

SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership



FY 2007 Report
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SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership

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SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In just one year, the 2007 Lowe's grant to SkillsUSA has made a lasting impact for thousands of instructors and their students at 90 career and technical schools and communities nationwide. Technical laboratories have been brought up to industry standards, technical curricula have been enhanced with new software or training opportunities, physical campuses have been improved, communities have been enhanced, students have learned safe work practices, and the lives of the students involved in these projects or programs—along with those of their instructors— have been permanently affected.

In late 2006, SkillsUSA and Lowe's teamed up to plan for a major new partnership to benefit students who are preparing for careers in the skilled trades. The partnership was formally launched in January 2007, with a pledge of \$500,000 by Lowe's to support SkillsUSA in the following program areas:

- \$200,000 for school chapter improvement grants (20 schools at \$10,000 each)
- \$100,000 for school community service grants (10 schools at \$10,000 each)
- \$50,000 for school CareerSafe safety training vouchers (2,500 licenses)
- \$150,000 in general support of the SkillsUSA Championships

SkillsUSA and Lowe's evaluated hundreds of applications, then awarded the chapter improvement and community service grants in the amount of \$10,000 each to SkillsUSA chapters in May 2007. Many schools started on their projects immediately. Lowe's provided a great deal of support to the SkillsUSA Championships, held June 25-29, 2007 in Kansas City, Mo. The CareerSafe vouchers were awarded in October 2007, and participating schools received the online licenses and Lowe's merchandise through the Lowe's commercial services division.

"The partnership of SkillsUSA and Lowe's has an important impact on education and economic development," said Tim Lawrence, executive director of SkillsUSA. "SkillsUSA helps students develop their abilities in all four skills areas highlighted by employers. And, community service as service learning has documented benefits in students' education outcomes and community development. Our students and teachers are champions at work, and these grants will allow them to build lots of things together. We thank Lowe's for helping our chapters and instructors to become even more effective."



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership

2007 SPECIAL EVENTS

SkillsUSA Holds Kickoff to Launch Lowe's Partnership

SkillsUSA and Lowe's jointly announced their partnership on Jan. 17, 2007, at the National Association of Homebuilders in Washington, D.C. Assistant Secretary of Education Dr. Troy Justesen participated with Lowe's representatives and SkillsUSA and in a roundtable discussion that focused on preparing America's future skilled work force.

Lowe's and SkillsUSA Participate in OSHA Summer Construction Safety Campaign



The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) held a kickoff for their Teen Summer Job Safety Campaign at the Thomas Edison High School of Technology in Silver Spring, Md., on April 17, 2007. SkillsUSA and Lowe's participated in the event, which featured SkillsUSA members demonstrating safe work practices. Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Edwin G. Foulke Jr. and SkillsUSA executive director Timothy Lawrence were the keynote speakers.

The goal of OSHA's Teen Summer Job Safety Campaign is to reduce risks to teen employees, so they learn safety from the beginning of their work experience and integrate safety principles into their work culture. "OSHA recognizes that construction is viable career choice, with more than 7 million wage and salary jobs in the United States and another 1.9 million people self-employed in the industry. We have a strong and long-standing relationship with the construction community," said Assistant Secretary Foulke.

Lowe's a Featured Partner at SkillsUSA 2007 Conference



SkillsUSA highlighted the involvement of Lowe's as a key industry partner during the 2007 National Leadership Conference. Larry Stone, president and Chief Operating Officer of Lowe's Companies, delivered the keynote address on Tuesday, June 26, 2007, at the SkillsUSA Opening Session. Stone told students and teachers about his career with Lowe's and explained the characteristics of leaders. Members of the Lowe's executive team and foundation staff toured the conference and had an opportunity to talk with students and teachers, view the competitions and meet other industry partners who support the SkillsUSA mission. Lowe's was also featured at the 100% Advisor Luncheon, at the Youth Development Foundation luncheon, in the SkillsUSA TECHSPO trade show and at other events during the week.

SkillsUSA Participates in Lowe's National Sales Meeting



SkillsUSA national officers Alma Limas of Texas and Alicia Brown of Oregon joined Executive Director Tim Lawrence, director of business and industry partnerships, Eric Gearhart; and director of marketing and membership services, Karen Perrino to exhibit at the Lowe's National Sales Meeting on Feb. 27, 2007, in Las Vegas. The SkillsUSA team explained the Lowe's grant program to local store staff during the event and suggested ways to be involved with local technical schools.

SkillsUSA Hires a Lowe's Program Manager

SkillsUSA hired program manager Katie Mooney on July 9, 2007, to more effectively support the Lowe's project. Ms. Mooney served as Wisconsin state SkillsUSA president while in high school and was elected Kansas City executive council president during college. She also worked in the Kansas City SkillsUSA office as an administrative assistant. She is working with local schools on their grants to ensure the delivery of quality projects and detailed reporting by all Lowe's grant schools. Ms. Mooney also manages alumni programs at the SkillsUSA national headquarters.

SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership

EDUCATION GRANTS



SkillsUSA Solicits Education Grant Applications from Local Chapters

SkillsUSA launched their partnership with Lowe's in Jan. 2007 by announcing new education grant opportunities for local schools. Hundreds of high schools and community colleges applied for the first Lowe's Education Grants. Applications were due by **Feb. 28, 2007**.

SkillsUSA organized a staff committee to review the applications and select finalists. A total of 32 education grant applications were forwarded to Lowe's. Their executive team then selected 20 school projects to fund. The following pages reflect each school that was funded and provide an overview of the project and the impact to the school, its students and instructors.

SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

ARKANSAS

North Little Rock High School West in Little Rock

SkillsUSA Membership: 85 students and teachers

Project: SkillsUSA members will lead simple lab projects at Lowe's stores and at local elementary schools, to teach younger students basic sawing, drilling and how to do fun projects that will get them interested in working with their hands.

Impact: High school students are performing standards based physics labs with elementary students. We will continue until the end of this semester. Labs include Soda Blast Experiment, Drilled Glass Tiles for Christmas Ornaments, Bottle Lamps, Homemade Glockenspiels, Pan Pipes, Motors, Electronics and more.

Start Date: October 2007 **Completion Date:** May 31, 2007

Grant Amount: \$10,000 **Final Budget:** \$10,000

Special Event: Kick-off event was the first demonstration of the Soda Blast Experiment Lab

Remarks: "We had a Soda Blast Experiment for Pike View Elementary for our kickoff event. The Principles of Technology students drilled soda caps in preparation for the event. Then, the students drilled mint candies and strung them to use for the experiment. The high school students demonstrated the experiment, much to the delight of the elementary students. Then, the elementary students got to try the experiment. Many of the high school students had never used a drill. We are scheduling other events at elementary schools throughout our school district for this semester." *Gwen Wiggins-North, Little Rock High School teacher*



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

CONNECTICUT

Platt Technical High School in Milford

SkillsUSA Membership: 856 students and teachers

Project: Students rebuilt "The Swamp," which is an outdoors learning area and living laboratory. This area of the campus is used by the high school as well as local elementary schools, scouting groups and YMCA to teach environmental science, microbiology and biology in a hands-on setting. The original Swamp was destroyed by arson years ago.

Impact: Working at The Swamp brings environmental sciences alive for students of all ages. This revitalization has allowed students of all ages a chance for hands-on science experiences and improved the Platt Technical High School campus.

Start Date: May 8, 2007

Completion Date: Nov. 20, 2007

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$11,150

Special Event: Check presentation was held in July 2007.

Remarks: "It's nice to know we're contributing. People get to see what we've done, and it helps with our skills." *Shannon Bamberg, Milford Carpentry student*



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

DELAWARE

St. Georges Technical High School in Middletown

SkillsUSA Membership: 61 students and teachers

Project: Students designed, constructed and are now maintaining scale models of stars in a virtual walking path of the solar system. The project has been a collaboration between the construction careers cluster and the science department, designed to enhance higher level thinking and team building as well as technical skills.

