Dear SkillsUSA Advisor, (2019-2020 #11)

**Item #1: Chapter Excellence Program “Quality Chapter” Status!**

The Chapter Excellence Program (CEP) is the single best way to build a successful SkillsUSA chapter. Congratulations to the following SkillsUSA Maryland chapters for earning “Quality Chapter” status:

**Carver Vocational-Technical High School, Baltimore City**
**Parkside High School, Wicomico County**
**Severna Park High School, Anne Arundel County**
**Somerset County Technical High School**

The following schools are currently working on CEP chapter development:

- Center of Applied Technology South, Anne Arundel County
- Calvert Career and Technology Academy, Calvert County
- Catonsville High School, Baltimore County
- Dulaney High School, Baltimore County
- Dorchester Career and Technology Center, Dorchester County
- Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center, St. Mary’s County
- Edmondson Westside High School, Baltimore City
- Frederick Career and Technology Center, Frederick County
- North Point High School for STI, Charles County
- Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, Charles County
- Southern Garrett High School, Garrett County
- Thomas Edison High School of Technology, Montgomery County
- Western School of Technology and Environmental Science, Baltimore County
- Worcester Technical High School, Worcester County

We encourage all Maryland advisors and members to continue to develop and strengthen their chapters. Every chapter is encouraged to participate in CEP which offers three award levels to recognize program involvement. The first two levels (**Quality Chapter** and **Chapter of Distinction**) are acknowledged by a chapter’s state association and the third level is recognized nationally (**Models of Excellence**). Each level is designed to give chapters a benchmark for success and future improvement, leading to stronger chapters and more involved and prepared students. The more a chapter applies the SkillsUSA Framework, the greater the chance for CEP honors.

To learn more about CEP visit the following web link: [https://www.skillsusa.org/programs/chapter-excellence-program/](https://www.skillsusa.org/programs/chapter-excellence-program/)

**Item #2: Membership Deadline Extension**
If you have students or instructors who would still like to join SkillsUSA Maryland for this membership year we are extending the membership deadline to **February 15, 2020.**

**Please note:** the membership deadline extension does not include students participating in regional competitions. These students must adhere to the regular January 31 membership deadline.

**Item #3: Nominations Open for Honorary Life Membership, Outstanding Career and Technical Educator**

Nominations are open for SkillsUSA’s National Honorary Life Membership and Outstanding Career and Technical Educator. Nominations must be submitted online, and the deadline is **Feb. 15.**

- Honorary Life Membership: [skillsusa.org/membership-resources/awards/honorary-life/](http://skillsusa.org/membership-resources/awards/honorary-life/)
- Outstanding Career and Technical Educator: [skillsusa.org/membership-resources/awards/outstanding-educator-nomination/](http://skillsusa.org/membership-resources/awards/outstanding-educator-nomination/)

If you have questions, please contact Laura Rauch at [lrauch@skillsusa.org](mailto:lrauch@skillsusa.org) or 703-737-0619.

**Item #4: Earn Recognition for Service Through PVSA Honors**

SkillsUSA is a certifying organization of the President’s Volunteer Service Award (PVSA), allowing advisors, student members and registered alumni to earn recognition for community service activities and time spent volunteering.

This award is a presidential honor that recognizes the valuable contributions of volunteers across the country who are answering a national call to serve others through their current activities or lifetime efforts. With SkillsUSA’s focus on community service, advisors and students may already meet the requirements to receive the award. To qualify, SkillsUSA members, advisors or alumni can submit a record of their service hours.

For details on qualifying hours and requirements for submission, visit: [www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/awards/presidents-volunteer-service-award](http://www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/awards/presidents-volunteer-service-award). Applications must be received by **March 31, 2020.**

**Item #5: SkillsUSA Scholarship Opportunities Now Open for Applications**

Applications for several scholarships are now open to benefit SkillsUSA students in pursuit of higher education or certification in their chosen field. Help spread the word so SkillsUSA students can take full advantage of these opportunities:
• SkillsUSA in conjunction with the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) will award four $1,000 scholarships to SkillsUSA members who are also members of NTHS. Two will go to college/postsecondary winners and two will go to high school division winners. Awards will be made directly to an accredited educational institution with an active NTHS chapter. Recipients may only receive one NTHS/SkillsUSA scholarship per lifetime. Deadline for applications is April 1. For more information and to apply: www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/scholarships-financial-aid/national-technical-honor-society/


For additional scholarship information, continually check the website at: www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/scholarships-financial-aid/

Item #6: SkillsUSA Help Is a Phone Call Away

If you or any chapter advisors need assistance with SkillsUSA membership, hotline operators are ready to help you register members, answer questions about starting a new chapter, or provide ideas on how to engage members and strengthen an existing chapter. Operators are available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday (Eastern time). To reach the hotline, call 844-875-4557 or email operators@skillsusa.org. You can also chat online on the membership registration site.

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