I will give a SkillsUSA organization update, and members of the SkillsUSA training team will also update teachers on various SkillsUSA resources.

All state directors and instructors are welcome to attend the teacher meeting and/or participate in the Web conference. To attend the teacher meeting, please RSVP to Niki Clausen at nclausen@skillsusa.org. To participate in the Web conference, go to the following link on February 11 at 11:30 a.m. EST: <http://web.ganconference.com/?meeting=3663486> To dial in for audio, call: 888-222-0475 Attendee Code: 6837807.

ACTE also offers excellent resources related to Career and Technical Education Month, which is celebrated the entire month of February. Go to: <http://www.acteonline.org> for more information.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: NEW DAY FOR OPENING CEREMONY AND OFFICIAL START OF THE SKILLSUSA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Even though SkillsUSA returns to Kansas City June 20-25, 2010 for the 46th annual National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC), the first conference of this decade opens with a new schedule. For the first time ever, our Opening Ceremony and the official opening of the SkillsUSA Championships are being combined. All the excitement of both events will take place on Wednesday, June 23, at 7pm at Kemper Arena. The Champions Festival will be held on Tuesday evening in an exciting new venue. Delegations should still plan to arrive by Monday as the rest of the schedule for the week remains the same.

CALL FOR SKILLSUSA TALENT

Do you have a talented singer in your school who would enjoy a special performance opportunity? SkillsUSA seeks singers for the Opening Ceremony or Awards Ceremony during the 2010 National Conference. Singers may sing a capella or to a pre-recorded instrumental track. Send audition videos on DVD by February 1 to: Heidi Ambrose, 14001 SkillsUSA Way, Leesburg, VA 20176.

HOW GREEN IS YOUR SKILLSUSA PROGRAM?

SkillsUSA is joining many other organizations by "going green," and we've now had our own national Green Team for two years. Surveys of our members indicate that students are environmentally conscious and committed to the principles of environmental stewardship. SkillsUSA is working to create a greener national conference, asking TECHSPO exhibitors to consider eco-friendly booth exhibits and giveaways, offering recycling throughout the convention center and striving to appropriately recycle/donate leftover contest materials and food to reduce waste. We'd also like to hear about local chapter service projects based on eco-friendly procedures, environmental education or sustainability. We are encouraging eco-friendly projects be conducted during the SkillsUSA National Week of Service, and these will be showcased in the future. Please send information on your green initiatives to us, and please forward this information to local chapters. Send information to greenteam@skillsusa.org.

2010 SKILLSUSA UNIVERSITY

We are currently accepting proposals from high-quality presenters of innovative, timely and dynamic educational sessions to be presented at the 2010 SkillsUSA University in Kansas City, Mo. All sessions will take place at the Downtown Marriott or the Kansas City Convention Center on June 23, 24 and 25.

We ask state directors or instructors who would like to present to send e-mails with proposed topics to Deborah Tripp at dtripp@skillsusa.org.

Possible topics: local chapter activities; fund-raising; community service; SkillsUSA program of work success stories; business etiquette; communication skills for students; local industry partnerships, etc. These can be best practices (with a local advisor presenting) or an expert in the subject area. If you do not want to present, but you have suggestions for workshop topics, please feel free to forward them to us.

The deadline for proposals is February 21, 2010. For more information and a Request for Proposal (RFP), go to <http://skillsusa.org/events/skillsuniv.shtml>

CLIFF WEISS ESSAY CONTEST

The Association for Career and Technical Education has announced the topic for the Cliff Weiss Essay contest in memory of former ACTE Senior Director of Communications Cliff Weiss (1951-2004). This year's topic for secondary and postsecondary students is "How is CTE an investment in your future?"

The contest is open to secondary and postsecondary students taking at least one course in CTE. The essays should be between 400-600 words, in Microsoft Word format, one entry per person, and e-mailed by Friday, February 12, 2010. A secondary and postsecondary student winner will each receive an award of \$250 in addition to having their essay published in ACTE's Techniques Magazine.

For complete rules on the contest, please visit <http://www.acteonline.org/essaycontest.aspx> or contact Sabrina Kidwai at skidwai@acteonline.org.

A MESSAGE FROM ACTE

CTSOs are great advocates for career and technical education throughout the year. It is a student's experience in career and technical education programs that brings to life the decisions legislators make regarding CTE.

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) wants to be sure federal legislators make those connections between their decisions and student experiences. ACTE invites students to attend the National Policy Seminar, March 8-10, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington,

Virginia. A special student rate and specific student content will make this a worthwhile event for students to learn how they can better participate in advocacy efforts.

For more information and to register, go to: <http://www.acteonline.org>

That's it for now. Thanks for all you do and I'll write to you again next month.

Tim

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