



2020–2021  
SkillsUSA  
Scholarship  
Recipients

## **2020–2021 SkillsUSA Scholarships and Recipients**

Through generous donor support, SkillsUSA provided 83 amazing scholarship opportunities—including four new scholarships—to deserving students so that they continue their education and careers in the trades. The following scholarships were awarded during the 2020–21 year, each links to the scholarship description and recipient listing:

- **Marsha Daves Scholarship**
- **Sharon Melton Myers Memorial Scholarship**
- **#KeepCraftAlive Scholarship**
- **SkillsUSA Signing Day Scholarships**
- **Bob Westphal Memorial Scholarship**
- **AHRI Clifford “Ted” Rees Scholarship**
- **Larry Rash Memorial Scholarship**
- **Robert Flint Foundation Student Leadership Scholarship**

To learn more about these scholarship opportunities, visit our [scholarships and grants](#) resources. These opportunities are open to active dues-paid SkillsUSA members. To inquire about funding these scholarships, contact the Office of Business Partnerships and Development at [BPD@skillsusa.org](mailto:BPD@skillsusa.org).



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## Marsha Daves Scholarship

This scholarship is administered by SkillsUSA in memory of Marsha Daves, who filled many roles at SkillsUSA. She was the first recipient of the Marsha Daves Lifetime Achievement Award, a member of the SkillsUSA Board of Directors, the former Chair of the State of Oklahoma Director's Association, a recipient of the Honorary Life Award and served as Director of Education and Training for SkillsUSA for many years. The Marsha Daves Scholarship offers one annual merit-based \$1,500 scholarship for college/postsecondary education to a SkillsUSA state officer in memory of her legacy.

**Leanna Nicholson** studied Computer Engineering student Mercer County Technical Education Center in Princeton, W.Va.

### Teacher Testimonial

*"Throughout her tenure as vice president of SkillsUSA West Virginia, I've observed Leanna as she has displayed important leadership qualities, such as being an attentive listener, exhibiting empathy for others, shaping and maintaining a vision for our organization, and influencing our team to do their best in each situation they encounter."*

— *Melissa Wilkinson, State SkillsUSA Director, W.Va.*

## Sharon Melton Myers Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is offered through a donation from the Sharon Melton Myers Memorial Fund, SkillsUSA and the McMinn County Vocational Center SkillsUSA Alumni Association in memory of Sharon Ruth Melton Myers. Sharon was an active member of the McMinn County Vocational Center SkillsUSA chapter from 1985 to 1988 and served as a local officer in 1986 and 1987. Sharon also participated in the chapter's Opening and Closing Team in 1986, 1987 and 1988. Following graduation from McMinn High in 1988, Sharon continued as an active supporter of SkillsUSA, serving as a national officer trainer for several years. Sharon was active in establishing a Tennessee SkillsUSA Alumni Charter and Constitution while attending David Lipscomb College in Nashville. The Sharon Melton Myers Memorial Scholarship offers two merit-based \$500 scholarships for college/postsecondary education to SkillsUSA members.

**Tarik Barnes** studied health science at Cleveland High School in Cleveland, Texas.

### Teacher Testimonial

*"Tarik's dedication and work ethic is evident in his assignments and classroom discussions. He makes stellar grades, even with his involvement in HOSA, SkillsUSA, Academic UIL, tennis and the Royal Braves Band. Additionally, he is responsible, trustworthy, honest and considerate — qualities that are rare in young adults today. Tarik has impeccable character and understands he has the ability to make a difference in the lives of others."*

— *Dr. Kristy Dietrich, Principal, Cleveland High School*



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**Bailey Brown** studied drafting at Richlands High School in Richlands, N.C.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Bailey is a conscientious and versatile individual who approaches all tasks, whether academic or extra-curricular, with enthusiasm. Bailey is very active in athletics, school clubs and activities and volunteering. [Bailey] is not afraid to step in and take a leadership role when necessary. Because of her initiative and positive attitude, Bailey will be successful in college.”*

— Dana Gurganus, Instructor of Mathematics, Richlands High School

## #KeepCraftAlive Scholarship

This scholarship is offered by Fine Homebuilding magazine and SkillsUSA to high school or college/postsecondary students continuing their education or certification programs in construction-related fields, such as architectural drafting, carpentry, cabinetmaking, electrical and residential wiring, HVACR, masonry, woodworking or plumbing. In the spirit of the #KeepCraftAlive movement, this scholarship celebrates true craftsmanship in their trades. Funds for this scholarship are contingent. In 2020-2021, eleven students were awarded one-time scholarships of \$2,500 to support continuation of education in their trade at the college/postsecondary level.

