

Dear SkillsUSA Advisor, (SkillsUSA 2020-2021 #1)

Item #1: Welcome Back SkillsUSA Maryland Advisors!

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! The State Officer team, Board of Directors and I wish you great success as you prepare your students for a productive and engaging year. We look forward to helping you make connections, build relationships and grow your chapters in the virtual world.

The SkillsUSA competition theme for the 2020-21 school year is:

SkillsUSA: Champions at Work, Empowered to Succeed

The topic to be addressed by contestants in the 2021 SkillsUSA Chapter Display, Prepared Speech and Promotional Bulletin Board competitions is our theme, “SkillsUSA: Champions at Work, Empowered to Succeed.”

Within this topic, contestants might illustrate or discuss any of the following:

1. What does “Empowered to Succeed” mean to you in relation to your career readiness?
2. How has participating in the SkillsUSA Program of Work empowered you to succeed?
3. How does the SkillsUSA Framework empower you to succeed?
 - How are you empowered with the *personal* skills needed for career success
 - How are you empowered with the *workplace* skills needed for career success?
 - How are you empowered with the *technical* skills needed for career success?
4. In what specific ways has SkillsUSA empowered you to be successful in life?
5. What activities or learning within your career and technical education program have empowered you to succeed?

Item #2: 2020-2021 Lead Advisor Contact List

Please carefully review “Lead Advisor Contact 2020-2021.xls” document (**attached**) to confirm that your chapter representative(s) information is accurate and current. **If this is not the correct contact person(s) and/or contact information for your chapter please forward correct information to the State Director.**

Remember: if you experience difficulty opening emails, attachments, etc., all advisor updates are available online via the SkillsUSA Maryland official website: www.mdskillsusa.org At the homepage select “Resources” (in red box) then select “Advisors.” Updates will be listed according to release date.

Item #3: NEW! Virtual CTSO Advisor Training /SkillsUSA Maryland Advisor's Meeting

Plan to join Maryland Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) advisors representing FBLA, FFA and SkillsUSA for an MSDE-sponsored **FREE** professional learning virtual opportunity, **Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm**. New and returning advisors will learn how to adapt CTSO chapters to a virtual and digital environment. Topics will include: developing a strong digital presence via social media, virtually recruiting new members, and virtually engaging and involving students in chapter activities. Three 30-minute workshops will be facilitated by Maryland CTSO State Officer teams and advisors will be able to attend all three workshops during the session.

A second session will be offered the following **Wednesday, September 23, 2020, 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm**. This will be a SkillsUSA Maryland-exclusive experience focusing on National SkillsUSA updates, new programs and resources, conferences and competitive events.

Please make sure that all new and returning SkillsUSA advisors attend these important back-to-school meetings. **See invitation letter attached.**

Register now via this link! [CTSO Joint Advisor Training Registration Form](#)

*****As an added incentive all SkillsUSA advisors attending both sessions will be eligible for prizes to be raffled by the Maryland Board of Directors!**

Item #4: SkillsUSA Registration Site Open For 2020-2021 School Year

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

Professional members receive these great benefits:

- **Framework Integration Toolkit** — The Framework Integration Toolkit has everything you need to ensure career readiness for students, including videos, Framework Foundation lesson plans, experiential activities and more.
- **Program of Work Toolkit** — The Program of Work Toolkit includes the Program of Work Launch Activity Guides, including Virtual Classroom edition, videos and resources to help you implement effective activities.
- **Jump Into STEM!** Updated to include Virtual Classroom edition — The “Jump into STEM!” curriculum provides an opportunity for SkillsUSA members to engage and mentor elementary- and middle-school students in STEM learning while creating an open door to future recruitment into high-school career and technical education programs. The program highlights engaging, hands-on learning provided by current SkillsUSA members for younger students.

- **2020-2021 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards** — The *SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards* are the official rules and regulations for each competition that's part of the SkillsUSA Championships, and they are included as a benefit of professional membership. Along with rules for all national events, the standards include an overview, lists of technical skills and knowledge required, clothing requirements, and eligibility and equipment lists. It also lists the embedded academic skills in math, English and science.

SkillsUSA professional members receive all of these materials when they submit membership along with a valid email address. The *2020-21 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards* and other materials are provided through a digital delivery system. National/state dues for professional members are \$27 / \$15 for students.

Becoming a professional member of SkillsUSA is one of the best ways to demonstrate to students the importance of joining a professional organization and the opportunities that membership will provide.

Membership kit information is available here: <https://www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/membership-kit-2/>

Item #5: SkillsUSA Maryland Website

Please visit the SkillsUSA Maryland official website to stay informed and up-to-date regarding state association information and activities. Check the website often as important and helpful information will continue to be posted throughout the school year. Melvin Baker, Frederick County Career and Technology Center, is our official website manager. Here's a link to the website: <http://mdskillsusa.org/>

Item #6: SkillsUSA Framework

As you introduce SkillsUSA to new students, teachers, administrators and business and industry partners please be sure to include the SkillsUSA Framework. The Framework will enable your students to more clearly understand and articulate the benefits of SkillsUSA chapter participation in support of personal, workplace and technical skill development. The 2020-2021 chapter membership kit frequently references the Framework and Chapter Excellence Program (CEP). Visit the following link to learn more about the SkillsUSA Framework and to share informative videos with your students: <https://www.skillsusa.org/about/skillsusa-framework/>

Item #7: 2020 Virtual National Leadership Conference – Maryland Highlights

Outstanding Maryland students, advisors and chapters were recognized at SkillsUSA's first virtual National Leadership Conference Awards Ceremony, Friday, June 26, 2020. Highlights and recognitions include:

National Officer Candidate

Emily Nelson, Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center

National Advisor of the Year Region 1 Finalist

Charlene Zinnel, Dorchester Career and Technology Center

National Voting Delegates

Sage Baltimore, Frederick Career and Technology Center

Allison Guzman, Frederick Career and Technology Center

Zayda Hamm, Worcester Technical High School

Annalee Johnson, Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center

Abigail McCrobie, Southern Garrett High School

D'Shaun Tyler, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center

Chapter Excellence Program (CEP) Chapters of Distinction - Gold Level

Dorchester Career and Technology Center

Frederick Career and Technology Center

CareerSafe National Video Contest Top 12 Finalist

Worcester Technical High School

President's Volunteer Service Gold Award

Jonathan Henry, Frederick Career and Technology Center

Career Essentials Certified Teachers

Eric Millham, Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center

Melissa Palmer, North Point High School

Anna Taitano, North Point High School

Share this good news with instructors, administrators, parents and business and industry partners. Let's make sure that everyone knows Maryland CTE students, teachers, programs and chapters continue to be among the best in the nation!

Item #8: 2020-2021 State Officer Team

The SkillsUSA Maryland state officers are looking forward to connecting and interacting this year with your students. More information will be shared soon on scheduling state officer chapter visits. Stay tuned...

Reagan Chung, Worcester Technical High School, Worcester County

Tehya Gaines, Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center, St. Mary's County

Whitney Mattera, Career and Technology Academy, Calvert County

Kathryn Moats, Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center, St. Mary's County

Sahil Patel, North Point High School, Charles County

Kevin Rodriguez, Worcester Technical High School, Worcester County

State Officer Advisor:

Charlene Zinnel
SkillsUSA Maryland Board of Directors
Dorchester County

Thank you for all you continue to do for Maryland Career and Technical Education students and SkillsUSA Maryland. See you September 16!

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