Impact: The completed project is a learning tool for community and educational groups and institutions. It brings school-to-work opportunities to our students through relationships begun with Lowe's and other local businesses, and will increase our students' involvement with SkillsUSA programs and competitions.

Start Date: February 2007

Completion Date: Spring 2008

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$4,744 (\$5,256 remaining to purchase items)

Special Event: A podcast was held on Nov. 9, 2007, and an open house was held on Nov. 18, 2007. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be scheduled for Spring 2008.

Remarks: "I really liked working on the solar system project. We got to work on stuff that we have to know in our shop area. The planet stations turned out a lot better than I had thought. I liked making the bottoms of the stations the best, because we got to make a mess with the concrete." *Richard Woodward, St. George's Technical High School student*



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

KANSAS

Kansas City Area Technical School in Kansas City

SkillsUSA Membership: 190 students and teachers

Project: Build and outfit an enclosed PR/recruitment trailer and truck to use at various events.

Impact: By doing this project the school will be able to reach many more people and share the great things that our students and teachers are accomplishing. This trailer will open up many projects and allow us to not only recruit locally but now regionally. This has been a great way to combine different programs from the school and has been a way to demonstrate and showcase student skills.

Start Date: January 2008

Completion Date: Ongoing

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$10,000

Special Event: The school plans to demonstrate the trailer at the SkillsUSA national conference, space permitting.

Remarks: "I have been able to develop a high sense of pride, not only for myself but for my classmates and my school. It is great to see our school being advertised and the students doing everything. This will be a great networking tool for me as we continue to work close with Lowe's." *Starzette Palmer, KCKATS student in the Building and Property Maintenance program*



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

MARYLAND

Frederick County Career and Technology Center in Frederick

SkillsUSA Membership: 651 students and teachers

Project: Students developed a recruitment program with portable career modules that demonstrate technical programs, and a life-sized Career Pathways game board for visits to local middle schools.

Impact: The Champions Technology Challenge gave high school students the opportunity to develop leadership skills and act as role models for younger students. Younger students have been exposed to the technical center as an education option, and to technical careers as a future career path. The FCPS media department filmed a presentation and will air it on the school system's channel on cable television, bringing an even wider audience to this initiative.

Start Date: February 2007 **Completion Date:** May 2008
Grant Amount: \$10,000 **Final Budget:** \$10,000

Special Event: Presentations held at middle schools from November 2007 to February 2008

Remarks: "I'd like to be down there with the students on the game board. I have seen a lot of improvements since the first dress rehearsal. I think Lowe's will be satisfied with the results." *Chris Sulak, operations manager for Lowe's Store No. 0516, Frederick, Md.*



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

MASSACHUSETTS

Upper Cape Regional Technical School in Bourne

SkillsUSA Membership: 515 students and teachers

Project: Students built 10 fitness stations along a trail at the rear of the school campus.

Impact: The UCT Fitness Trail is used every day by community members and students and is one more reason to visit Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School. As part of the Barry J. Motta Athletic Complex, the UCT Fitness Trail will be used year-round by people of all ages to relieve stress, stay fit and achieve wellness. Students are now planning to design and construct a children's playground to complement the already superb athletic facilities at Upper Cape Tech.

Start Date: June 2007

Completion Date: Nov. 10, 2007

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$10,000

Special Event: A media day was held on Nov. 7 and a ribbon-cutting on Nov. 10 with Lowe's representatives, school officials and the community members.

Remarks: "Lowe's should be commended for their support of career development and technical education throughout the country. The more we can partner with businesses like Lowe's, who want to invest in the future, the more everyone comes out a winner." *Kevin Farr, Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School superintendent*

• Planning



Constructing



Media Event



Several students admire their handiwork as they take a brief rest at the sit-up station while walking the Upper Cape Tech's Fitness Trail Wednesday. (back row, from left) Quinn Hjermstad of Bourne, Benjamin Thomas of Sandwich, and Jenna Loards of Falmouth; (middle, from left) Nathan Corriveau of Falmouth and Zach Patton of Bourne; and (front from left) Christopher Perry of Sandwich, Brianna Oakley of Bourne, and Ashley Tison of Falmouth. The trail will be dedicated tomorrow at 10 AM.

Students Build Fitness Trail Behind Upper Cape Tech School



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

MICHIGAN

Saginaw Career Complex in Saginaw

SkillsUSA Membership: 103 students and teachers

Project: Students showcased the technical training and educational opportunities available at Saginaw Career Complex by holding short, fun parent-child competitions at Lowe's stores.

Impact: The success of this event can be measured not only by the high number of participants, but also by the intense level of participation. Watching parents work side-by-side with their children in a joint activity, and seeing the smiles of accomplishment made possible by the Lowe's grant, provides a comprehensive picture of what was accomplished. Exposure to hands-on skills and a positive experience in building something will be a life-long memory for these children.

Start Date: May 2007

Completion Date: Sept. 29, 2007

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$9,991

Special Event: Skills for the USA (media day) was held Sept. 29, 2007

Remarks: "I feel the Lowe's Grant changed student attitudes in my class by making the first few weeks of class very competitive and maybe a more interesting start than in past school years. Thank you!" *Carl Peil, instructor*



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

MISSOURI

Franklin Technology Center in Joplin

SkillsUSA Membership: 445 students and teachers

Project: Build a leadership training center with a low ropes course and pavilion for instruction to serve all student organizations and community as a whole.

Impact: Students of all ages for many years to come will enjoy the opportunity to learn and demonstrate new skills, including self-confidence and improved teamwork.

Start Date: Sept. 1, 2007

Completion Date: Nov. 30, 2007

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$10,000

Special Event: Ground-breaking ceremony on Sept. 7, 2007

Remarks: "I feel that the Lowe's grant money has been a great success. I felt a large amount of SkillsUSA pride at FTC as I spoke. The area that is being renovated will not only benefit the students, but also the community. The Lowe's grant money does more than help students and improve schools, it portrays such a strong and positive image for the technical students in America." *Jack Frederick, SkillsUSA National college/postsecondary president*



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

NEBRASKA

Platteview High School in Springfield

SkillsUSA Membership: 13 students and teachers

Project: Remodel the drafting classroom at a small rural high school of 360 students, to provide a better learning workspace, greater collaboration between students, and advanced design work opportunities.

Impact: While Platteview is a smaller school, the updated technical lab will serve students for many years and help current and future drafting students see their career area as a forward-thinking field. The new environment is also much more like what students would encounter on the job. Motivation has been improved, as has the school campus.

Start Date: July 3, 2007

Completion Date: Oct. 1, 2007

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$17,000

Special Event: Ribbon-cutting ceremony held on Oct. 1, 2007

Remarks: "At Platteview High School, our CAD department has always had great students, teachers and equipment. Now, thanks to a \$10,000 grant from Lowe's through our SkillsUSA program, we have the great room to educate our students. Our ordinary classroom has been transformed into a state of the art CAD technology lab. The room has a very professional/office feel while being very user friendly for our students. We appreciate the support of Lowe's in the education of our Drafting Students at Platteview High School." **Scott Shepard, principal**

Before



After



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

NEW JERSEY

Burlington County Institute of Technology in Westampton

SkillsUSA Membership: 177 students and teachers

Project: Purchase and training on the design software used by Lowe's kitchen and bath professionals, plus a local kitchen/bath design contest judged by Lowe's professionals.

Impact: This project helped the students take classroom theory to the next level, which is practical application. It increased the students' ability to understand standard business operations, and to gain additional practical skills they can use in future employment. Many future students will also have the opportunity to learn the software.

Start Date: May 8, 2007

Completion Date: Dec. 4, 2007

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$10,000

Special Event: A dedication ceremony and check presentation were held on Oct. 23, 2007.

Remarks: "I have enjoyed working with the SkillsUSA program at Burlington County Institute of Technology. The teachers, students, administration and Lowe's team have worked very well together. Lowe's is proud to work with SkillsUSA to prepare America's future skilled work force and to help youth in our community excel in their chosen career paths." *Scott Roether, Lowe's store No. 1575, Lumberton, N.J.*



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

NEW YORK

Orleans Niagara BOCES in Medina

SkillsUSA Membership: 384 students and teachers

Project: Build a 1/8-scale model home to demonstrate efficient heating/ventilation.