**Benjamin Shook** studied carpentry at Davies High School in Fargo N.D.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Ben has taken the lead as one of the top students in the [carpentry] class.”*

— Ron Streit, Instructor of Construction Trades at Davies High School

**Rigoberto “Rigo” Aguilar** is studying electrical construction wiring at Gilbreath-Reed Career and Technical Center in Garland, Texas.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Rigo has exceptional technical skills. He is a very fast learner and works with the NEC code in mind at all times.”*

**Francisco Santoyo** studied carpentry at Montecito High School in Ramona, Calif.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Francisco is one of our highest achieving students. Additionally, with his newly learned skills, he was able to help build a home for the Wounded Warrior Project where he saw that his skills not only enabled him to know how to build the house but also provide a home for a homeless veteran. Lastly, when Francisco recently competed in the state SkillsUSA competition, he won the Gold [medal] for carpentry.”*

— Pauline Leavitt, Principal of Montecito High School



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**Philip Lepore** studied engineering at Morris Knolls High School in Denville, N.J.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Philip continually goes above and beyond all while successfully balancing many different projects, jobs and activities. Helping comes as a second nature to him and he’s always happy to do something to help those around him.”*

— Marry Miraldi, Instructor of Technology Education at Morris Knolls High School

**Ryan Daly** studied carpentry at Stratford High School in Houston, Texas.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Whether it is in the classroom or on the baseball field, Ryan Daly has proven himself to be a dedicated leader — and successful entrepreneur.”*

— Patricia Lynn Hollister, Stratford High School Counselor

**Dakota McDaniel** studied carpentry at Cullman Area Technical Academy (CATA) in Cullman, Ala.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Dakota embodies all three of the skills outlined in all three areas of the SkillsUSA Framework. He has tremendous technical abilities, great work ethic and amazing personal skills. He is totally committed to obtaining his degree and making a career in construction management. He will one day make a great employee.”*

— Mike Burkett, Instructor of Carpentry/Construction at CATA

**Annayeli Dionisio** was a masonry student at Columbus Career and College Academy in Columbus, Ohio.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Annayeli was recently named Employable Pride Student of the Month at school. She was also named the county CTE Student of the Month. She’s a huge inspiration to our school and the masonry program.”*

— Fred Mason, Columbus Career and College Academy

**Joshua Costello** is studying carpentry at Utah State University in Logan, Utah.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Joshua’s desire to become a woodworker is evident in everything he does. While in high school, he competed in SkillsUSA and placed first at the state level. He then went on to nationals and placed third (2017). He is an outstanding individual.”*

— Kellan Baird, Associate Professor of Cabinetmaking and Architectural Woodworking at Utah State University

**Brandon Stephens** is studying carpentry at Simpson County Technical Center in Mendenhall, Mo.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Brandon’s attendance, diligence and positive attitude excels far beyond any student in my classes.”*

— Maurice Bryant, Instructor of carpentry and construction at Simpson County Technical Center



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**Cristian Veloso** is studying construction management at Savannah Technical College in Savannah, Ga.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Cristian was voted the one of the best students in the Construction Management program at this year’s SkillsUSA State Conference and won a SkillsUSA Georgia gold medal in Occupational Safety and Health. Cristian has shown a high level of maturity and is respectful to his peers. He is also a great team player who not only takes pride in his work, but also takes his work seriously.”*

— Daniel Krautheimer, Dean of Industrial Studies at Savannah Technical College

**Cooper Waddell** studies carpentry and engineering at Ben Barber Innovation Academy at Mansfield Legacy High School in Mansfield, Texas.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Cooper has a passion for construction design and engineering. Evident in projects we collaborated on, as he willingly voiced his contributions supported with a personal flair, style and experiences. He has natural leadership abilities and skills which contribute to his inclusive, productive teamwork abilities.”*

— Gene Schramme, Instructor of Construction Technologies at Ben Barber Innovation Academy

## SkillsUSA Signing Day Scholarships

In May 2021, SkillsUSA celebrated SkillsUSA National Signing Day, working with industry partners to highlight the value of skilled trades careers. The nationwide events recognized career and technical students for their dedication to career readiness and their commitment to their future career plans. Hundreds of SkillsUSA schools in 27 states and Puerto Rico participated in the 2021 event — most virtually, but some in-person — honoring students across the country. With keen emphasis on our students’ futures, both The Home Depot Foundation and 84 Lumber issued scholarships to 2021 SkillsUSA program participants.

