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Making Leadership Their Business
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BY CRAIG E. MOORE

Ask Tim
BY TIM LAWRENCE

What’s New
BY TOM KERCHEVAL

Toolbox
BY TOM KERCHEVAL

Spotlight
BY ANN P. SCHREIBER

Image
BY E. THOMAS HALL

On the Cover:
SkillsUSA Champion Bernadice Ainslie of San Antonio. Photo by Lloyd Wolf.

Spring 2011 SkillsUSA Champions 3
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In keeping with a tradition of respect for the individuality of our members and our role in workforce development, SkillsUSA strives to ensure inclusive participation in all of our programs, partnerships and employment opportunities.

SkillsUSA
Led to **Lead Others**

Executive Director Tim Lawrence has known SkillsUSA as a student member, instructor, industry partner and state director. Got a question? He can help.

**Q:** What does SkillsUSA teach about being a leader in every stage of life: school, career and community?

**Tim:** As I often say, we’re first and foremost a leadership organization. This issue of SkillsUSA Champions focuses on leaders of all ages. You can follow in their footsteps with a few key attributes: self-awareness, skill and commitment.

There’s another important quality I believe all great leaders possess. I’ve seen it in the classroom and in the boardroom, and if you look closely, you’ll see it in all of the men and women who built America. Their common characteristic is vision.

Vision is a dream. It can fly. Simply put, leaders see what others can’t see. They are able to forecast ahead to the needs of others. Big things can happen when you have a vision for the future, especially when you engage others in your dream.

In this issue, you’ll read about a postsecondary competition team from Florida. Having many responsibilities, these six women could’ve found more excuses not to practice than reasons to win. But, they supported each other, polished their skills and earned a national medal. They credit the director of their school for first having a vision of excellence for all its students. Their shared vision as SkillsUSA members unified generations and brought a national spotlight to the school once again.

You’ll also read the story of a younger member who dreamed of stepping into that spotlight. This video broadcasting student from Georgia used the speaking skills she honed in SkillsUSA to set herself apart from the field. Her vision has led her to start a consulting business to help other young women to compete, as well as a new acting career for herself.

These standout members of SkillsUSA offer some practical advice that will help any member: Be yourself, be prepared, be flexible and be aware. That means facing your own shortcomings and working on them step by step. It also means using all of the resources provided by our chapter advisors and business partners to jump-start your future.

It has always been our vision to involve every eligible student in SkillsUSA, to empower young people and to improve every life we touch. Learn all you can from the successful leaders of the past, and look toward the future with a vision of what you believe will make a positive difference for others. Do that, and you will be both a leader and a champion throughout your life.●

**Got questions about SkillsUSA or other topics? E-mail anyinfo@skillsusa.org or send a letter to the address on the facing page. Put “Ask Tim” in the subject line or mail address.**
Going **Green**  
**Takes Action, Not Just Talk**

**K**ermit the Frog may have been right when he said, “It’s not easy being green,” but that doesn’t mean it’s not important. “Going green” is an oft-heard phrase these days, but SkillsUSA wants to reward members who do more than just talk about protecting our environment. That’s why Lowe’s and SkillsUSA have established a new contest that allows green-minded SkillsUSA instructors to demonstrate their methods, techniques and technologies for reducing the carbon footprint of their classrooms. (If you don’t know what “carbon footprint” means, this may not be the contest for you.)

Six winning instructors will receive a different form of green: a $2,500 award from Lowe’s and paid attendance to the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. To enter online, visit: [www.skillsusa.org/compete/lowesgreen.shtml](http://www.skillsusa.org/compete/lowesgreen.shtml). The deadline is April 1.

Using grants from Lowe’s, many SkillsUSA chapters have developed projects that are green-themed. Read the details at: [www.skillsusa.org/educators/lowesgrants.shtml#2010](http://www.skillsusa.org/educators/lowesgrants.shtml#2010).

**Giving More to Get More**

No one knows better than SkillsUSA members about the importance of using the right tools to get the job done. Well, one of SkillsUSA’s “jobs” in the coming years is to increase alumni membership, and SkillsUSA’s Alumni Coordinating Committee is unleashing a powerful tool to help the effort: incentives.

Every time a SkillsUSA advisor signs up five members to the SkillsUSA Alumni and Friends Association, the advisor will be entered into a drawing for a VISA gift card. Sign up 10 members, double your chances. Fifteen? Your chances of winning have just tripled. You get the idea.