Impact: Working with Lowe's volunteers and with other community professionals gave the students a chance to practice professional occupational and interpersonal skills in very real situations. Students wanted to be involved because it was a real project and not merely an exercise. The instructor noted that the students seem to perform best when expectations are set high.

Start Date: May 2007

Completion Date: April 2008

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$10,000

Special Event: Store events were held Nov. 17, 2007, and Dec. 13, 2007.

Remarks: "The store display is a good concept. It was large and attracted the attention of customers. Any way to show customers how to save on their energy costs is valuable." *Kim Federowicz, Lowe's representative, Store No. 1881, Williamsville, N.Y.*

REAL LIFE EXPERIENCE: The Lowe's store in Williamsville played host to the Orleans/Niagara BOCES building trades students. Teacher Jake Daniels and several of his students showed their thanks for a \$10,000 grant given to them by the company and showed customers their knowledge about energy conservation for which they won the award through Skills USA. "Our presentation at Lowe's was a collaborative effort. Our graphics instructor Mrs. Hall held a class competition for the design of our display board. The building trades class constructed the display board and fabricated all of the Plexiglas displays. The painting, airbrushing and stenciling of the display was completed by the auto body class with Mr. Struening, and the electrical work was provided by the electricity/electronics class and Mr. Leggett," Daniels said. Here, Tony Gurski from Lockport and Jacqueline Morris from Barker and Alex Ward from Wilson look over the display.

LOWE'S VISIT



MAKING PLANS: The building trades program at Orleans/Niagara BOCES was the one of 20 recipients of a \$10,000 Lowe's grant. Here, the teachers look over plans for energy efficient houses. From left are English teacher Dick Tynan, welding teacher Eric Farrell, electricity/electronics teacher Bill Leggett, building trades teacher Jake Daniels, science teacher Todd Richards, and precision machine tool teacher Bill Rakonczay.

BOCES wins \$10,000 grant from Lowe's

SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

OHIO

Timken High School in Canton

SkillsUSA Membership: 68 students and teachers

Project: Update an outdated lab and purchase state of the art equipment for this medical training program at a school where 70 percent of the student population is at the poverty level. The new lab can be used to support the community with blood drives and free health screenings.

Impact: This partnership between the school staff, students, administration, Lowe's team and SkillsUSA made a reality happen for urban students who don't always see the extension of a hand toward them. This changed their belief that people do care about them. Many future students will benefit from the improved learning environment.

Start Date: August 2007

Completion Date: December 2007

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$10,651

Special Event: A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Dec. 15, 2007

Remarks: "It was a pleasure to work with the Timken students and staff to make this project a reality. It was great to see the completed facility at the ceremony, and to share in the joy that was displayed by the students and staff. Our staff at Lowe's that was part of this effort loved working on such a worthwhile project." *George Worrell, Lowe's sales manager*



Students work to renovate the lab



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

OREGON

Glendale High School in Glendale

SkillsUSA Membership: 30 students and teachers

Project: Students and staff updated the culinary arts and commercial baking labs with new equipment to make it similar to what is used in restaurants. New equipment including microwaves, mixers, convection ovens and a commercial mixer were purchased to support more effective student training.

Impact: The students of this small community deserve the opportunity to get training in school that will lead them to a better life with a living wage while providing the community quality food at their events. This project has reached and continues to reach students. The cooking classes here at the high school are very popular with waiting lists. It reaches into the private and business communities.

Start Date: August 2007

Completion Date: September 2007

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$10,178

Special Event: Television coverage of the new lab appeared on Sept. 5, 2007

Remarks: "The kids deserve it! This provides a real stepping-stone to a career. I knew if we told the truth about our need in Glendale that there was no way they could deny us. I'm happy for our school." **Victoria Hokanson, SkillsUSA advisor**



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

PENNSYLVANIA

Forbes Road Career and Technology Center in Monroeville

SkillsUSA Membership: 77 students and teachers

Project: Students and staff renovated a donated school bus and incorporated electronics, air conditioning, a new sound system and graphics capability to create the Forbes Road Show. This traveling exhibit is designed to get younger students excited about the technical training opportunities at Forbes CTC.

Impact: Many young people are unaware of the career options available and do not easily have access to career information. This vehicle will provide a means to get that information directly to the students and to the community as a whole.

Start Date: June 4, 2007

Completion Date: Nov. 28, 2007

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$10,000

Special Event: A kickoff was held June 4, and a project dedication was held Nov. 28, 2007.

Remarks: "On behalf of the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, I am pleased we were able to provide this grant of \$10,000 to Forbes Road Career and Technology Center. We applaud this creative project and wish you great success." **Bob Vas, manager, Lowe's Store No. 1660, Monroeville, Pa.**

The Forbes Road Show shows Forbes on the road

By Zandy Dudick
Staff writer

OK, maybe it's not as groovy-looking as the Partridge family vehicle or full of as many gizmos as Mrs. Frizzle's Magic School Bus.

But an 34-passenger bus dubbed The Forbes Road Show will soon be serving as a traveling exhibit to educate younger students about the technical training opportunities available at Forbes Road Career and Technical Center in Monroeville. When finished, its exterior will have graphics to rival the Partridge's bus in terms of cool.

And, in Magic School Bus fashion, inside will be 10 computer stations and educational tools to tell the Forbes story to students in the school's nine member districts — Gateway, Penn Hills, Plum, Riverview, Woodland Hills, Allegheny Valley, East Allegheny, Highlands and Wilksburg.

"Kids have to touch things," says Robert Lydiard, diesel technology instructor. "The idea is to get the students to see there are more options. If they can't come to us, we'll go to them."

The bus project got some gas this month when Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation awarded the school a \$10,000 grant for purchase and installation of new electronics, air conditioning, sound and graphics equipment for the bus.

To help address the country's growing skilled worker shortage and skills gap, Lowe's is contributing \$500,000 to

ects or dynamic instructional program enhancements, such as The Forbes Road Show.

SkillsUSA, of which Forbes Road is a member, is a national nonprofit organization of students, teachers and industry, working together to ensure America has a skilled work force.

The bus has been a cooperative project between students and teachers in several Forbes programs and local businesses.

W.L. Roenigh Bus Co. of Sarver

inspection. PPG gave \$1,000 worth of paint, which Beckwith Machinery used to paint the bus.

The Forbes Road Show got its start a year ago with an \$1,800 grant from The Consortium for Public Education.

Students in Forbes' commercial art program have already done some of the graphics on the bus. Body shop students did the prep work.

Diesel technology students completed the needed mechanical work and will maintain the bus once it starts

and a bench that will enable students to sit as they wait to access computers.

Robert Vas, store manager at Lowe's in Monroeville, offered to stay involved by helping the school secure flooring and electrical supplies to complete the project.

In addition to visiting member school districts, Lydiard said The Forbes Road Show can educate area residents about Forbes Road by rolling into events like Plum



GETTING A tour of The Forbes Road Show bus (at right) are, from left, Dawn Bixler, human resources manager at the Monroeville Lowe's; Robert Vas, Lowe's store manager; James Gould, Forbes HVAC instructor; DeeDee Ciccarelli, student resource management coordinator; and Forbes senior Steve Shawley, who is a Lowe's sales associate.

Photos by Zandy Dudick



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

PENNSYLVANIA

Warren County Career Center in Warren

SkillsUSA Membership: 69 students and teachers

Project: Students will build Project POWER, a traveling demonstration unit that will showcase career and technical education training programs through an interactive mechanical and electrical collage that demonstrates various tasks, properties and effects.

Impact: The school highlighted the Career Center, united their technical labs and improved school spirit. They also improved student and teacher problem solving techniques and methods. They made new partnerships with students, parents, business, industry, Lowe's and the public and will continue to bridge gaps between academic and career education standards for each future class at Warren County CC.

