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TO: SkillsUSA Minnesota Advisors  
FROM: Jennifer Polz, Executive Director  
SkillsUSA Minnesota  
DATE: September 15, 2009  
SUBJECT: Preparation for the 2009-2010 School Year

Welcome Back advisors for another exciting school year with SkillsUSA for 2009-2010. I wish you all the best as we move into the fall season and as you continue to lift up students through CTE and SkillsUSA. This informational letter is an effort to keep you informed about what is happening in SkillsUSA, state events and new items for the school year.

You are starting on a journey that is bound to offer many rewards for you and your student's. You are true Champions for our students and I sincerely admire and respect all that you do. Have a great start to the new school year.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All other conference mailings, forms and information packets will be available on our web site or will be sent to Lead Advisors of each school via-emails. The "NEW" Improved Website is HERE for you and your students to access all information.

**IF there is UPDATES at your school with E-mail addresses, faculty changes, phone numbers, and street address – please notify the SkillsUSA Minnesota Office – ASAP so you may receive future UP-DATES and our records can be up-dated.**

**As you prepare your students for competition this spring  
Please make sure that you are using the:  
"NEW" 2010 SkillsUSA Championship Technical Standards  
The "NEW" Technical Standard will arrive on October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

### **2010 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards**

SkillsUSA will release the 2010 *SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards* this fall. As in past revisions, members will ONLY be able to choose CD-ROM version. This version will include the latest competition guidelines for more than 93 national leadership and skill events.

This latest revision introduces several new features:

**New packaging for the CD-ROM.** A glossy folder will conveniently house not only the standards but also three bonus items: (1) a matching poster; (2) an extra CD holding the national contest projects for the previous year; and (3) a flier about the SkillsUSA Championships and how to qualify and participate. (To address past confusion, we renamed the *Contest Specifications* CD, and it will now be called the *SkillsUSA Championships Contest Project* CD.)

The Standards, electronic versions will contain full competency statements with criteria, a new 1000-point scoring system, and they will list the basic academic skills embedded into the SkillsUSA Championships in math, language arts and science.

These new features are the result of work done through the Kellogg Grant. To help students arrive fully prepared for the SkillsUSA Championships and to keep up with the rapidly changing expectations of industry, the contest standards will now be revised annually rather than every three years. This kind of continuous improvement will help keep instruction current and help national technical committees and state contest organizers run the highest-quality events for the SkillsUSA organization in every technical and leadership area.

### **Release Dates**

With the new additional content, the Electronic CD-ROM package is set for October 1, 2009 projected release date.

### **Pricing**

The 2010 *SkillsUSA Technical Standards* CD-ROM (with pocket folder, poster, flier and bonus projects CD) will be \$19.95. We are encouraging the use of the electronic package for better preparation of our students who choose to enter the championships program. We also feel this is a better approach to disseminating information, from an ecological perspective.

## **FREE SKILLSUSA ADVISOR MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES**

**Register at least 20 student members** plus one or more professionals by Nov. 16, 2009, and you will receive a free SkillsUSA DVD plus an 8.5x11 SkillsUSA logo podium sign. These materials allow instructors to showcase their SkillsUSA affiliation in a classroom or at special events (total value: \$20.00).

Instructors who submit a roster with 100-percent membership plus one or more professionals will also receive a SkillsUSA Program of Work calendar (value: \$5.95). Deadline: Your roster must be submitted online or postmarked by Nov. 16, 2009, to receive these free items!

**\* Receive also a FREE Copy of the New 2010 Technical Standards package CD-ROM from your State Office! This is an EARLY BIRD SPECIAL! So Don't Miss out!**

## **Item #1- National Leadership and Skill Conference**

A list of SkillsUSA Championship winners at the NLSC in Kansas City, Missouri this past June is listed on the State Web site. You can access the list by going to our Minnesota Website at: <http://www.mnskillsusa.org>

The Minnesota delegation was well represented as Minnesota brought home the largest medal count in our history with 34 medallions. It was an awesome group and they gave us all reason to be proud! **Minnesota is proud of our "Champions"**.

