



Let's Build Something Together™



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*Photos available on request*

### **SkillsUSA Students Participate in OSHA's Kickoff 2007 Teen Safety Campaign and Highlight CareerSafe Program and Grant from Lowe's**

LEESBURG, Va. (April 17, 2007) – SkillsUSA students from Thomas Edison High School of Technology, along with SkillsUSA staff and several Lowe's employees participated in the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) kickoff of their 2007 "Teen Summer Job Safety Campaign." The event was held at Thomas Edison High School of Technology in Silver Spring, Maryland. This year OSHA has chosen the construction industry to be the focus of their 2007 campaign. OSHA recognizes that construction is a viable career choice, with more than seven million wage and salary jobs in the United States and another 1.9 million people self-employed in the industry.

Lowe's employees also attended the event to show their support for youth safety in the construction field. In fact, the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation is helping to address the issue of teen safety by electing to specify that \$50,000 of their recent grant of \$500,000 toward SkillsUSA go to support SkillsUSA's CareerSafe program. The money will be used to host in-store training courses involving students and professionals, who need to earn/update safety certifications.

SkillsUSA's CareerSafe program is an online course accessible to youth that provides ten hours of classroom content in a Web-based format. The program was designed to teach younger workers how to stay safe in the workplace and how to be safety conscious. Not to be confused with the OSHA's Outreach Training Programs 10-Hour General Industry Course and Construction Industry Courses, the CareerSafe Program is an OSHA-approved program for its intended purpose. The issuance of this CareerSafe Card is useful to young workers in advising prospective employers that they 1) have completed a basic safety awareness training course, 2) have completed a foundation course that prepares them for additional training, and 3) are better prepared to enter the workforce from a safety awareness perspective than youth who have not received any safety training.

SkillsUSA is one of OSHA's Alliance Program participants – the goal of which is to promote safer and healthier workplaces for young workers. Through an Alliance agreement signed in October of 2005, OSHA and SkillsUSA are working together to provide career and technical educators and their students with materials, guidance, and access to training resources that will positively impact the occupational safety and health of young workers. Together, they are providing expertise in developing information on the recognition and prevention of workplace hazards and ways of communicating such information (e.g., print and electronic

media, online forums, electronic assistance tools, and OSHA's and SkillsUSA's Web sites) to educators, employers and young workers.

### **About SkillsUSA**

SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization of students, teachers and industry, working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. SkillsUSA helps high school and college students enrolled in career and technical education programs to excel by teaching employability skills such as communication, problem solving and leadership in conjunction with their trade, technical and service occupations skills. The association's annual membership exceeds 284,000 students and instructors in more than 3,700 schools and colleges in every state, three territories and the District of Columbia. For more information, visit [www.SkillsUSA.org](http://www.SkillsUSA.org).

### **About Lowe's**

Lowe's is a proud supporter of Habitat for Humanity International, American Red Cross, United Way of America, and the Home Safety Council, in addition to numerous non-profit organizations and programs that help communities across the country. In 2005 the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation awarded \$13 million to diverse organizations across the United States. Lowe's also encourages volunteerism through the Lowe's Heroes program, a company-wide employee volunteer initiative. Lowe's is a FORTUNE® 50 company with fiscal year 2005 sales of \$43.2 billion and has more than 1,350 stores in 49 states. For more information, visit [www.Lowes.com/community](http://www.Lowes.com/community)

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