Start Date: January 2007

Completion Date: February 2008

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$7,407 (\$3,000 still to be used for additional equipment purchases to complete the project by Feb.)

Special Event: Open House recruitment tours in Jan. 2008

Remarks: "I liked how the school came together to make one big project." *Kyle French, Lowe's representative, Store No. 2614, Warren, Pa.*



Career Center involving all of its students on creation of part Jeep/part motorcycle – that will serve ice cream

By VICTORIA BARONE

Staff Writer

Warren County Career Center students from all classes are collaborating on Project P.O.W.E.R., a vehicle in many ways than one.

For Project P.O.W.E.R. (Providing Opportunity With Enrichment and Responsibility), students are creating and working in various ways on a vehicle-half Jeep, half motorcycle – with any number of additional parts. The "mechanical collage" represents a compilation of competencies connected to all of the WCCC programs.

It will demonstrate various tasks like gear reduction, the Bernoulli Effect (the use of air to provide "lift"), stress law (which defines the relationship between power, voltage, current, and resistance), and fluid dynamics, and will eventually be taken to district schools and community organizations to promote career and technical education.

The project is expected to go beyond regular objectives by contributing to school spirit, program unity, student morale and community involvement.

Jim Young, Career Center teacher of collision repair technology, pointed out that the project is funded by a \$10,000 grant provided by Lowe's and Skills USA. Jim Mochling, Career Center power equipment instructor, was instrumental in securing the grant.

The vehicle has a Jeep's front end and the back end of a motorcycle. Beyond that, additional features are being added that boggle the mind.

There will be solar panels, a wind generator, a robotic arm, a bubble stream, bells and whistles and much more – including even a submersible air system or popcorn maker. The vehicle will have a red, white, and blue theme. The project will have all Career



Project P.O.W.E.R.

Warren County Career Center students work on a combination Jeep/motorcycle that will have components created by a wide variety of Career Center classes and will be used as a tool to promote career and technical education. From left are students James Forest, Heather Phelps, Brandon Thomas, Kurt Schrader and Zach Wilcox.

Career classes involved in some way. "Everybody's got a hand in it," Young said. "It's a huge science project in the making."

For example, classes like woodshop, welding, auto-tech, collision repair and power equipment are working on the vehicle itself. Marketing students will promote it. Even culinary arts students will take part, coming up with

ideas for features like hot cream or popcorns vending on the machine. The vehicle should be ready to drive sometime in this school year, according to Young, but additions will continue to be made. "It's very open-ended," Mochling noted. "I see it as a never-ending project," Young added.

"Everybody's got a hand in it...it's a huge science project in the making."

Jim Young
Career Center teacher



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

TENNESSEE

Hardin County High School in Savannah

SkillsUSA Membership: 20 students and teachers

Project: The students built a mobile tool room to use on job sites for their home-building projects. This year, the students built their first off-site house in 18 years. The tool trailer was designed with safety in mind and to protect the tools and provide greater efficiency on the job site.

Impact: The students were affected the most, as they are the ones who will use the tool shed on work sites and in competitions. They were excited and proud of leaving this legacy for future classes of students. The state SkillsUSA winners were especially proud, since their names are permanently inscribed on the back of the trailer and future winners can be added.

Start Date: May 2007

Completion Date: September 2007

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$10,000

Special Event: A media event was held Nov. 16, 2007, for parents, industry, members of the community and other staff and students.

Remarks: "Lowe's has been very happy to help with this project and to be a part of improving the Hardin County High School carpentry program. The mobile tool room will be a great help to the students as they travel to work on job site projects. The tool room/trailer looks great. I wish that we had something like this when I was in school. Lowe's in Savannah is looking forward to continuing to work with Hardin County High School and SkillsUSA." *Blair Shook, manager, Lowe's Store No. 2218, Savannah, Tenn.*



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

TENNESSEE

Southwest Career and Technology Center in Memphis

SkillsUSA Membership: 149 students and teachers

Project: Design and build an outdoor learning facility with desks and ceiling fans.

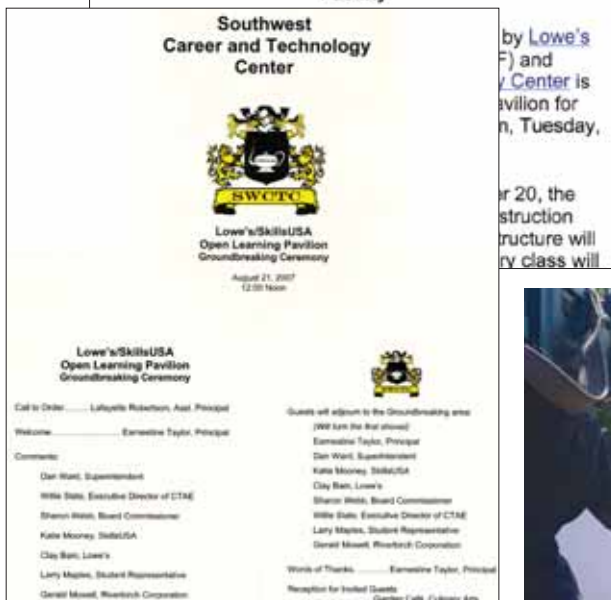
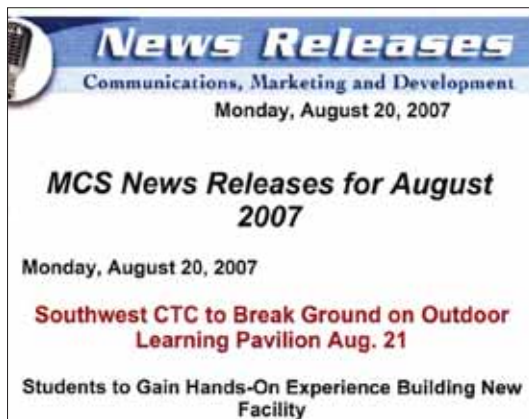
Impact: This project helped to reach many people. The school now have a place to hold meetings, class activities, and club events. They also have ties with local business and industry and an expanded relationship with Lowe's and SkillsUSA.

Start Date: Aug. 21, 2007 **Completion Date:** January 2008

Grant Amount: \$10,000 **Final Budget:** \$11,477

Special Event: A ground-breaking was held Aug. 21, 2007, and a project dedication was held on Sept. 11, 2007. There will be a ribbon-cutting in Jan. 2008.

Remarks: "The Lowe's/SkillsUSA Grant awarded to Southwest CTC showplaces the importance of vocational education. Lowe's has enjoyed its involvement with the school and students. We hope to build on these contacts and remain involved in the Memphis City Schools." *Bill Shull, manager, Lowe's Store*



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

TEXAS

Stony Point High School in Round Rock

SkillsUSA Membership: 44 students and teachers

Project: The students rebuilt a solar car and drove it from Round Rock, Texas, to New York City in the Dell Winston Solar Car Challenge, held July 16 to 24, 2007. The car was called El Diablo Del Sol, and it placed third in the challenge in the classic division.

Impact: Stony Point students were proud to be competitive in this national event and to bring a positive image to their school. The car can be raced year to year by new teams of students, providing an exciting engineering challenge as well as a unique public relations tool for the school.

Start Date: June 1, 2007

Completion Date: July 23, 2007 (race completed)

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$10,000

Special Event: July 20, 2007, was the first day of the race. During the 2007-2008 school year, the car is being used in parades, festivals and open house events.

Remarks: "We did a 2,000-mile track in nine days that consisted of trailing and solar car driving. Our car's name was Solaris. The weight of the car with out the drive was 270 kg. To determine a winning team each day, it was based on who had the most miles and the fastest speed. There were two kinds of divisions: Open and Classic. Open was more of the carbon fiber cars where the classic had more restrictions and was based much more on mileage. Overall we placed third out of four teams, only missing second place by 6.9 miles. Over the course of about 26½ hours, we averaged 17 miles per hour and drove 451.1 miles. Our team only took eight weeks to build the car, where other teams took years. I am very proud of how we did and was really excited about our outcome!" *Katie Gray, student at Stony Point High School*



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

VIRGINIA

Chantilly Academy in Fairfax

SkillsUSA Membership: 85 students and teachers

Project: Instructors and students created 50 tool kits that students signed out at the beginning of the year, used for their training program and will return at the end of the year to teach pride of ownership and responsibility. Nearly 40 percent of construction technology students at the school are under-represented minorities, English-as-a-second language or special education students, so tool purchases are a challenge.