For details and deadlines, visit: [www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumni.shtml](http://www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumni.shtml).
DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

How about a little SAT prep? Try this analogy question: “Pizza” is to “Pizza Hut” as “Leadership Development” is to “(blank).” If your first thought was “SkillsUSA,” then you’ve been paying attention for the last 46 years. SkillsUSA has made leadership development one of its main goals since its formation in 1965, and its leadership training is second to none.

However, some students with strong leadership potential don’t always have the chapter, school or community resources necessary to participate in SkillsUSA’s major leadership development events. That’s why, in 2007, former Caterpillar executive and SkillsUSA supporter Robert L. Flint helped create the SkillsUSA Student Leadership Development Scholarship.

Eight students will be chosen to receive either a $1,300 scholarship to support expenses for SkillsUSA Officer 101/201 training during the national conference or an $800 scholarship to attend the Washington Leadership Training Institute. However, only your state association director can submit an application, so if you know a deserving student (even if that deserving student is you), you’ll need to contact your state director for more information. To find your state director’s contact information, visit: www.skillsusa.org/about/dir4.shtml.

Two Leaders Wanted: Reward SkillsUSA’s Alumni and Friends Association annually offers merit-based, $500 scholarships to two qualifying students. For information, visit: www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumnischolar.shtml. The deadline is May 1.

Make Flying 5 Percent Smoother

If you’re flying to SkillsUSA’s National Leadership and Skills Conference (in Kansas City, Mo.) this June or the Washington Leadership Training Institute (Herndon, Va.) in September, here’s a tip: American Airlines is offering 5 percent off published fares to SkillsUSA members. For details, visit: www.skillsusa.org/events/nlscair.shtml (for national conference) or www.skillsusa.org/events/wltiair.shtml (for, you guessed it, WLTI).
Amanda Moreno was in a panic. “You’d think I would’ve been more prepared for a contest called, you know, Prepared Speech,” she laughs now about her first SkillsUSA regional competition. “I didn’t realize I couldn’t use note cards until I was about to start. I was supposed to have the speech memorized.” Moreno decided to face the challenge, relax and “be the best Amanda I can be.”

She’s well on her way. A video broadcasting student at Rockdale Career Academy in Conyers, Ga., the 18-year-old went on to become National American Miss Georgia Teen, started her own successful pageant training business and landed a role in a television show called “Wildflowers.” But that first regional SkillsUSA leadership competition in 2009 — which she won — was an epiphany that helped Moreno wrangle her dreams into reality.

“Once I started doing my speech, I really got into it, and I was speaking with passion, which I think is the most important thing when you’re presenting yourself,” she says. Regional gold led to a victory at the state competition and a fourth-place finish at nationals, where Moreno was the top-ranking female contestant. “Being fourth in the nation when I didn’t think I’d win regionals was so exciting, a blessing.”

Becoming a SkillsUSA chapter president during her first year of membership was a role that helped her hone her natural leadership skills.

ON THE WEB

Find out more about Casey Clayton’s Get Connected program (described on Page 10) at: www.donthideyou.com

To watch some behind-the-scenes photos of Amanda Moreno on the set of the “Wildflowers” television pilot, visit: http://tinyurl.com/45voczbr

For more details on the National American Miss Pageant for your state, visit: www.namiss.com
“SkillsUSA taught me that when you’re dealing with different people, you have to find a common ground,” she explains. “A good leader inspires a team to have confidence in that leader, but a great leader inspires the members of that team to have confidence in themselves.”

Moreno had entered the National American Miss Georgia Teen competition in 2009 but didn’t place. She says SkillsUSA experiences inspired her to return the next year with newfound leadership skills and revived confidence.

“Winning is not about being a size 0, it’s not about being perfect looking,” adds Moreno, who outscored nearly 200 other teens to claim the title. “I was not the prettiest, the tallest or the thinnest. But if you look at my scores, I continually win my interview competition, and that’s very important to me. In life, those skills are going to take me somewhere, and those are things I’ve learned in SkillsUSA.”

Later that year, she barely missed winning the national crown. While first runner-up wasn’t exactly the result she wanted, Moreno isn’t complaining. “There was no reason to be upset,” she says. “I did the absolute best I could do, and I handled it like I’d want someone else to handle it if I was named queen.”

Moreno plans to take one more shot at it, but in the meantime, she’s started training other pageant hopefuls, using the methods that helped her. Her first client, a friend with little experience, won the national Miss American Coed competition. “I coached her to be the best Stephanie, and she did it,” Moreno, who’s now handling multiple clients, says proudly.

