The delegate experience is vitally important to SkillsUSA. It is a mechanism to ensure the student voice is heard, and it provides delegates with an opportunity to influence the direction of the organization.

At the 2019 National Leadership and Skills Conference, the high school and college/postsecondary delegations presented and approved the following motions:

**High School Delegates – Naqely Garces, Puerto Rico**

Mr. President, I move that Spanish be included as another language to the national competitions including the written exams, the interviews, and the competition instructions. Also, to include a simultaneous translator to accompany all Spanish-speaking competitors, giving them the option to choose between the most comfortable language.

Given the reason that since 1965 Puerto Rico has been an association of SkillsUSA. Us, like all other state associations provide the organization economic support from all our affiliated members. This year we had 7,237 members in our state, making Puerto Rico the position number 14 with most affiliated members. Every year, our goal is to bring new competitors to the national championships. We know that our affiliated members can do a great job, and they give a good representation of our association. As you all know, our primary language is Spanish. Most of the students that win first place at our state competitions don’t speak good English or they don’t speak it at all. We find that this is a huge disadvantage to all competitors and members that are Spanish speaking. Therefore, we are proposing the following changes on behalf of our state and all Spanish speaking members. The following changes are:

- Provide the written exams in English and Spanish in a way that the competitor gets to decide whichever one is most comfortable for them.
- Provide a qualified translator during orientations, interviews and consults.

All these changes will benefit our organization in many ways. Some of these benefits are:

- Expand the diversity in knowledge, culture and personalities.
- Reach out to a whole other branch of people who can also close the skills gap in the US.
- Attract people
- Gain more participation in National Championships.

Let’s make a change to support the equality for all the members.

**College/Postsecondary Delegates – Aubrie, Utah**

I move that all SkillsUSA Proctor tests should be offered in English and Spanish.
**Response to Presented and Approved Motions:**

Dave Worden, Program Director, Championships, SkillsUSA

In response to the delegates submitting a motion concerning English-Spanish written exams and translators at NLSC, we have outlined initial steps in examining these items.

National staff and technical committees will start research, evaluation and collaboration to thoroughly examine all aspects of this motion by:
- Conducting surveys and gathering feedback from Technical Committees and State Directors
- Determine what other languages, besides Spanish, are needed
- Research availability of interpreters/translator with technical language skills
- Complexity in converting written and electronic exams to another language – technical language skills needed
- Timeline and costs to convert exams to additional languages
- Financial impact of providing onsite technically trained interpreters/translator

Championships competitions can only grow and move forward when we receive questions, concerns and possible options from others – thank you, delegates.

**Next Steps:**

Program staff will post an update on initial progress by January 31.

Contact Kim Hegedus for questions, 317-544-8750 or khegedus@skillsusa.org.