### Home Depot “Path to Pro” Scholarships

**Annayeli Dionisio**, Columbus Career and College Academy, N.C.

**Jalen Randolph**, Butler County Career Academy, Ala.

**Jesse Moran**, Riveroak Technical College, Fla.

**Kalya Eades**, Cross Keys High School, Ga.

**Michael Snipes**, East Laurens High School, Ga.

**Zackery Pitchford**, Lumpkin County High School, Ga.



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## 84 Lumber Trade Scholarships

**Trevor Philpot**, Center of Applied Technology North, Md.  
**Julianna Zambrano**, Center of Applied Technology North, Md.  
**Nyssa Lewis**, Lynn Vocational Technical Institute, Mass.  
**Brian Lopez Mejia**, Lynn Vocational Technical Institute, Mass.  
**Justin Yearwood**, Bethlehem Area Vocational Technical School, Pa.  
**Nathan DeBellis**, Career Institute of Technology, Pa.  
**Blade Witt**, Fayette County Career and Technical Institute, Pa.  
**Kayla Gomez**, Fayette County Career and Technical Institute, Pa.  
**Gerson Castro-Rivera**, Monroe Career and Technical Institute, Pa.  
**Luke Overholt**, Upper Bucks County Technical School, Pa.

## Bob Westphal Memorial Scholarship

The Bob Westphal Memorial Scholarship is presented in partnership with *North American Oil & Gas Pipelines* (published by Benjamin Media Inc.), Continuum Capital, and SkillsUSA, offers merit-based \$2,500 scholarships to high school or college/postsecondary students continuing their education to pursue a career in energy construction (oil and gas pipelines, gas distribution, solar, and wind). Scholarships will be awarded annually over five years to provide tuition support.

**John Kraft** is studying Engineering Materials and Infrastructure Systems Concentration at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, La.

### Teacher Testimonial

*“John Kraft has studied at Louisiana Tech University, first as an excellent undergraduate in our Construction Engineering Technology program and now as a graduate researcher at the TTC. John is a highly successful academic student as well as an accomplished researcher and he has also worked several positions in the construction industry.”*

— *Dr. John Matthews, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at Louisiana Tech University.*

**Gillian Dahn** is studying construction engineering technology at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, La.

### Teacher Testimonial

*“Gillian has made the Dean’s List with a 4.0 GPA for all four quarters at Louisiana Tech University. It requires a tremendous amount of work and dedication to obtain two bachelor’s degrees simultaneously. She always gives her utmost in each class.”*

— *Reginald Jeter, Program Chairman of Construction Engineering Technology at Louisiana State University*



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**Timothy Sparks** is studied carpentry at Pocahontas High School in Dunmore, W.Va.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Timothy has an intellect that surpasses many other students and never seems to forget anything he is taught or shown.”*

— Patrick Gibson, Carpentry Instructor at Pocahontas County High School

**Nick Swank** is studying construction management at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“In my engagements with Mr. Swank, he has proven to be a hardworking, motivated, determined and self-driven individual with a strong desire to sharpen his problem-solving abilities. He is inquisitive and a dedicated learner.”*

— Dr. Lameck Onsarigo, Assistant Professor of Construction Management at Louisiana Tech University.

## AHRI Clifford “Ted” Rees Scholarship

The Clifford H. “Ted” Rees, Jr. Scholarship Foundation, an AHRI Charitable Foundation, in partnership with SkillsUSA, offers eight one-time merit based \$2,500 scholarships to SkillsUSA members who are enrolled as a high school junior, senior or college/postsecondary student in HVACR or a general construction program who plan to pursue college/postsecondary career training in the HVACR industry.