Acting is another of her passions. She’s taken lessons and performed in a variety of plays and productions. When a part on the “Wildflowers” television show opened up, the student decided to audition. It was déjà vu experience.

“I didn’t realize it was a singing show until I got to the audition,” she says. You can probably imagine how the story ends. Moreno relaxed, belted out what she could remember of the theme to “The Little Mermaid” and won the role. Producers are shopping a pilot to various networks and hope to land a deal soon.

Meanwhile, Moreno is plotting a return to the SkillsUSA Championships as a Prepared Speech competitor. “Our regionals is just around the corner,” she says, “and my speech is done and memorized. I’m good to go this time.”

Leadership Through Hardship
Like many successful leaders, Casey Clayton, SkillsUSA Colorado vice president, turned difficulties into opportunities, not excuses. “I grew up a poor kid,” she explains, “a paycheck away from being homeless. It was a difficult situation.”

Learning to be themselves helped these two students turn obstacles into opportunities — and now they’re helping others do the same.
In high school (“back when MySpace was cool,” she says), Clayton created Girls with a Voice, a program designed to “help girls love themselves and find their true beauty.” Now she's planning a new interactive program called Get Connected, which she plans to take to nearby schools.

“I wanted to create a program that helps all teens break down their walls and live above peer pressure,” the 20-year-old says. “I want them to learn to be OK with who they are and know they are somebody in this big world.”

An English and marketing student at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood, Clayton credits the leadership training she's received (and helped administer) as a SkillsUSA state officer with helping her become what she calls a “positive promoter.”

“Many kids make choices because of peer pressure, but what if that pressure was positive?” she asks.

“A leader is someone who knows they are always growing and learning, but also encourages others to grow and learn.”

— Casey Clayton

“SkillsUSA has given me the tools to create a sturdy foundation that makes me comfortable being me. It’s the little things that really make me realize how much SkillsUSA means to me. Now, everywhere I go, I want to pump joy or at least a smile into this world.”

Four big BEs of leadership

SkillsUSA members are familiar with leadership concepts. But are you fully aware of the long-term value of developing leadership skills? Here are four tips to help you improve your skills right now, improvements that will pay huge dividends in your future.

• Be yourself. Amanda Moreno’s story shows how important it is to be comfortable in your own skin, to be genuine and not try to become something you’re not just to reduce peer pressure. Genuine confidence always shines through.

• Be prepared. Whatever you’re planning to tackle, make sure you know what you’re up against before rushing in. Exceptional preparation usually leads to exceptional achievements.

• Be flexible. Listen to the opinions of others. This doesn’t mean just being quiet while someone else talks; it means really listening and considering new viewpoints. Great leaders can admit when someone else might have a better solution.

• Be aware. Don’t hide from your weaknesses. Confront them, understand them, and turn them into strengths. One of the best tools you can use is SkillsUSA’s Professional Development Program. Make sure it’s part of your chapter. For more, visit: www.skillsusa.org/educators/pdp.shtml.

Go ahead, admit it: you’re not like most people.

You’re always looking at menus with a critical eye, noticing things that others don’t. You get excited at the first mention of upcoming farmers’ markets. You plan your weekends around food, and your conversations always seem to gravitate to the next big ingredient or culinary trend. Food is your passion.

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After losing four different jobs due to the economic downturn in Florida, single mother Debra Hancock decided it was time to do something to make herself more marketable. She enrolled in the medical administrative assisting program at Manatee Technical Institute (MTI) in Bradenton.

Each of her former employers had cut staff or closed, and when Hancock lost the fourth job, she was one month away from qualifying for health insurance. The timing couldn't have been worse — she discovered she had breast cancer.

“I immediately went and asked for assistance from the health department,” Hancock says. “I just dove in and concentrated on dealing with the cancer. I've been in remission now, officially, since February 2010.”

The month before, she started at MTI. By happy coincidence, she ended up interning for Florida Cancer Specialists, the group who did her chemotherapy.

Another hopeful sign came when MTI director Mary Cantrell, who often roams the campus promoting SkillsUSA and seeking champions (see Page 14), visited one of Hancock’s classes. Cantrell asked if anyone had any background in parliamentary procedure, and Hancock raised her hand. That move landed her on a Chapter Business Procedure contest team.
Hancock already knew another student on the team, Teresa Slack, who’d faced her own challenging path before joining. Slack returned to Florida from North Carolina when her father became terminally ill. In the process, she reunited with her estranged husband and took a job at a restaurant. She also started helping care for her husband’s elderly grandmother. Needing a more flexible schedule, she enrolled in the accounting operations program at MTI.