## Item #2 - School Information UPDATES

**WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!** – Especially when postage costs will increase our operational budget. We need to update phone numbers, addresses and program information. PLEASE notify the state office of any email corrections and/or address/phone changes. If department members have changes – please send these new contacts to the state office at: [skillsusaminnnesota@comcast.net](mailto:skillsusaminnnesota@comcast.net) Thanks for your help!

## Item #3 – Yearly Calendar

The current calendar for August 2009- through July 2010 will be posted on to the Website by the end of September. **Deadlines** are marked for many of the events, and board meetings this upcoming school year. You may also download this calendar from our website.

## Item #4 – Leadership Conference & Delegate Conference Material

All Conference Material will be posted on the Minnesota Website at: <http://www.mnskillsusa.org> This includes Fall State Leadership Conference, Delegate Assembly Conference, State Leadership and Skills Conference and the National Leadership & Skills Conference. All advisors' will be notified by e-mail when information is posted this coming school year.

**During the week of September 21<sup>st</sup> you shall find the Leadership Conference Packet.**

If you and your students are attending either the Fall State Leadership Conference, October 28-31, 2009 or the Delegate Assembly Conference, November 23-24, 2009, your membership materials must be in the mail to the national office before the conference starts. That means getting your chapter going as early as possible. If you're not sure the state copy will reach me in time, please send a photocopy of the membership along with your conference registration. Your membership must be in to the national office in order for students to attend these conferences. **This is a liability issue - attending students & advisors must be members!**

## Item #5 - Membership Reporting Process/ Affiliation Information

Membership information packets and all due's forms should have been sent to you by the national office. Read the packet carefully and follow directions. *"NEW" this year is all Membership Kit information is found on the CD Rom enclosed in the packet.* If you are in need of additional Membership Packets- please contact the state office and they will be sent out to you.

- **It is REQUIRED this year to send your MEMBERSHIP in ON-LINE this year. Please go to the National Website: <http://www.skillsusa.org/join/>**

**It is simple and easy to do. Call if you have questions!**

**All membership forms should be submitted by SECTION – or skill area.  
This will increase our operational funding from the  
MN Foundation for Student Organization's.  
PLEASE put each class or skill area on a separate roster.  
THANKS!!**

**PLEASE SEND MEMBERSHIP DIRECTLY TO THE NATIONAL OFFICE.**

Once National SkillsUSA receives your form and dues, they will forward the state copy and dues to our state office. If you do not have active membership at this time and are interested in starting a chapter, you can call National SkillsUSA at (703) 777-8810, or the state office at (763) 560-1932 for membership forms and information. Full mailings were sent to all chapters that were active last year. **Membership must be completed On-Line this year. DEADLINE: February 2, 2010.**

**Membership Dues & Checks should be sent to the following address:**

SkillsUSA  
Attn: Membership  
14001 SkillsUSA Way  
Leesburg, VA 20176-5494

**Membership dues are as follows: 2009-2010**

**Membership Year is from September 1, 2009- August 31, 2010**

<u>High School or College Divisions</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>National</u>	<u>Total</u>
Active (Student Membership)	\$6.00	\$8.00	\$14.00
Professional (Advisors/Instructors)	\$6.00	\$14.00	\$20.00

**Item #6 – Request School Visit from the State SkillsUSA Office**

If you'd like someone to come to your school and talk with administration, teachers or students about SkillsUSA Minnesota just call for a personal visit. Membership Rally are a great way to Kick-Off the "NEW" School Year- please call the State Office and set up a day & time. We will bring out a presentation geared towards your school, flyers, DVD, State Officers if available and additional membership packets and some surprises. **Call and schedule your appointment TODAY!**

**Item #7 –Calendar of Events for 2009-2010**

October 28-31, 2009	Fall State Leadership Conference, Holiday Inn, St. Cloud
November 23-24, 2009	Delegate Assembly Conference, Holiday Inn, Duluth
December 6-7, 2009	New State Officer Training for 2010
March 26, 2010	First Round of the State Conference- Alexandria, MN
April 9-11, 2010	SkillsUSA State Leadership & Skills Conference 43 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary • Sheraton Hotel, Bloomington
June 21-25, 2010	National Leadership and Skills Conference, Kansas City, Missouri
August 2-4, 2010	Advisor's Summer Conference, Detroit Lakes, MN

## Item #8 - 2009-2010 Theme

### SkillsUSA: Champions at Work

The SkillsUSA competition theme for the 2009-2010 school year is “**SkillsUSA: Champions at Work — Connecting the Opportunities.**” This is the theme for the Chapter Display, Prepared Speech and Promotional Bulletin Board contests.