**Anthony Gomez** is studying HVAC at North Arkansas College in Harrison, Ark.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Anthony is currently enrolled in our yearlong HVAC/R program here at North Arkansas College and has consistently demonstrated the core values and integrity that our HVAC/R industry needs and requires. Anthony demonstrates these through his exemplary grades, his attention and detail to his lab and field work, and his ability to work well with others and follow directions.”*

— Jeff Smith, HVAC/R Instructor at North Arkansas College

**Katherine Marchand** is studying HVAC at Guilford Technical Community College in Greensboro, N.C.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Katherine always sits in the front of the class and is willing to help her teammates. She is currently working as a summer intern at a local commercial HVAC company. She works hard in class and her willingness to learn is an inspiration to other students.”*

— Jeff Underwood, Program Director at Guilford Technical Community College

**Jaxon Windsor** is studying HVAC at Mid-America Technology Center in Wayne, Okla.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Jaxon maintains exceptional grades while working hard to gain further knowledge of HVAC by*





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*working in the trade and still attending high school and his classes here at Mid-America. Jaxon continues to show drive and self-motivation for advancing his career in the HVAC trade by planning on attending the HVAC program at OSU IT in the near future.”*

— Scott McKinney, HVAC Instructor at Mid-America Technology Center

**Nathan Muenzner** is studying HVAC at TCAT Knoxville in Knoxville, Tenn.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Mr. Muenzner has a good understanding in the areas of heating ventilation air conditioning and refrigeration. He is quick to understand the bookwork and apply what he has learned in the lab in a professional manner, following all safety practices. He is willing and patient to help other students in the lab when needed. He is on time and in uniform, with a strong desire to get the day started.”*

— Dan Gamble, HVAC/R Instructor at TCAT Knoxville

**Lucas Ognissanti** studied HVAC at Center of Applied Technology North in Severn, Md.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Lucas studied in my HVAC classroom and laboratory for close to two years, during which time I witnessed his tremendous growth and development. This development came not only in the area of HVAC and teamwork, but in maturity and character as well. Lucas entered the HVAC program in Level 1 and displayed enthusiasm for the trade and over time mastered the basic principles of the trade. He also learned a valuable trait of humility and enjoyed the opportunity to learn from his peers and instructor, even during Covid-19 when we had limited face-to-face training. He was certified by The National Center for Construction Education and Research in Core and HVAC Level I and is ready for advance standing in an apprenticeship or postsecondary training.”*

— Charles Whittaker, Construction Department Chair at Center of Applied Technology North

**Nicholas Didier** studied HVAC at Miami Valley CTC in Miami, Ohio.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Nick participated in every extra activity. He was selected as a student ambassador where he worked with partner schools in helping spread the word about MVCTC and all it had to offer. Nick was a local SkillsUSA officer and competed in the state SkillsUSA competition for HVAC/R. His senior year he participated in our school to work program. He worked at The Helix Innovation Center by Emerson. The Helix is a state-of-the-art research and development center on the University of Dayton Campus. We offer several certificates in the two years we have the students. Nicholas achieved them all. He was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society his senior year. With his current industry credentials, Nick is on his way to becoming successful in the HVAC/R industry.”*

— Doug Clark, HVAC instructor at Miami Valley Career Technology Center

**Boom Rollice** studies HVAC at Indian Capital Technology Center in Tahlequah, Okla.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Boom is a very good role model for his peers in my class. He is punctual and uses his time well. In his first year, he has learned the basics of the refrigeration cycle and its components, as well as the basic electricity and circuitry concepts.”*

— Joel Sherril, HVAC Instructor at Indian Capital Technology Center





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**Zackery Stone** studies HVAC at Indian Capital Technology Center in Tahlequah, Okla.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“Zachary has a great work ethic and has maintained gainful employment outside of school since he before he started my program a year ago. I believe he will make a reliable employee for any HVACR contractor in the near future, and I look forward to witnessing that success.”*

— Joel Sherrill, HVAC Instructor at Indian Capital Technology Center

## Larry Rash Memorial Scholarship

The Larry Rash Memorial Scholarship Fund was established to support students who plan to further their education in architecture or a related field. In partnership with SkillsUSA, the Larry Rash Memorial Scholarship Fund awarded two \$2,500 scholarships in 2021 and will do so in forthcoming years. Both scholarships can be applied to any college, university or postsecondary program in architecture or a related field.

One scholarship is awarded to the SkillsUSA national high school gold medalist in Architectural Drafting. The second scholarship is awarded to the applicant who best demonstrates their commitment to a career in Architectural Drafting in the scholarship application, as determined by SkillsUSA.