Cantrell, her husband and Slack had started a campus Lions Club chapter, with Slack as its president. The student’s connection was personal: the lions donated the corneas for her brother’s transplant after he lost his eyesight, and her niece was legally blind. The organization is known for its help with sight, hearing and diabetes issues. Slack asked Hancock, whose father was diabetic and on dialysis, to serve as the Lions chapter vice president, and she agreed.

Slack immersed herself in SkillsUSA as well, recognizing that both organizations share leadership and community service tenets. But she didn’t know how close she and Hancock would become with the other Chapter Business Procedure team members in the process of defending MTI’s long record of SkillsUSA medals.

The youngest, Diana Lopez, accepted Slack’s offer to join with reservations. A fellow student in accounting operations, Lopez lived 25 minutes from the campus and worked nights at a restaurant. Getting up early, she had classes until 11:15 a.m., then went home to study and deal with personal responsibilities before starting her job at 4 p.m. During the tourist season, she often worked past midnight. Lopez learned a lot from her more seasoned teammates. “Sometimes I don’t want to go to school,” she explains. “I’m tired. I’m so busy. I ask myself, ‘How can they do it, and I can’t?’ I’m younger. They’re having a hard time, and I’m just making excuses. They keep me going.”

Another team member, Tawanda Campbell, says she learned the patience to be a team player despite a hectic schedule. Her mother, who doesn’t drive and who’s raising two grandchildren, lives with her. “So I’m their chauffeur,” she says. “I take them everywhere they need to go.”

Campbell had worked for Tropicana in Bradenton since 1997, but finding comparable work during seasonal layoffs was a challenge.

During one layoff, she worked for a county library. With only a GED diploma, she didn’t have the education to move up. Campbell eventually enrolled at MTI to study business administration and was offered a full-time position with Tropicana. But by the time she gave notice with the county and returned, the department had been dissolved.

Returning to seasonal shift work, Campbell often suffered sleepless nights to attend classes. “Pepsi products and chocolate” helped keep her going when sleep wasn’t an option, she laughs. Fortunately, Tropicana has begun paying her tuition.

Team member Sandy Uffelman left her own job as a dental assistant after 13 years. When her husband opened a plumbing and drain-cleaning company, she ran the office — until the housing boom went bust, that is, and plumbing companies that had been doing new construction moved into the service industry. The couple went to work for another plumbing business, but they lost their jobs within three weeks of each other.

Reading about MTI and SkillsUSA in the newspaper, Uffelman was drawn to the campus and its medical administrative specialist program. She and classmate Margaret Mosher were recruited into the Lions chapter by Slack, and Cantrell urged them to join the SkillsUSA team.

Mosher had worked in retail for more than 20 years. She’d been a store manager for 13 of them when the economy and personal crises forced her to leave. “I had to have my knee replaced, twice. I lost my son during that time,” Mosher says. “It’s been a couple of years that have been really dark.”

Her son had a problem with prescription drug abuse and died at home. “It was about a week before I was to get my knee operated on. He wasn’t feeling good one night. The next day, we went in and checked on him at 6:30 a.m., and he
was gone.” Mosher talks openly about the loss. “I share my story. I want kids to know what this can do to you.”

For years, she’d also taken care of her husband, who was disabled in 1984. “He had a high-voltage electrical shock and got 7,600 volts of electricity,” Mosher explains.

More than ready for a fresh start, she started classes at MTI.

“You gotta pick yourself up,” she says. “It’s been such a positive experience out at MTI. I’ve grown by leaps and bounds. I’m not too old to start a second life.”

‘An incredible journey’

Putting the competition team together was easy compared to the six women finding a time to practice that worked for everyone.

“It was a little bit hard because of the schedule, because we’d meet after lunch at 2 p.m.,” Lopez says. “So, I’d leave campus and then come back two days a week.”

“When we tried to get our practices together,” Hancock adds, “sometimes Tawanda would be coming in late, bless her heart, and have to get up early and go to work because she worked the night shift. It was a struggle for each one of us in our own certain way.”

Their different life experiences made them a stronger team. “We’re constantly feeding off each other,” Mosher explains.

Slack agrees. “We bounce ideas back and forth, off each other, of ways to make things run smoothly. Whatever it takes, we want to give it our all.”

Some stepped easily into their chapter business roles. “Sandy is the ultimate in organization. She’s the perfect secretary,” Hancock says. “Teresa’s our big research person. If there’s a question she’s not really quite sure about, she’s digging in the library or finding a book and making copies for everyone … so we have tons of information on parliamentary procedure, special orders, you name it.”

