Dear SkillsUSA Advisor, (2019-2020 #12)

**Item #1: SkillsUSA National Signing Day is Friday, May 8, 2020**

**Don’t miss this opportunity to have students recognized!** SkillsUSA is encouraging local chapters to host a SkillsUSA National Signing Day event by inviting business partners, school administrators, teachers, elected officials, SkillsUSA alumni, family and friends to honor students signing “letters of intent” for a job offer, apprenticeship or advanced technical training. Event is open to all SkillsUSA high school seniors and college/postsecondary members that are pursuing any of the skilled trades.

**REGISTER:** Registration opens Feb. 24! All students participating must register for the event. Advisors should register on the site too; they’ll gain access to the SkillsUSA National Signing Day Toolkit and all the details for a successful event!

**GET THE SWAG:**
- 3,000 SkillsUSA National Signing Day caps will be given away to the first 100 chapters that have 10 or more students register for National Signing Day by the **Early Bird deadline - April 3.**
- A SkillsUSA National Signing Day table runner will be shipped to each chapter that registers by the deadline, Friday, April 24.

Watch for more information as plans develop. Additional details will be available here: [www.skillsusa.org/events-training/national-signing-day/](http://www.skillsusa.org/events-training/national-signing-day/).

**QUESTIONS?**
SkillsUSA is ready to help! Contact Kim Hegedus at khegedus@skillsusa.org or 317-544-8750.

**Item #2: 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.**
**Item #3: Gain National Attention for Student Mentoring**

SkillsUSA sponsors a national recognition opportunity called the **Student2Student** mentoring program. Mentoring connects young people to personal growth and development, as well as economic opportunities.

Student2Student recognizes SkillsUSA chapters that are involved in a mentoring program in their communities. When a SkillsUSA chapter mentors an elementary or middle school classroom, it helps younger students imagine careers and helps older students practice their skills. To enter, submit your mentoring project. The winning chapter will be recognized at the National Leadership and Skills Conference and in the *Awards and Recognition* book. In addition, the winner will be invited to present at SkillsUSA University.

All entries must be submitted by **April 1**. Winners are announced in May. To download a Mentoring Guide or enter your program for recognition, go to: [www.skillsusa.org/programs/mentoring-student2student/mentoring-recognition-program/](www.skillsusa.org/programs/mentoring-student2student/mentoring-recognition-program/)

For more information, contact Gayle Silvey at gsilvey@skillsusa.org.

**Item #4: 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/](www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/scholarships-financial-aid/national-technical-honor-society/)

- **Sharon Melton Myers Memorial Scholarship**: [https://skillsusa.wufoo.com/forms/sharon-melton-myers-memorial-scholarship/](https://skillsusa.wufoo.com/forms/sharon-melton-myers-memorial-scholarship/). Deadline is **April 15**.

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

**Item #5: 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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