Partner offers contest for travel scholarship

To kick off a new partnership with SkillsUSA, Proven.com is launching a travel scholarship contest. The SkillsUSA region with the most alumni to join the Proven.com site before Sept. 30 will receive a $1,000 scholarship for a student competitor to attend the 2012 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City, Mo.

Proven.com offers a website for individuals to showcase their skills and get connected with employers. Those who join Proven.com can connect with other skilled employees and earn badges based on their SkillsUSA experiences. The badges are added to participants’ profiles.

Scholarship details will be provided to SkillsUSA State Association Directors. Contact Niki Clausen at nclausen@skillsusa.org.

Pin design winner

Betsy Zelina of Pennsylvania, has won the 2011 SkillsUSA Alumni Pin Design Contest. Purchase pins for $3 online at www.skillsusa.org/store/.

The 2012 Alumni Pin Design Contest entries are due at SkillsUSA headquarters in Leesburg, Va., by March 1, 2012. For more information, visit the alumni page: www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumni.shtml.

Alumni webinar to cover social media

A SkillsUSA Alumni social media webinar will address how business owners, authors and celebrities increase their profits with Facebook and Twitter integration. Log in Wednesday, Aug. 10, at 1 p.m. Eastern time, to learn how Mari Smith, president of the International Social Media Association, runs her own social media consultancy to help clients maximize their Facebook marketing. Log in at: http://web.ganconference.com/?meeting=7994021; then call: 888-222-0475. Use attendee code: 6837807. FastCompany.com has dubbed Smith “the pied piper of Facebook.” Smith will give you tips to put Facebook to work by covering fan pages, groups and results reporting. Her Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/marismith.

Kansas City alumni events

Winners of the Champions 5K Race held during the National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City, Mo., were Ashley Mueller, Tanya Wood and Jocilyn Skinner, the fastest three females.

Champion of the Year fundraiser nets grants to start up state Alumni groups

A new grant program has been established to assist states in starting State Alumni and Friends associations. This grant program has been made possible by the inaugural CEO of the Year Dinner recognizing Air Products chairman, president and chief executive officer John McGlade.

In this first year of the program, 10 states submitted applications. One grant was awarded per region: Region 1, New Jersey; Region 2, Virginia; Region 3, Ohio; Region 4, Oklahoma; and Region 5, California.

Keeping checking the website to learn more about the program, or contact Niki Clausen for more information at nclausen@skillsusa.org or 703-737-0639.

Alumni training

Fifteen alumni participated in training in Kansas City, Mo., in June. The agenda included the state of the alumni association plus seminars on how to start a state association and train volunteers. Professional development training by Amelia Powers and Bryan Doxford covered mentoring and being a mentor, and Stephanie Bland (above, center) discussed inclusion and diversity.

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