And, Uffelman laughs, “between Tawanda and Margaret, you never know what’s going to happen.”

“I thought, ‘Where do I fit in so I can be productive and useful?’ It wasn’t easy, because the first meeting, I didn’t speak, because I wasn’t sure and I wasn’t comfortable,” the usually talkative Campbell remembers. “I wanted to be part of the group, and I wanted to have input. I did eventually make a little niche for myself.”

As for Lopez, who calls herself the “baby” of the group, the team members saw a big change in her. “She’s blossomed,” Hancock says. “She gives excellent input. She studies. She has excellent questions.”

Because they only started practicing in March, the pressure was on. But on the eve of the June national competition, all found the experience worth their time.

“We’ve all pulled together, and it’s been an incredible journey,” Hancock says.

Campbell, who’d just taken her first flight, adds, “It’s a great opportunity.”

“It looks wonderful on your résumé,” Slack points out.

“And we’re having fun!” Mosher exclaims. Their team succeeded with a bronze medal at the SkillsUSA Championships. But these six women gained much more.

“We’re not just friends, we’re family,” Hancock says. “We all jumped in. We all helped each other. We’ve all learned from each other,” Hancock says. “I think that’s been the main thread through all of this. We know we’re not alone.”

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SkillsUSA leadership events open the door to national recognition

For Mary Cantrell, Ph.D., SkillsUSA’s leadership training is key to students reaching their full potential. As director of Manatee Technical Institute (MTI) in Bradenton, Fla., she requires all students to join SkillsUSA. If they’re reluctant, she tells them to attend a different school.

Why so adamant? The leadership component wasn’t that important to her until she witnessed one student’s transformation. He’d been arrested for inciting a riot on campus, and, at a loss, his instructor assigned him to join the Opening and Closing Ceremonies team.

“All of a sudden,” Cantrell says, “all that ‘bad’ leadership was ‘good’ leadership. Up to that point, for me, it had to be skilled for it to matter. And I realized, ‘Oh, wait a minute, I’ve made a terrible choice here.’ Because it’s leadership, that’s what really makes the difference. It’s the ability to get people to be more than they think they can be. That’s what SkillsUSA is about.

“Ever since then, yes, I want students to do the skill events. That’s important. But, also, I need students to participate in the leadership. That’s where their full potential can be reached.”

MTI was under threat of shutting down when Cantrell first arrived. She was hired with this caveat: “Fix it, or we close it.”

“So,” the director explains, “I said, ‘We’re going to be nationally recognized for excellence in technical training.’ I had this vision, and having other people see this vision ... all of a sudden, through SkillsUSA, that happened.”

Numerous SkillsUSA Championships medals later, often more than any other school nationwide, she says the dedicated staff at MTI is critical. “Every August, our staff has a new crop of students to prepare to be nationally competitive. The MTI instructors have faced this challenge and done the impossible. It takes an entire team to do what MTI has done.”

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They’ve Got What It Takes To Reach the Finish Line

Sisters Kim Cioni and Karyn Hawthorne reaffirmed the value of teamwork and the importance of perseverance as they pursued the highest individual honor offered by SkillsUSA.

Kim Cioni will not let her students give up. Or her sister, for that matter. She’s in it for the long haul, making sure they stay in the race to the end.

According to her sister, Karyn Hawthorne, Cioni inherited that determination from their grandfather. “She doesn’t let any of her students give up. No matter what their problems are, she finds a way to make it work.”

It’s a good thing, too, since Cioni, the SkillsUSA advisor at Illinois Central College, and Hawthorne, a former student (pictured left to right), decided to pursue the organization’s highest individual honor: the International SkillsUSA Degree.

Part of the Professional Development Program, the degree is completed after a SkillsUSA member has entered the workforce. A series of requirements must be met, including the documentation of 960 hours of full-time employment and various professional development tasks related to the job. Candidates must also assemble a notebook and make a presentation of the material.

The college’s group began working on the requirements last year after meeting with SkillsUSA’s executive director. “Tim Lawrence encouraged us to go forward and try for it,” Hawthorne says.

For Cioni, teamwork was what made meeting the degree requirements possible. “I talked with the students who did this with us. We decided if we did it as a team, we could help mentor each other and help support each other.”

After making their presentations at SkillsUSA’s national conference, Cioni was beyond excited to find out she, her sister and fellow team member Nick Hulva were among the select few to make the cut. “It sounds crazy, but I was almost relieved, because we had been working so hard on the process,” she says.

