In engineering, it’s important to be able to brainstorm different solutions to a problem and then use decision-making skills to end up with the best design possible. I’ve experienced this personally through a solar oven project I was assigned to work on with a team. My team faced tough constraints on the materials we could use, which meant we had to plan our design carefully. My team and I sat down together and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each design we had brainstormed until we reached a consensus. This deliberation process helped my team and me avoid spending time unnecessarily on designs that would have ultimately been less effective. SkillsUSA has taught me critical thinking skills and how to apply them to other aspects of my life.

I believe that career and technical education (CTE) allows students to discover their passions while preparing them to contribute back to society. SkillsUSA and CTE have given students across the country the ability to shape not only their own futures but the future of our nation.

In the future, I hope to study and pursue a career in mechanical engineering, more specifically in project management. I want to use the skills I’ve learned through my CTE program and SkillsUSA to create robots and robotic systems that improve people’s daily lives.