The topic to be addressed by contestants in these events is how our slogan, SkillsUSA: Champions at Work, relates to our national program of work in the area of the Professional Development.

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

- How SkillsUSA’s professional development opportunities motivate students to be the best they can be in their technical skill development and in their personal and professional development
- How members grow professionally by connecting with educators, community leaders, and business and industry representatives. SkillsUSA connects students to education and employment opportunities
- How students attending SkillsUSA leadership conferences and competitions develop professionally as they make connections with other students having similar interests. Through SkillsUSA, they network across their state, region and the nation
- How SkillsUSA provides opportunities for students to participate in a balanced program of work in which they can practice and demonstrate leadership, technical skills, teamwork, team building, creativity and management
- How SkillsUSA increases productivity by cultivating a highly skilled and knowledgeable work force to meet 21st century needs
- How SkillsUSA is the national organization for public high school and college/postsecondary technical students enrolled in trade, technical and skilled service profession instructional programs including allied health occupations
- How SkillsUSA participation prepares each member for entry into the work force
- How each SkillsUSA member can demonstrate excellence in career and technical education
- How SkillsUSA represents 130 different occupational areas in its affiliated instructional programs and more than 300,000 high school and college/postsecondary members nationwide

## **Item #9 – New Free Online Teacher Tools**

### **FREE ONLINE TEACHER TOOLS**

Fourteen new online advisor-training modules (Advisor Essentials Training Library) have been developed for the Champions for Change program. These modules are designed to be easy-to-use, easy-to-access and to connect advisors to existing resources. All advisors are welcome to use the training modules anytime, anywhere to learn how to develop a strong SkillsUSA chapter. For more information and to view the modules, go to <http://www.championsforchange.org/changeinprogress.html>

Also free and online are two additional resources - Chapter Activity Planner and Personal Leadership Inventory.

The Chapter Activity Planner (CAP) is a tool that makes planning and conducting chapter activities fun and effective. The planner makes it easy to brainstorm ideas, set goals, create an action plan, track assigned tasks and evaluate progress. At the end of an activity, the tool produces an electronic report to save for future reference. The CAP will help students master six steps from organizing to reporting an activity. There is also an online learning module for advisors and a lesson plan to introduce members to the planning process and help them begin using the tool. To access this resource and learn more visit: <http://www.skillsusa.org/educators/cap.shtml>

The Personal Leadership Inventory (PLI) is a series of online self-assessments for students to grow their skills as individuals, team members, citizens and employees. There's also a module for instructors on how to put the PLI into action in the classroom and a lesson plan to introduce your members to the personal growth process and the PLI. Go to <http://www.skillsusa.org/educators/pli.shtml>

## **Item #10 – “NEW” SkillsUSA Store**

### **SKILLSUSA STORE RELAUNCH**

On September 1, our all-new [www.SkillsUSAStore.org](http://www.SkillsUSAStore.org) opened with an array of new products including fashion apparel, accessories and gift items. Log on to order stylish clothing and accessories that help you show your pride in SkillsUSA!

On Sept. 18, the [www.SkillsUSAStore.org](http://www.SkillsUSAStore.org) site expands to include all chapter supplies and competition uniforms. Inventory transfer from our previous supplier should be complete by this date.

Our all-new official blazer will be available for purchase this October 1st. Offered at a new low price of \$99.95, the attractive new blazer features a lighter weight fabric, SkillsUSA labeling and custom buttons and an interior tag for noting owner information. The blazer will be shipped with a garment bag for ease of storage.

We're committed to delivering a pleasant shopping experience to all SkillsUSA student members and advisors, and we know you will enjoy shopping at [www.SkillsUSAStore.org](http://www.SkillsUSAStore.org).

**Be sure to visit often, as new products will be added frequently.**