Impact: The goal of the Lowe's Tool for Your Trade project was to advance construction technology education through the availability of quality tools for each student, effective tool use and by instilling the importance of tool ownership and maintenance. Our motto is, "Take care of your tools and your tools will take care of you."

Start Date: July 2007

Completion Date: Aug. 27, 2007

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$9,648

Special Event: A tool kit launch event was held Aug. 27, 2007 with staff, alumni, students, school district, representatives and SkillsUSA staff including the executive director, Tim Lawrence.

Remarks: "The SkillsUSA/Lowe's Education Grant has been an incredibly valuable gift to our students, faculty and the Chantilly High School community. It has been amazing to watch the students managing their tool kits during the construction of a shed project this past fall. Each of our students has learned how to use their tools and demonstrate work-readiness values by taking direct responsibility for the tools inventory and management. This experience will have life-long benefit for our students this year — and for more students in the years to come. Thank you to SkillsUSA and Lowe's for your support for our Chantilly Academy learning community." *Douglas R. Wright, administrator*

Constructive Donation

The SkillsUSA/Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation awarded a \$10,000 grant to Chantilly Academy to purchase new toolboxes, tools and some machinery for the school's construction technology program.

With the help of a \$10,000 grant, Chantilly Academy was able to purchase new tool-kits to be used by construction technology students.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/CENTRA VIEW

Chantilly Academy alumni Marshall Cottingham, Luis Coronel and support assistant Ann Booker help put together new toolboxes for use by students in the construction technology program. Students will be able to checkout the newly acquired kits for use during the school year.



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Educational Grants

VIRGINIA

Washington County Technical School in Abingdon

SkillsUSA Membership: 25 students and teachers

Project: Students and instructors renovated the basement of their nursing/cosmetology lab to create a SkillsUSA training room and student center.

Impact: This is an older vocational school with no cafeteria and where students have no place to hold meetings. Having a meeting space provides a sense of unity and a way to facilitate the practice of effective leadership skills for students from year to year.

Start Date: Oct. 1, 2007

Completion Date: March 2008

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$10,000

Special Event: A dedication was held Nov. 20, 2007, with staff, students, Lowe's reps and other community members.

Remarks: "Lowe's has been nothing but great about helping us to secure our materials. This partnership has been a wonderful experience! Finishing this project will have a huge impact on the morale of our students and on this whole community. It has been a long process because of working in a basement area, and also because we only have the students two hours a day, but we are pleased with the progress and we can't wait for the final product to be unveiled!" *Johnny Blevins, SkillsUSA advisor*



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership

COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANTS



SkillsUSA Solicits Community Service Grant Applications from Local Chapters

In Jan. 2007, SkillsUSA also announced new Community Service grant opportunities for local schools. Hundreds of high schools and community colleges applied for the first Lowe's Community Service Grants. All applications were due by **March 31, 2007**.

A total of 15 applications were forwarded to Lowe's, and their corporate team selected 10 projects to fund. All schools received their grant checks in April or May, and signed a letter of agreement with SkillsUSA. Timelines and project budgets were then submitted, and most schools used the summer to procure materials and make plans, with projects launching in the fall when schools opened for the new year.

SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Community Service Grants

GEORGIA

Augusta Technical College in Augusta

SkillsUSA Membership: 53 students and teachers

Project: SkillsUSA members renovated the August Restoration Services building, a local sheltered workshop for individuals with restricted physical or mental capabilities.

Impact: This project provided a service learning opportunity for our students and also helped raise the profile of a nonprofit that does good work in the community but receives very little recognition.

Start Date: July 27, 2007

Completion Date: Oct. 17, 2007

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$10,000

Special Event: Check presentation was made on July 23 and a ribbon-cutting was held on Oct. 17

Remarks: "Words cannot express my gratitude to Augusta Tech, SkillsUSA and Lowe's for the tremendous help this grant has provided. We received more than the benefit of the \$10,000 community service grant with the electrical, landscaping, signage, Web site, logo design, painting, etc. Thank you for your time, talent and skills on making this such a huge success for our organization." *Audrey Murrell, executive director, Augusta Restoration Services*




SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Community Service Grants

IDAHO

Blackfoot High School in Blackfoot

SkillsUSA Membership: 49 students and teachers

Project: Welding students built 30 new park benches for a community park between two local communities.

Impact: The impact of this project was to allow students the opportunity to make a statement within their community. By using their skills in welding, cabinetmaking and automotive, they provided something practical that citizens could enjoy daily along a well-used bike trail between two parks. They also wanted to help the community become more aware of domestic violence, since this is an ongoing issue in their community that has affected many of the Blackfoot students directly.

Start Date: Aug. 26, 2007

Completion Date: Nov. 17, 2007

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: \$10,000

Special Event: A check presentation took place on Oct. 3, 2007 and the event was covered by the local TV station.

Remarks: "I would like to take this opportunity to thank SkillsUSA for allowing Lowe's to participate in such a great event. I thoroughly appreciated the opportunity to present the \$10,000 grant to Dustin and the rest of the local SkillsUSA chapter. It is our hope that the money provided by Lowe's goes a long way in assisting the development of our young students." *Matt Giles, representative of Lowe's Store No. 1906, Idaho Falls, Idaho*

Students Bring Awareness to Domestic Violence

Students in Blackfoot were recognized for their help in raising awareness for domestic violence. They presented a memorial bench to the community and Bingham Crisis Center. Channel 3 Eyewitness News reporter Rick Montañez has the story.



Rick Montañez
RICKM@KIDK.COM

KIDK
THE BUSINESS NEWS

BHS students get \$10,000 grant to raise awareness of domestic violence

By RICHARD TOYNTON
MORNINGS NEWS
toynton@cablcone.net

BLACKFOOT — Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Blackfoot High School chapter of SkillsUSA to enhance technical skills and increase community awareness of domestic violence in an innovative way. The grant satisfied two objectives — developing domestic violence awareness in the community during October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and providing a means for the students to practice the skills learned in each of the SkillsUSA training programs at the high school.

SkillsUSA at BHS has three technical skill development classes — auto repair, cabinet making, and welding.

"The welding program is great," BHS Principal Blaine McIsely said. "This can go out of Clean Chapman's class and make \$18 to \$25 per hour."

The welding students are building 30 memorial park benches that will be placed in parks in Blackfoot and throughout Bingham County. The green benches are of sturdy construction and will be installed in the ground with cement.

Each bench features a granite plaque that memorializes victims of domestic violence with true and very sad stories of how domestic violence can destroy lives and families. The back of the granite plaques are etched with names of students who made the benches.

The cabinet making students are building 30 "silent witness silhouettes" for the Bingham Crisis Center. They represent domestic abuse victims and will be displayed throughout the community during October.

Debbie Martin, assistant director of the Bingham Crisis Center, said the courthouses, high school library, Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency, and Idaho Migrant Council will feature the silhouettes in their buildings, and they are looking for more locations to display them.

The auto repair students will provide the crisis center with vouchers to help repair

See BHS grant, 2A



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Community Service Grants

NEW YORK

Alfred State College in Wellsville

SkillsUSA Membership: 77 students and teachers

Project: Students from various training programs will combine efforts to rebuild the playground at the local Wellsville Elementary School.

Impact: The leadership example of SkillsUSA, Lowe's and Alfred State College clearly has provided the catalyst for the community to join in. There has been an additional \$8,000 of donations received since the beginning of the project. Once the local businesses and organizations heard of the project, they were all happy to assist. The playground will be used by many future generations of children.