Getting the degree was so much work that Cioni jokingly told her college president that she would no longer need to get her doctorate. “This is my doctorate at this point,” she explains. “It was that much work for me to get it done, and we put heart and soul into it.”

Hawthorne, who has been involved with SkillsUSA for 10 years, says receiving the degree “means the world to me. It’s just such an honor.”

And Hawthorne is no stranger to awards. She was also honored by the Peoria Chamber of Commerce with its “25 Women in Leadership” award.

Hawthorne sums up their effort this way: “If you don’t run the race, you can’t finish. Whether you win or lose, you have to run to the end. It makes a difference if you run to the end. At least you’ve completed it.”

By Craig E. Moore
Some Standout Leaders Don’t Always Stand Out

What is your definition of a leader? Does being a leader automatically equate to being popular, well-known and well-liked by the multitudes?

Ask everyone in your class to compile a list of five great leaders. When finished, share those choices in a class discussion. Chances are, you’ll discover that many of the leaders named were famous historical figures (like presidents or revolutionaries). But what about everyday, “ordinary” people? Can they be leaders, too? How?

Write a new list. This time, pick five people you know personally who inspire you to be a better person just by being themselves. Do these people have particular attributes you wish you could develop? Share your top choices with the class.

Leaders come in many sizes. Some lead with great words and deeds, others by quiet example. What’s your leadership potential? Use SkillsUSA’s Personal Leadership Inventory to find out. Visit: www.skillsusa.org/educators/pli.shtml.

The best example of leadership is leadership by example.

— Jerry McClain

No, the picture on the left isn’t abstract art. It’s actually a distorted part of another photo in this issue. Find the original photo and send us the page number where it appears to win a SkillsUSA sport duffel bag (first prize) or water bottle (second prize). To enter, e-mail your answer, name, address and phone number to: anyinfo@skillsusa.org (include “Photo Contest” in the subject line). Or, send to: SkillsUSA Photo Contest, 14001 SkillsUSA Way, Leesburg, VA 20176. One first- and one second-prize winner will be drawn at random from the correct entries. Entries must be received by March 15. Congratulations to last issue’s winners: Jamie Howard of Higbee, Mo., and Michelle Storey of Collinsville, Okla.
MAKING TOUGH TIMES A LITTLE EASIER

A t DeKalb Technical College in Clarkston, Ga., cosmetology students joined the criminal justice club and student government association to organize heartfelt makeovers for local residents who faced difficult situations.

Students gave free haircuts to boys from the Newton County juvenile justice system. Girls from Project Adventure and women from a homeless shelter were treated to haircuts, color services, facials, manicures and pedicures, as were others from a shelter for battered women.

Students ran the event, providing food and donating men’s, women’s and children’s clothing to the families. Local organizations also made donations.

Painting and planting
SkillsUSA Puerto Rico’s officer team from Antonio Lucchetti Vocational High School in Arecibo led schools on the island in their initiative, Champions to the Rescue: Replant Your School.

Students were encouraged to not only clean and paint at their schools, but also to plant trees.

Fundraiser keeps race car on fast track

The high-school automotive technology program at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo., holds an annual Rocky Mountain Oyster Fry to help defray the costs of running their SkillsUSA race car at local tracks.

For this year’s event, the students sold more than 180 advance tickets plus an additional 50 at the door. Proceeds also defray the costs of equipment and tools incurred in the program's training labs.

Oyster fry helps automotive students raise funds for both their lab and their class project, a SkillsUSA race car.
SkillsUSA Champions features our members’ photography. We’re looking for images of SkillsUSA chapters in action, or ones that show individual members’ concentration or perseverance. For details, e-mail thall@skillsusa.org (put “Image Photo” in the subject header) or write SkillsUSA Champions, 14001 SkillsUSA Way, Leesburg, VA 20176. The photographer’s chapter is awarded $150.

Leadership is not a place you sit; it’s a choice you make.
Sam Soto of Tennessee, SkillsUSA’s current college/postsecondary division president

SkillsUSA puts you outside your comfort level. I’m finding things I didn’t think I could do and, hello, I’m doing them!
Margaret Mosher, a student in Bradenton, Fla., on starting over with a new career after 20 years
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- Commercial Baking
- Computer Maintenance Technology
- Computer Programming
- Cosmetology
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- Customer Service
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- Employability
- Engineering Technology
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- Medical Assisting
- Motorcycle Service Technology
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