

SkillsUSA Alumni

The Journey Continues...



February 2010

Issue 1, Vol. 2

Sign Up Members Before Graduation To Help Us Grow

SkillsUSA's Alumni and Friends Association continues to grow. With a goal of 15,000 members by August 2010, we need your help. Please encourage alumni or SkillsUSA business supporters to register as a member online at: www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumnireg.shtml.

A new membership drive is encouraging instructors to sign up their graduating seniors or business partners each spring. Advisors who sign up five new alumni members from their technical program or personal network can have their name entered into a drawing for a \$500 VISA gift card.

To participate, simply sign up your members online, then e-mail a list of names to alumni coordinator Niki Clausen so their membership can be verified. Advisors receive one entry for every five new alumni members submitted. For details, e-mail nclausen@skillsusa.org or call 703-737-0639.



ACC members at the SkillsUSA National Leadership Center: (from left) Smith, Plowman, Dubois, Laubmeier, Lueck, Cockayne and Harader-Pate.

Get Involved! National Alumni Committee Offers a Broad Range of Opportunities for 2010

SkillsUSA's Alumni Coordinating Committee (ACC) represents the Alumni and Friends Association and provides support to national headquarters staff in the area of alumni development.

Elections were held for the ACC last spring. Committee members are: executive chair, George Laubmeier of Wisconsin; executive secretary, Brittani Cockayne of Maine; Region 1 representative, Kristen Smith of Rhode Island; Region 2 representative, Albert Rice of Arkansas; Region 3 representative, Peggy Plowman of Michigan; Region 4 representative, Brice Harader-Pate of Oklahoma; Region 5 representative, Jessica Lueck of Washington; and SkillsUSA State Directors Association representative, Dara Dubois of California.

To contact any committee member, go to the directory at: www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumnicoord.shtml.

Call for ACC Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the committee. Open positions for 2010 include executive chair, Region 2 representative and Region 4 representative. All nominees must be registered annual, lifetime or honorary life members of the SkillsUSA Alumni and Friends Association for at least 12 months preceding the date of nomination. If you are interested in serving on the committee or nominating someone, complete the nomination form at: www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumniballot.shtml.

SkillsUSA Alumni Welcome Support From Air Products

The SkillsUSA Alumni and Friends Association is proud to announce a formal partnership with Air Products. The company has made a financial contribution and pledged in-kind and human resources support for both the

association and the Alumni Coordinating Committee. Air Products also plans to support specific alumni programs or activities in the future.

Air Products serves customers in the technology, energy, healthcare and industrial markets worldwide. It offers a portfolio of products, services and solutions, providing atmospheric gases, process and specialty gases, process and cryogenic equipment, and performance



materials. With annual revenues of \$8.3 billion and operations in more than 40 countries, Air Products has 18,900 employees, with U.S. corporate headquarters located on a 600-acre campus near Allentown, Pa.



Membership Cards Available

Have you signed up but not yet received a membership card or window cling? Contact nclausen@skillsusa.org with your current mailing address so we can update our system and send materials to you. Other services you can enjoy as an alumni member are: quarterly newsletters updating you on alumni happenings, access to the *SkillsUSA Champions* online magazine, and discounts with some businesses (check out the alumni page on the SkillsUSA Web site). The Alumni Coordinating Committee wants to expand the membership benefits; please contact us with your ideas.

Check Out These Great Opportunities For SkillsUSA Students and Alumni!

2010 Alumni Scholarship: SkillsUSA's Alumni and Friends Association offers two annual, merit-based \$500 scholarships to qualifying students. These recognize the outstanding qualities of SkillsUSA students: leadership, commitment to community service, improving the image of career and technical education as well as their chosen occupation. If you know of qualified students, please encourage them to apply. The application and more information are online at: www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumnischolar.shtml.

President's Volunteer Service Award: Service usually springs from selflessness, but the president of the United States wants to recognize our dedicated SkillsUSA volunteers just the same. The



President's Volunteer Service Award is a national honor in recognition of sustained service. Recipients can receive an official lapel pin, personalized certificate of achievement, or a congratulatory letter from the president. Any SkillsUSA member is eligible to participate, and all types of community service hours

count. For more information, visit: www.skillsusa.org/students/volsvc.shtml.

SkillsUSA Champions Online: As a registered alumni member, you always have access to the latest edition of *SkillsUSA Champions* magazine online. This is also a great resource to share with potential members or industry partners. Visit: www.skillsusa.org/champions/index.html.

Share Your Story: Have a SkillsUSA story to share? The Alumni Coordinating Committee and national headquarters staff would like to hear from you. Your success stories inspire current SkillsUSA members. We'd also like to hear ideas and suggestions for growth and alumni program improvement. Contact Niki Clausen at 703-737-0639 or send e-mail to nclausen@skillsusa.org.

Pin Design Contest: SkillsUSA's Alumni and Friends Association is sponsoring an Alumni Pin Design Contest for the 2010 national conference. Get creative and submit your unique design to the national headquarters by March 1.

The pin will be sold as an alumni fundraiser at nationals. Contest rules and more details are available at: www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumni.shtml.

New SkillsUSA Store: Our all-new store is open at: www.skillsusastore.org. It offers a wide array of new products including fashion apparel, competition clothing, official attire, accessories and logo gift items. Log on 24 hours a day to order clothing and accessories that demonstrate your SkillsUSA pride.

Join Us on Facebook: SkillsUSA members are among the friendliest people around, and social networking is a great way to stay connected with other alumni across the country or even around the world. It's also a way to reconnect with people you've met at national conference or other events, or to brainstorm ideas for local activities that you are supporting. If you haven't found SkillsUSA alumni on Facebook, please look for us at: www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=home#/group.php?gid=2394889424&ref=ts.



Thank You for Your Involvement! The Alumni Coordinating Committee would like to thank you for your involvement in SkillsUSA and the Alumni and Friends Association. Our network is strong because of you.