Start Date: Sept. 6, 2007 **Completion Date:** April 2008

Grant Amount: \$10,000 **Final Budget:** \$18,002

Special Event: First work session on Sept. 6, 2007

Remarks: "I believe that the progress we as a team have made on the playground is a symbol of the dedication of the Alfred State SkillsUSA students, both as individuals and as members of a team. As one of the organizers for this project, seeing it near completion has brought me a sense of pride and a desire to learn more about things we can do in SkillsUSA and to serve our community. Of course, without supplies, a construction team cannot accomplish much. I am very grateful to Lowe's for truly making this possible."

Derek Doll, SkillsUSA chapter president



ASC students lend a hand



Alfred State College Students Help Improve Playground

Jeff Stevens, a teacher at Alfred State College, has informed our school board that we have been successful recipients of a Skills USA grant. This grant, in partnership with Lowe's Department Stores, provides funds for collaborative projects for a school or community. There were only ten grants distributed throughout the country and only two were awarded to a college. Mr. Stevens



Several Alfred State College students are shown in the picture above removing one set of swings.

had met a few times with the Elementary Playground Committee to discuss plans for the playground. The committee considered what could be done that would be a part of a long range plan for the playground. It was decided that the best use of the \$10,000 grant funds was to improve the drainage and increase the "green space" at the pri-

mary playground. Picnic tables for both playgrounds will also be built. Specifically, the swings will be removed, repaired and painted and placed near the "garden" space. The "ladybug" will be removed. The area from the railroad ties to the garden will be plowed up, drains placed, topsoil added and grass seed spread.



will be published monthly as a service to district residents, taxpayers, students, parents, and employees. Staff members can submit information on significant events by obtaining an information submit form in their building's office, completing the form, and returning the form to the designated reporter (see box on page 8) by the following deadline(s):
November 2007 issue October 10

SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Community Service Grants

NEW YORK

Potter Career and Technical Center, working with Harkness CTC and Kenton CTC

SkillsUSA Membership: 64 students and teachers at Potter, 95 at Harkness CTC and 71 at Kenton CTC

Project: Students from three New York technical schools teamed up to restore restrooms on the main concourse of the historic Buffalo Central Train Terminal. They also created a terminal museum and painted murals on walls.

Impact: Originally opened in 1929, the Buffalo Central Train Terminal is a historic landmark that fell into disrepair. Purchased in 1997 by the nonprofit Central Terminal Preservation Company, the terminal is being renovated by volunteers through various community programs, including SkillsUSA. Though work will not be completed for many years, the terminal already sees thousands of visitors each year, including 20,000 people in Sept. for the Train Show.

Start Date: Sept. 22, 2007

Completion Date: Ongoing

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Final Budget: Over \$10,000

Special Event: Check presentation on Sept. 22, 2007

Remarks: "It's wonderful to work in collaborative effort with other schools to show we're one district. The kids especially are so enthused. They will learn leadership skills, what it is to part of a community, and how to cooperate and work together. They will meet new people. It will foster a great bond between them." **Bob Mroz, advisor, Potter chapter of SkillsUSA**



IN TRAINING — Robert Faith, left, and building trades students at the Potter Career and Technical Center in West Seneca, prepare to begin restoration work at the historic Buffalo Central Train Terminal in Buffalo. Students of the Erie (Cheektowaga) and Ken-Ton career centers will be supervised by their teachers to build and weld railings as part of a year-long project, which kicked off with a tour of the terminal Saturday, was made possible through funding from SkillsUSA and the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation.

Photo by John Rusac
Purchase color photos at www.BeeNews.com

24 October 10, 2007 The Orchard Park Bee — Your Community Newspaper Lifestyle

Restoring the Buffalo Central Train Terminal

Erie 1 BOCES students begin project on historic building

by ANDREA KIMBERIEL, Reporter

Students from Erie 1 BOCES are excited about a new volunteer opportunity that officially began on Sept. 22, said director of communications Candace Reimer.

About 150 students and a number of faculty and staff from three Erie 1 BOCES career and technical centers will be participating in a year-long restoration project at the historic Central Train Terminal at 406 Palerowski Drive, Buffalo.

"It's the first time we've done a major project. That's what makes it so unique and wonderful. It's bringing all three of the centers' staff and students into the project," she said.

He has been volunteering at the terminal for about six years, said his father, Mark Lewandowski, treasurer for the Central Terminal Restoration Corporation, the current owner of the property.

Students from the Potter center, the Harkness center in Cheektowaga, and the KenTon center in Tonawanda will build restrooms, design murals and complete other projects under the supervision of their teachers.

"How great is it that you have students trying to learn employable skills — when they are going into a job interview or the next step of their education, they can say 'I did this in the Central Terminal.' You can't beat that," Reimer said.

The three career centers serve students from 20 school districts in Erie County, including schools in West Seneca, Lancaster, Cheektowaga and Tonawanda.

Students must be members of SkillsUSA, a technical education organization that offers regional, statewide and national competitions and scholarships.

Mroz said the student-led SkillsUSA chapters determine what they will do for their required community service. The terminal restoration will be their main service project, he said.

The building is not heated, so the volunteers will learn necessary skills at the centers during the winter and put their knowledge to work in the spring, said Reimer.

The Erie 1 BOCES project is only a small part of the restoration possible, she said.

Lewandowski said it will cost \$600,000 to fully restore the terminal.

Mark "M.J." Lewandowski is a volunteer in the Central Train Terminal. He was the first to suggest that Erie 1 BOCES students work at the terminal, a project that kicked off Sept. 22.

Photos by John Rusac. Purchase color photos at www.BeeNews.com

SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Community Service Grants

OHIO

Millstream Career and Technology Center in Findlay

SkillsUSA Membership: 250 students and teachers

Project: Students worked with community leaders to design and build an urban park, creating a gathering place in the heart of the city of Findlay, Ohio.

Impact: The inception of this project actually began in January 2007. The mayor of the City of Findlay, who showed his faith and support of career-technical education and the students of Millstream CTC, cultivated this idea. Although the city has undergone one of the most devastating natural disasters to hit the area, the community has pulled together many resources, not only to rebuild the lives and properties of citizens, but finally to bring back the opportunity to provide this area which represents their future.

Start Date: January 2007 **Completion Date:** May 2008
Grant Amount: \$10,000 **Final Budget:** \$10,000

Special Event: A dedication ceremony was held on Dec. 16, 2007

Remarks: "As mayor of the City of Findlay, it has been our pleasure to include the students of the Millstream Career and Technology Center in this project. This project has created partnerships between education, business, industry and the community that will continue to enhance and develop the growth of our city. The property that the plaza is located on was a building that tragically burned, followed by the devastation of a flood that left our city temporarily paralyzed. Watching our community and especially the students stay committed to the project was indeed rewarding." *Mayor Anthony P. Iriti, Findlay, Ohio*



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Community Service Grants

RHODE ISLAND

Warwick Area Career and Technical Center in Warwick

SkillsUSA Membership: 413 students and teachers

Project: Students designed, built and transported four playhouses, two for local elementary schools and two for the Impossible Dream, a nonprofit center for special needs students.

Impact: Educators in a program such as this knew that this project would bring not only educational value to the school, staff and students but would also bring leadership, compassion, communication and professional development attitudes.

Start Date: September 2007 **Completion Date:** April 2008

Grant Amount: \$10,000 **Final Budget:** \$10,000

Special Event: Press conference with check presentation on Oct. 10, 2007

Remarks: "Thank you for choosing the North Warwick Lowe's as your supply partner. It was a pleasure to work with you and your students on the playhouse project. I feel that the students learned quite a bit about design, building and working closely with a supplier. But the end users, the visitors to the Impossible Dream, will get so much more! This has been a win-win-win for Lowe's, the Warwick Career and Tech School, and the Impossible Dream. Everything seemed to fall into place from the start — the planning, ordering and delivery of raw material, all the way to the finished product. We are looking forward to working with you and your students again." *Larry Carr, representative, Lowe's Store No. 2397, Warwick, R.I.*



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Community Service Grants

SOUTH CAROLINA

Beaufort-Jasper Academy for Career Excellence in Ridgeland

SkillsUSA Membership: 81 students and teachers

Project: The SkillsUSA members built a combination nature/fitness trail with exercise stations. They included signs about plant life and bird watching stations to enhance the learning experience. This outdoor facility serves the whole community and will help combat youth obesity.

