

# SkillsUSA Alumni

## The Journey Continues ...

September 2013

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### Alumni Coordinating Committee chair welcomes new year

**W**e've learned that each time September arrives, summer ends and school begins. Each day, I come across advertisements, pictures or blog posts about going back to school. Part of me longs to be heading back to school — complete with a new backpack, and my favorite blue jeans and T-shirt. The thought seems comforting. Like many alumni members, I've traded school for a career. But you never know, maybe someday I'll trade in my tie for a backpack and a new opportunity to retrain and refresh my skills.

With the advent of the new school year, this newsletter will serve as our official “new beginnings” message. If you're back at school or wishing that you were, welcome to a new season! In this edition, we outline ways to stay involved with SkillsUSA as we enter a season for learning and growth.

In the spirit of a new beginning, please take note of our current Alumni Coordinating Committee (ACC) representatives: Maria Bender, New Jersey; Loree Hayden, Illinois; and Karen Ward, Massachusetts. We also welcome back Coleen Read, Nevada; Joey Baker, Florida; Cody McPherson, Oklahoma; and Anne Dew, Ohio. Dew will serve as the ACC's secretary this year.

— *Bryan Doxford, Executive Chair*

### Committee accepts nominations for office

**S**killsUSA is accepting nominations for Region 2 and 4 representatives as well as the executive chair for the Alumni Coordinating Committee 2014-2016 term.

Region 2 nominees must be from one of the following: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Puerto Rico or U.S. Virgin Islands.

Region 4 nominees must be from one of the following: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Iowa or Minnesota.

Nominees for the executive chair can be from any state.

All nominees must be active annual,

lifetime or honorary life members in good standing of the SkillsUSA Alumni and Friends Association.

In addition, nominees must have been active members for at least 12 months preceding the date of nomination.

Nominations must be submitted to SkillsUSA headquarters by the established deadline. You may nominate yourself or any alumni member in good standing.

Keep checking the SkillsUSA website or alumni Facebook page for details, forms and deadlines.

If you have questions, please email Heidi Walsh: [hwalsh@skillsusa.org](mailto:hwalsh@skillsusa.org).

**Success Stories.** Your success stories inspire current SkillsUSA members. For details, call Heidi Walsh at 703-737-0615 or email [hwalsh@skillsusa.org](mailto:hwalsh@skillsusa.org).

### Her instructor made her do it

**W**hen asked why she joined SkillsUSA, Dara Dubois will answer, “My instructor made me do it!” That instructor, Tom Stark, taught automotive technology at American River College. The year was 1989, and Dubois was working full time, going to school and parenting two children. After a lot of persuading, Dubois agreed to join. Twenty-four years later, having earned a national silver medal in Job Interview and having served as a national officer in 1994, she's still an active member.

The first and only female in her class, Dubois later became an automotive technology teacher and advisor at the Sacramento college. She serves on the Automotive Service Technology technical committee in California. She is also a national technical committee member for Quiz Bowl, and an advocate of SkillsUSA at her job with the California Department of Education.

SkillsUSA gave her self-confidence, and staying involved made her feel like she fit in. Giving back has its rewards.

She's trained more than 500 state and national officers and says, “I have been graced with the opportunity to work with students from across the country and watch them grow into amazing adults. These adults then go on to work with our sponsors, open businesses, and become politicians, soldiers and so much more.”



Dara Dubois

## 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](http://www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumni.shtml).

### Region 1 Representative

Maria Bender

[SkillsUSAregion1rep@gmail.com](mailto:SkillsUSAregion1rep@gmail.com)

Bender reports that Pennsylvania's SkillsUSA alumni are finalizing their website. The alumni group hopes to update information continuously. In addition, Region 1 alumni are working with alumni state coordinators to create a more unified look for individual state alumni websites. To submit information or make suggestions for the Pennsylvania alumni page, contact the state association director or Maria Bender.

### Region 2 Representative

Joey Baker

[SkillsUSAregion2rep@gmail.com](mailto:SkillsUSAregion2rep@gmail.com)

Baker traveled to the Tennessee and South Carolina state conferences to work with new state alumni coordinators. Baker provided resources to get these alumni associations up and running. Goals include expanded membership and more coordinator training.

### Region 3

Loree Hayden

[SkillsUSAregion3Rep@gmail.com](mailto:SkillsUSAregion3Rep@gmail.com)

Hayden reports a more focused collaboration between states will form the basis to develop a plan for growth and development. Stay tuned.

### Region 4

Cody McPherson

[SkillsUSARegion4rep@gmail.com](mailto:SkillsUSARegion4rep@gmail.com)

### Region 5

Coleen Read

[SkillsUSAregion5Rep@gmail.com](mailto:SkillsUSAregion5Rep@gmail.com)

Twenty-five volunteers represented Region 5 at the 2013 National Leadership and Skills Conference.

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



Join us on Facebook and Twitter:  
SkillsUSA Alumni  
and Friends Association Group



## Record hours served during nationals

The 49th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) was held in Kansas City, Mo., June 24 to 28. More than 15,000 people, including students, teachers, business partners and alumni members participated in the event.

At NLSC, alumni served a record 4,000 volunteer hours, based on those who attended and reported at the alumni recognition luncheon. Adding the time volunteered within their respective state associations, alumni volunteer hours reached more than 10,000.

This year, the SkillsUSA Alumni Coordinating Committee hosted a roundtable



Volunteers (with Executive Director Tim Lawrence) sold tickets for the Harley-Davidson drawing.

discussion with alumni from across the country and generated new ideas for growth and networking. Likewise, an alumni reception held at Amigoni Urban Winery in Kansas City, Mo., offered the chance to network with business and industry executives.

## Dress professionally, ask good questions and bring a résumé

Here are a few key tips to help you stand out in a job interview.

**Dress professionally:** For men, a suit and tie with shined, clean shoes will give a good impression on how serious you are about the job. For women, it's a dress suit with low, closed-toe heels and stockings. Reference the *SkillsUSA Leadership Handbook* for more suggestions on how to dress.

**Prepare for questions:** Basic interview questions can be found online to help you practice for the interview, for example, "Why do you want to work for our company?" Be sure to come up with some questions for the interviewer, too. For instance, ask why he or she got involved in the company.

**Bring a résumé:** Even if you have sent one, when you walk into an interview always have an updated version of your résumé. Basic résumé templates can be found in most word processing software. Having a solid résumé is important; do not skimp on accurate information, and do not forget to include SkillsUSA. Have others proofread your résumé. And, have a good reference list.

## SkillsUSA National Conference Alumni Pin Design Contest

SkillsUSA sponsors a national conference alumni pin design competition open to all SkillsUSA registered alumni. The winning design will become the official alumni pin for the 2014 National Leadership and Skills Conference. The pin will be produced by the SkillsUSA Store and sold at the alumni booth during the conference. One design will be selected. All entries must be submitted to SkillsUSA. Only one entry per SkillsUSA alumni member is permitted. Questions? Contact: Heidi Walsh, [hwalsh@skillsusa.org](mailto:hwalsh@skillsusa.org), 703-737-0615. For complete contest guidelines, visit: [www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumni.shtml](http://www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumni.shtml).