Larry Rash grew up building with Legos. As a young adult, he studied drafting and architecture at D. Russell Lee Vocational School near Cincinnati, Ohio, where he also had a co-op position at Steed, Hammond Paul Architects. He earned a bachelor’s degree in Architectural Engineering Technology from the University of Cincinnati in 1982 and gained his registration from the State of Wisconsin in 1996. Larry worked for Ryland Homes for over 20 years. In 2010, Larry joined Davis Bews Design Group (DBDG) in Tampa, Fla. At DBDG, Larry reviewed every plan before it left the office, researched building codes, and provided feedback to drafters so that they understood the “why” behind building regulations. Larry also attended local builder association meetings and kept staff and clients up to date on changes in the industry. One of his favorite hobbies was photographing architectural sites. His life passion was designing homes where families could live out their dreams and he would be honored to sponsor individuals pursuing careers in architecture.

**Nicole Cheng** studied architectural drafting at Folsom High School in Folsom, Calif.

**Teacher Testimonial**

*“[Nicole] is truly a top student among our entire student body. Nicole exceeds all project expectations, expending all necessary energy and time to create a stellar project.”*

— Tyler Johnstone, Drafting Instructor at Folsom High School



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**Wonuola Abiodun** is studying architectural drafting at Union Grove High School in McDonough, Ga.

*The second Larry Rash scholarship was awarded to the 2021 SkillsUSA national high school gold medalist in Architectural Drafting.*

## Robert Flint Foundation Student Leadership Scholarship

The SkillsUSA Student Leadership Development Scholarship was established in 2007 with financial support from Robert L. Flint, former Caterpillar executive and SkillsUSA board president (1998-99). The scholarship provides financial support for students who are recognized for having strong leadership potential and who would greatly benefit from national leadership training, but do not have the sufficient resources to participate in the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTI) in September or Leverage summer training.

### WLTI Scholarship Recipients

**Kara Koska**  
SkillsUSA Massachusetts State Officer

**Andrew Schlabach**  
SkillsUSA Wyoming State Officer

**Madeline “Maddee” Nunn**  
SkillsUSA Texas District Officer (District 5)

**Katahdin Javner**  
SkillsUSA Maine State Officer

### Leverage Scholarship Recipients

**Samuel Murph**  
Reid State Technical College, Evergreen, Ala.

**Emily Webb**  
DeKalb County Technology Center, Rainsville, Ala.

**Joseph Jacobson**  
Alliance Academy for Innovation, Cumming, Ga.

**Sareena Lidhar**  
Cambridge High School, Milton, Ga.



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**Darlyn Morales**  
Rome High School, Rome, Ga.

**Joseph Price**  
Union Grove High School, McDonough, Ga.

**Raven Ridley**  
Haralson County High School, Tallapoosa, Ga.

**Ambuja Sharma**  
Cambridge High School, Milton, Ga.

**Claudia Whitlow**  
West Forsyth High School, Cumming, Ga.

**Noelle Lo**  
Maui High School, Kahului, Hawaii

**Naleia Tacadena**  
**Kelsey Yoshida**  
Kapolei High School, Kapolei, Hawaii

**Corey Beam**  
South Columbus High School, Tabor City, N.C.

**Carter Godwin**  
Midway High School, Newton Grove, N.C.

**Jocelyn Hernandez**  
Avery County High School, Newland, N.C.

**Ian Hudson**  
Richlands High School, Richlands, N.C.

**Emma Mosley**  
Bear Grass Charter School, Williamston, N.C.

**Marley Ray**  
Midway High School, Newton Grove, N.C.

**Benjamin Alejandro**  
Southern Westchester BOCES, Valhalla, N.Y.

**John Barkett**  
Oneida Herkimer Madison BOCES CTEC, New Hartford, N.Y.



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**Andrew Blodgett**

Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation, Mexico, N.Y.

**Kaitlynn Chapman**

Broome Tioga BOCES, Binghamton, N.Y.

**Emma D'Ettorre**

WEMOCO Career and Education Center, Spencerport, N.Y.

**Devin Douglas**

**Triniti Muscarella**

CG May Career & Tech Center, Mount Morris, N.Y.

**Elizabeth Maxwell**

Southern Adirondack Educational Center, Hudson Falls, N.Y.

**Samanta Reeder**

Orange-Ulster BOCES, Goshen, N.Y.

**Madeline Stell**

Oneida Herkimer Madison BOCES CTEC, New Hartford, N.Y.

**Brody Campbell**

**Alex Lenhart**

**Brooke Moore**

**Brody Pinson**

**Nicholas Rider**

**Nash Ryder**

SkillsUSA West Virginia State Office, Charleston, W.Va.

**Alexis Woodling**

Brooke High School, Wellsburg, W.Va.