Impact: Positive effects are already evident. The Presidential Challenge Program has been implemented in the physical education/health class. Students are demonstrating more interest in improving their health. Using indoor equipment since the beginning of Sept., the P.E student records show an average BMI loss of 2.85.

Start Date: June 2007
Grant Amount: \$10,000

Completion Date: May 9, 2008 (estimated)
Final Budget: \$5,500 (purchases to date)

Special Event: A ground-breaking event was held Sept. 14, 2007, and a grand opening is tentatively scheduled for May 9, 2008.

Remarks: "It has been an honor to be able to assist with the outdoor classroom project at the Academy for Career Excellence. The grant from SkillsUSA and Lowe's is a great tool that has brought much positive attention to these students. We are proud to be working with the SkillsUSA project and making a difference for all of the students and staff." *Eric Pearce, manager, Lowe's Store No. 1521, Beaufort, S.C.*



Focus Education | 15

Teacher, can we have class outdoors?

A classroom will draw ACE students' outside and the community onto campus.

BY ROBERTA WALTON
A 1/17/08

Thanks to two recent grants, the Beaufort-Jasper Academy for Career Excellence plans to build an outdoor classroom that will benefit not only the school, but the community. The facility will be on the school's grounds next to a pond and should be completed by November.

Design call for a walking/fitness trail with exercise stations, sign about plants, bird-watching stations and a garden.

"The concept for this outdoor facility, fitness trail and community involvement was twofold — one, to encourage physical activity to enhance learning and the health of our students. The second was to bring the community onto our campus to use the energy and enhance their health," said Catherine Smith, executive director of the Academy for Career Excellence, standing where the new classroom will be built.

Two ACE classes and their teachers — building construction technology and agriculture — worked together to come up with the concept, design and construction plan. Smith said the facility will cost \$27,000.

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation awarded \$10,000 from Lowe's Outdoor Classroom program, Smith said. The remainder will come from local fund-raising by the school, Smith said. Lowe's of Beaufort is helping with landscaping and artwork suggestions.

SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization of students, teachers and industry working together to assist America's high school students. ACE, which is in Ridgeland, was a local affiliate chapter of SkillsUSA.

"The grant is a delightful investment. Lowe's commitment to education," said Larry D. Smith, chairman of Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, is a proven success.

By supporting local schools like the Beaufort-Jasper Academy for Career Excellence, we are contributing to a cause that is important to our customers and employees and also helping schools build a stronger foundation for the children who will be tomorrow's employees, inventors and community leaders," he said.

ACE was founded in 1978 to serve five high schools in Beaufort and Jasper counties. It offers nearly 30 vocational programs, including college preparatory, continuing education and adult learning.

Catherine Smith, executive director of the Academy for Career Excellence, received grants for the project to build an outdoor classroom where students will take science and agriculture classes. She is standing where the new classroom will be built.

Photo courtesy of Catherine Smith

SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Community Service Grants

TEXAS

A&M Consolidated High School in College Station

SkillsUSA Membership: 50 students and teachers

Project: Students launched a Computers for the Community program to repair and recycle donated computers for low-income families living within the town.

Impact: Having the opportunity to use the skills learned in class to host a project that benefited the community was a great experience. The project has turned out to be a huge success for the students, the community and for the companies involved. It has created an opportunity for the students to grow, and it has generated greater motivation toward SkillsUSA. The project is also spawning continual education for the class and continual want from the community for future recycling opportunities. We plan to continue these efforts in the future school years.

Start Date: September 2007 **Completion Date:** April 2008
Grant Amount: \$10,000 **Final Budget:** \$10,000

Special Event: A Computers for the Community kickoff event was held Nov. 17, 2007.

Remarks: "This community activity has made an impact on my life. Before, I only sought to benefit myself. Now, the service I have done for others has changed my viewpoint. Giving something computers to those who are less fortunate than has turned my life around. I now look forward to a future where people are more considerate and kind to each other." *Michael Howard, SkillsUSA student*



A screenshot of the City of College Station website. The main content area features a press release titled "Computers for the Community - Hosted by A&M Consolidated High School". The press release includes contact information for Wayne Larson, Director of Public Communications, and Sheila McQueen, BVSWMS Program Coordinator. The event is scheduled for November 13, 2007. The website navigation menu includes links for Home, City Government, Business, Resident, Visitors, City Services, Online Services, and Governmental Links.

A screenshot of the College Station Independent School District website. The main content area features a flyer for a "Computer Recycling this Saturday!" event. The flyer includes the date and time: "When: Saturday 11/17/2007 from 10 AM to 3 PM" and the location: "Where: A&M Consolidated High School Parking Lot". The flyer also includes a "Click for Details" link. The website navigation menu includes links for Home, Schools, District Profile, Calendar, School Board, Human Resources, Departments, Student/Parent Info, and more.

SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Community Service Grants

VIRGINIA

Edison Academy in Alexandria

SkillsUSA Membership: 617 students and teachers

Project: Students will launch a carbon monoxide awareness program and hold educational workshops at Lowe's to educate the public and distribute carbon monoxide detectors.

Impact: Carbon monoxide is a dangerous yet surprisingly common issue in homes. This issue has directly affected students and instructors at Edison Academy, and there were several local stories on the news this winter alone about people dying of carbon monoxide poisoning. Creating awareness gave the students a chance to demonstrate their knowledge and to help others and provided greater safety for many citizens.

Start Date: September 2007 **Completion Date:** October 2007

Grant Amount: \$10,000 **Final Budget:** \$12,250

Special Event: Workshops were held on Sept. 26, Oct. 12, Oct. 16, and Oct. 27, 2007, and presentations were made to hundreds of people during the Virginia State Fair on Oct. 1, 2007.

Remarks: "I think that receiving this community service grant is important because of the safety of someone's home. This is an important because it can help save a person's life. You can't smell, see or taste carbon monoxide. Most people do not understand the nature of carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is the most toxic substance that you will come into contact with in your daily life. There are hundreds of deaths each year due to carbon monoxide poisoning. This is why I think that receiving this community service grant is important. I want to participate in this project to be supported by this grant because it can help save the lives of people. People will be more aware of carbon monoxide with this community service grant. It will help cut back on the deaths each year. After reading a couple of articles about people dying from carbon monoxide, it helped me become more aware of why this community service grant is important." **Patrick S., HVAC student**

Date: Saturday, October 27, 2007
Time: 10:00 AM—12:00 PM
Place: Lowe's, 13720 Smoketown Road
Dale City, Virginia 22192

Skills USA/Lowe's Check Presentation Ceremony & Carbon Monoxide Awareness Seminar

Attend a 15- minute student presentation

- What is Carbon Monoxide and symptoms of (CO) poisoning?
- How to install and test a (CO) detector.
- How to respond if a (CO) alarm signals.

LIMITED NUMBER OF CO DETECTORS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FREE OF CHARGE

Contact: Robert Stringham, Phone: (703) 924-8112 Email: Robert.Stringham@fcps.edu



What you should know to protect your family from
CARBON MONOXIDE

Do You Have A CO Detector?

Presented by
The Edison Academy

LOWE'S
Helping You Succeed

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Champion • Work

EDISON ACADEMY



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: Community Service Grants

VIRGINIA

Virginia Beach Technical Center in Virginia Beach

SkillsUSA Membership: 352 students and teachers

Project: Students will build a utility structure/work garage for the Hope Haven Children's and Retirement Home, which serves the needs of at-risk youth and low-income elderly people.

Impact: The home serves the community by provides a family-model home setting for youth with distressed family situations, assisted living for low-income ambulatory seniors, as well as providing a summer camp for more than 500 at-risk youth annually. The utility garage allows the staff to better serve their residents and campers by providing a safe environment for tools and equipment used to maintain the property.

