



Great teachers are always looking for ways to engage students and build relationships. **SkillsUSA**, a national career and technical student organization (CTSO), provides the tools to do both. **SkillsUSA** is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. **SkillsUSA** is a motivator for students to put forth their best effort in the classroom, making daily lessons even more relevant to career success.



SkillsUSA chapter activities and accomplishments can build a positive image for schools and PLTW programs within schools. For a **SkillsUSA** chapter advisor, the activities, projects and contests provide opportunities to build stronger relationships with students. For the majority of students, **SkillsUSA** is the first professional organization they will join. As a student-run organization, members feel a sense of empowerment and belonging. The experiences and knowledge gained provide an excellent platform for career development and success.

A **SkillsUSA** chapter can be established in as few as five steps:

- Secure support from school administration
- Get students excited about the opportunities provided
- Establish the chapter with an official charter
- Register members
- Hold chapter meetings



SkillsUSA's Web page at www.skillsusa-register.org provides tools and resources to establish a chapter and engage student members.



Many of the **SkillsUSA** competitions **directly relate** to the PLTW curriculum. As a result, students in PLTW classrooms/schools can compete in correlating **SkillsUSA** competitions. To learn more about competitions that correlate with PLTW Foundation and Capstone courses, go to: www.skillsusa.org/about/why-career-technical-education/stem-and-cte-alignment/project-lead-way-skillsusa/ **SkillsUSA** has additional competitions that are indirectly related to the PLTW curriculum, but students, given an opportunity for advanced training, could compete in these additional areas. SkillsUSA provides a description of all competitions on the following Web page: www.skillsusa.org/competitions/skillsusa-championships/contest-descriptions/



SkillsUSA competitions are referred to as SkillsUSA Championships. For a short video of the Championships during the National Conference go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dutz32hTVM&feature=youtu.be>

In addition to competitions, SkillsUSA offers a **Professional Development Program (PDP)** to help students develop the skills they need to make a smooth transition to the workforce or higher education. The program — available in printed workbooks or online — guides students through 74 employability skill activities that are covered in seven levels of the program. The curriculum can be used as a self-development course or for group instruction. It can be integrated into existing curricula or used as a separate course of study. Students can be recognized for achievement as they develop their professional and occupational skills. For a list of sample activities, please visit the Web page at: www.skillsusa.org/programs/professional-development-program-pdp/



For more information on SkillsUSA and to start a chapter, visit: www.skillsusa.org