

SkillsUSA Alumni

The Journey Continues ...

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PHOTO: JOEY BAKER

State association director, business partner meet with committee

Committee seeks nominees for Regions 2, 4 and executive chair

SkillsUSA is accepting nominations for service on the Alumni Coordinating Committee, Regions 2 and 4, as well as the executive chair, who can be from any state.

Regions 2 is comprised of the following states: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. Region 4 is comprised of the following: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota.

All nominees must be active annual, lifetime or honorary life members in good standing of the SkillsUSA Alumni and Friends Association. In addition, a nominee must have been

an active member for at least 12 months preceding the date of nomination.

Nominations must be submitted to the national headquarters by April 15. You may nominate yourself or any alumni member in good standing. If you have questions, please contact Heidi Walsh, hwalsh@skillsusa.org, 703-737-0615. For nomination guidelines, visit: www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumni.shtml.

November Meeting

The SkillsUSA Alumni Coordinating Committee (ACC) met in Kansas City, Mo., in November (*photo above*). Karen Ward, the state association director representative, and Greg Rintala of Snap-on Tools provided insight on how alumni can better meet the needs of educators and business and industry partners.

The ACC also addressed supplementing the Alumni Guide and State Coordinators Guide and made plans for nationals.

Alumni offer two awards

Two alumni members will be recognized in June during the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City, Mo.

One will receive the **Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award** presented to an alumnus who has been out of school for at least five years; has demonstrated outstanding leadership

and/or service for career and technical education and/or SkillsUSA; and has contributed to or advocated for his or her career field and/or career and technical education. Nominees can be state association directors, state staff, other alumni, industry representatives, SkillsUSA board members or teachers.

The second, the **Outstanding Alumni Member Recognition Award**, will be awarded to a *registered*

SkillsUSA alumnus who has graduated from a SkillsUSA program; has made significant contributions to national, state, regional or local SkillsUSA events, activities or students; has given back to SkillsUSA; and/or is an advocate for career and technical education.

Nominations must be *received* by April 1. For details and forms, visit: www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumni.shtml.

Regional Updates

Regional Alumni Coordinating Committee representatives are a great resource. Contact them with alumni news or information from your state. Use the email addresses below or access them through the alumni website: www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumni.shtml.

Region 1

Maria Bender
SkillsUSAregion1rep@gmail.com

Bender attended the Massachusetts fall conference in November, where Massachusetts alumni members conducted leadership training. Impressed by the number of alumni at the conference, Bender reports that Massachusetts alumni say they volunteered because someone volunteered when they were students.

Region 2

Joey Baker
SkillsUSAregion2rep@gmail.com

Region 3

Loree Hayden
SkillsUSAregion3Rep@gmail.com

Kentucky is planning alumni recruitment at both local and state events in the spring, according to Hayden. She adds that Wisconsin is working on establishing an official state alumni association. Likewise, Illinois is reorganizing and planning recruitment and fundraising events for the state conference in April.

Region 4

Cody McPherson
SkillsUSAregion4rep@gmail.com

Region 5

Coleen Read
SkillsUSAregion5Rep@gmail.com

At Region the 5 fall conferences, according to Read, alumni members helped with conference planning and served as trainers, guest speakers and judges.

Contact your SkillsUSA state directors to see when, where and how you can help with fall conferences.



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SkillsUSA Alumni
and Friends Association Group



Skills Build America fundraising campaign

To celebrate SkillsUSA's 50th anniversary in 2015, SkillsUSA has launched the Skills Build America fundraising campaign. With a goal of \$1 million, the campaign invites alumni, professional members, past national officers, industry volunteers and others to make a personal pledge.

The funds raised will be used to increase the number of student members and the positive impact of the SkillsUSA experience. Also, an effective network of alumni and friends will be created to provide employment connections as well as personal and professional development for every member.



As an added benefit, each state association of SkillsUSA will receive 10 percent of every contribution made from, or designated to, that state to strengthen student leadership development programs. To donate, visit: www.skillsusa.org/supporters/supportnew.shtml

SkillsUSA seeking national conference alumni pin designs

SkillsUSA sponsors a national conference alumni pin design competition open to all SkillsUSA registered alumni. This year, the winning design will become the official 50th Conference commemorative pin for the 2014 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. The pin will be produced by the SkillsUSA Store and sold at the alumni booth. If you have questions, please contact Heidi Walsh at hwash@skillsusa.org. For contest details and rules, go to: www.skillsusa.org/downloads/PDF/AlumniPinDesign.pdf.

Alumni and Friends merit scholarships offered

The SkillsUSA Alumni and Friends Association is offering two annual merit-based \$500 scholarships to qualifying students.

The \$500 scholarships will recognize the unique qualities of SkillsUSA students including leadership, commitment to community service, and advocating for career and technical education. Application deadline is May 1. For complete details, visit: www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumnischolar.shtml

Note that SkillsUSA is not responsible for travel, dining or lodging. Visit: www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumni.shtml.

Keep checking the website for NLSC volunteer details

If you are an alumnus who is attending the national conference and can volunteer some time to work on behalf of the Alumni Association, keep checking the SkillsUSA website for volunteer registration and positions.