Start Date: Sept. 10, 2007 **Completion Date:** Dec. 21, 2007

Grant Amount: \$10,000 **Final Budget:** \$10,000

Special Event: Ground-breaking ceremony held on Sept. 12, Raising of the Barn held in Oct. 20 and ribbon-cutting ceremony held on Dec. 15, 2007

Remarks: "Through the years, we've had a long-standing relationship with the tech center. I think it's a good thing for the kids, too." *Linda Vaughn, associate director, Hope Haven*



SKILLSUSA CHAPTER

Tech students will use grant to aid Hope Haven

By Cynthia Kight

Contributor

VIRGINIA BEACH Virginia Beach Technical Center students will help Hope Haven while learning skills thanks to a \$10,000 grant. Lowe's presented the grant - one of 10 in the country - to the school's SkillsUSA chapter over the summer, said plumbing teacher Ken Anderson, who led the application process.

SkillsUSA is a national organization of students enrolled in trade and education classes. The tech center was recognized during the National SkillsUSA Leadership Conference in Missouri.

The school's construction students will not be the only ones involved with the building of a 40-by-36-foot garage and work center for Hope Haven, an assistance community located across from the school.

Childhood Development and Cosmetology, will assist. "We're pretty much in line with Hope Haven," Anderson said.

The school's students and instructors have helped with masonry, plumbing, carpentry and electrical repairs at the charity's 14-acre site, which includes a home for children from distressed families and one for senior citizens in need.

"We're pleased to help in any way we can," said tech center director David Swager during the Sept. 12 groundbreaking.

Hope Haven's associate director Linda Vaughn attended the after-school ceremony with her father, the Rev. Ted Bushard, who founded Hope Haven in the 1960s.

"Through the years, we've had a long-standing relationship (with the tech center),

and the concrete foundation is set, seven seniors and teacher Skip Pason will head the construction.

"We're going to build the walls at the school and bring them over there," said Pason.

A "barn raising" will be held in October, followed by the roof's completion a week later. Anderson said the team will build the structure as environmentally friendly as funds will allow, using items such as re-usable "sky tubes" to collect sunlight for interior illumination.

"We'd like to pay those in because they fall under the green-building concept," he said.

The undertaking will be filmed throughout the process, Anderson said, and a five-minute video will be produced.

The majority of supplies will come from Lowe's. Gary Meyer of the Holland Road store



SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership

CAREERSAFE GRANTS



SkillsUSA Solicits CareerSafe Grant Applications from Local Chapters

In Jan. 2007, SkillsUSA also announced new CareerSafe grant opportunities for local schools. Hundreds of high schools applied for the first Lowe's CareerSafe Grants. All applications were due by **April 30, 2007**. A total of 4,185 vouchers were requested, and 2,500 vouchers were issued to 60 schools with a value of \$18 per voucher. These vouchers allowed each student to take an online class with assessment, and earn their OSHA 10-Hour Construction or General Industry safety credential. All schools received their vouchers in the fall for use during the 2008-08 school year. Local Lowe's personnel visited many of the CareerSafe schools in order to meet the students, and present a special certificate, t-shirts and other items to the students.

SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: CareerSafe Grants

Selection of CareerSafe Voucher Recipients by SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA chapters at 60 schools applied for CareerSafe vouchers through the Lowe's SkillsUSA program. The deadline was **April 30, 2007**. A total of 4,185 vouchers were requested, with a value of \$18 per voucher and a total value request of \$75,330. These vouchers allowed each student to take an online assessment and earn their OSHA 10-Hour Construction or General Industry safety credential.



ALABAMA

Randolph Roanoke Career Technology Center in Wedowee

Etowah County Career Technology Center in Atalla



ALASKA

Unalaska City Schools in Unalaska

ARIZONA

Cactus High School in Glendale

ARKANSAS

National Park Technology Center in Hot Springs

FLORIDA

Suwannee-Hamilton Technical Center in Live Oak

Tavares High School in Tavares

GEORGIA

Central Education Center in Newnan

Cairo High School in Cairo

Lee County High School in Leesburg

IOWA

Herbert Hoover High School in Toledo

KENTUCKY

Russell Area Technology Center in Russell

LOUISIANA

Louisiana Technical College Lafayette Campus in Lafayette

MAINE

Caribou Regional Technology Center in Caribou

MASSACHUSETTS

Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School in Fall River

Lynn Vocational Technical Institute in Lynn

MARYLAND

Frederick County Career and Technology Center in Frederick



MICHIGAN

Lenawee Vocational Technical Center in Adrian

MISSISSIPPI

Biloxi High School in Gulfport

Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale

Pearl River Community College in Poplarville

MISSOURI

Carthage Technical Center in Carthage

Herndon Career Center in Raytown



NEBRASKA

Wayne State College in Wayne

NEVADA

Elko High School in Elko

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mount Washington Valley Career and Technical Center in Conway

OHIO

Fairfield Career Center in Carroll

Cuyahoga Valley Career Center in Brecksville

Auburn Career Center in Concord Twp.



PENNSYLVANIA

Bethlehem Area Vocational Technical School in Bethlehem

Parkway West Career and Technology Center in Oakdale

Connellsville Area Career and Technical Center in Connellsville

SkillsUSA Lowe's Partnership: CareerSafe Grants

SOUTH CAROLINA

Garrett Academy of Technology in North Charleston

Hannah-Pamplico High School in Pamplico



TENNESSEE

Fayette Ware in Somerville

Page High School in Franklin

TEXAS

La Joya Senior High School in La Joya

South San Antonio Career Education Center in San Antonio

Magnolia High School in Magnolia

Kingwood High School in Kingwood

Edinburg Career Center in Edinburg

Waco High School in Waco

Jefferson High School in El Paso

Pearland High School in Pearland

Como/Pickton CISD in Como

Bastrop High School in Bastrop

North Garland High School in Garland

Decatur High School in Decatur

Milby High School in Houston

Career Development School in Victoria

Palacios High School in Palacios

UTAH

Copper Hills High School in West Jordan

VIRGINIA

Massanutten Technical Center in Harrisonburg

Rowanty Technical Center in Carson

Rockbridge County High School in Lexington

Arnold R. Burton Technology Center in Salem

WEST VIRGINIA

James Rumsey Technical Institute in Martinsburg



WISCONSIN

Fond du Lac High School in Fond du Lac

Daily News-Record, Harrisonburg, VA, Monday December 3, 2007

MTC

Massanutten Technical Center

MTC-SkillsUSA-Lowe's Team up for Safety!

Last year, Lowe's teamed up with SkillsUSA, a Career and Technical student organization, and offered \$350,000 in grants to schools with local SkillsUSA chapters. Massanutten Technical Center was awarded the CareerSafe Voucher Grant to further educate construction trade students in safety training. The CareerSafe Online program is a web-based course that offers safety training modules designed to provide high school students with the fundamental safety information needed in the workplace. When the student completes the program, he or she will be awarded a 10-Hour wallet card from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The card demonstrates that

Center, we stress safety from the students first day at school. All construction trades teachers attend OSHA safety training, and all students must pass safety tests before they go to work in their labs. Our construction trades students build a house each year and, if you visit during construction, you will see many of these safety practices on the job site. Students wear safety glasses, hard hats, harnesses, and work in elevated areas only on enclosed scaffolding. We believe in safety at MTC, and we support Lowe's and SkillsUSA in their efforts to teach safety first!

Marshall Price, Director of Massanutten Technical Center, accepts the CareerSafe Voucher Grant Certificate from Robert Rawlings, Lowe's Store Manager.

Carpentry student, Renee Thibault, receives Lowe's T-shirt. All students from the second-year construction trade programs received T-shirts and cup holders from Lowe's.

Robert Rawlings, Manager of the local Lowe's store, addresses MTC students and explains the CareerSafe Voucher Grant Program and the importance of learning safety for the workplace.

Safety First in the Work Place!!



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