Overview: SkillsUSA is a national membership association serving high school, college and middle school students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations, and for further education. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA helps each student excel.

Membership: More than 365,000 students and advisors join SkillsUSA each year, organized within more than 19,000 local classrooms at 4,600 schools in 53 state and territorial associations. In 2018-19, 20,926 teachers served as professional members and SkillsUSA advisors. Combining alumni membership, the total number reached last year was 427,432. SkillsUSA has served more than 13.5 million members since its founding in 1965.

Mission: SkillsUSA empowers its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. SkillsUSA improves the quality of our nation’s future skilled workforce through the development of Framework skills that include personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics.

Vision: SkillsUSA produces the most highly skilled workforce in the world, providing every member the opportunity for career success.

Partners: More than 600 business, industry and labor organizations actively support SkillsUSA at the national level through financial aid, in-kind contributions, and involvement in SkillsUSA activities. Many more support state associations and local chapters. Commitment by industry to the annual national SkillsUSA Championships is valued at more than $36 million.

Programs: SkillsUSA offers local, state and national opportunities for students can to learn and practice personal, workplace and technical skills. These three components comprise the SkillsUSA Framework, a blueprint for career readiness. Local chapters conduct a full program of work and many students also attend a district or state conference. At the SkillsUSA Championships, more than 6,500 students compete in more than 105 occupational and leadership skill areas each June. These national technical competitions help establish industry standards for job skill training and entry-level workers. SkillsUSA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a successful model of employer-driven youth development training.

Resources: SkillsUSA offers many resources for educators and students. The SkillsUSA Career Essentials suite is a solution to industry and education needs in preparing career-ready students who are productive and promotable. The suite helps students develop the skills, attitudes and values that allow them stand out from other applicants in the skilled labor marketplace. The Chapter Excellence Program honors local chapter achievement around the SkillsUSA Framework of personal, workplace and technical skills. The SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards is the official competition guide, with a full list of competencies as well as embedded academic skills.

For more information: www.skillsusa.org