



Summary of 2019 WLTl Congressional Visits

Legislative visits took place on Sept. 24, 2019:

SkillsUSA members visited 22 senators and 113 representatives = 135 visits

The following reports were submitted by students attending the 2019 WLTl:

ALABAMA

Sen. Jones—met with Rebecca Howard at 9:30 a.m. Rebecca was very interested in our cause and had several follow-up questions about each student's degree program and what they planned to do after graduation.

Sen. Shelby—met with Laura Crum at 11 a.m. Laura spoke highly of the Perkins funding bill and completely supports it. They thanked us for coming and told us they appreciated what we do for CTE.

Rep. Aderholt—met with Chris Lawson at 1:15 p.m. He was pleased that we were promoting CTE. He talked about the caucus and wanted more information.

ARIZONA

Sen. Sinema—met with Maggie Farry at 10:30 a.m. She was very nice and supportive. We asked for continued CTE funding through Perkins. She said the senator is very supportive of CTE and is part of the CTE Caucus.

Rep. Grijalva—met with staff at 2 p.m. We discussed the important of support for Perkins, SkillsUSA and CTE. He is a strong supporter of education and is currently a member of the CTE Caucus.

Rep. O'Halleran—met with Lucas LaRose at 1:30 p.m. We talked about our CTE story. We covered the CTE Framework story, Perkins, Dual Credits, being in a non-traditional program and the skills gap. He supports SkillsUSA.

Rep. Biggs—met with Ceaser Ibarra at 1 p.m. He was very pleasant. We discussed Perkins V, graduation statistics, skills gap and fundraisers. They support CTE.

Rep. Schweikert—met with Chad Michaels at 11:30 a.m. Chad was very supportive and asked great questions. He was a former teacher. He told the students that they were making themselves marketable for future careers by being involved in CTE. He was very familiar with SkillsUSA and other CTSOs and how they relate to different CTE programs in Arizona.

CALIFORNIA

Rep. Chu—met with David Silverberg at 1:04 p.m. We asked Rep. Chu to continue to support CTE and join the CTE Caucus. We also invited her to attend the SkillsUSA regional conference. David said that Rep. Chu supports SkillsUSA and CTE classes.

Rep. Aguilar—met with a staff member at 11:38 a.m. We provided an overview about SkillsUSA and how CTE pathways provide students with job-specific skills. The staff member said that Rep. Aguilar is passionate about education. I asked that he join the CTE Caucus.

Rep. Torres—met with staff member at 12:15 p.m. We discussed the importance of CTE and how the lack of funds from Perkins has affected our schools. We requested she join the CTE Caucus and asked her to join us for the regional competition.

Rep. Takano—met with staff member at 12:46 p.m. We discussed the importance of CTE and how the lack of funds from Perkins has affected our schools. We requested he join the CTE Caucus and asked him to join us for the regional competition.

Rep. Lieu—met with Elizabeth Arevalo at 12:35 p.m. We discussed the importance of CTE and how the lack of funds from Perkins has affected our schools. We requested he join the CTE Caucus and asked him to join us for the regional competition. Rep. Lieu does support CTE.

Rep. DeSaulnier—met with Bamby Yingst at 10:52 a.m. Since the staff member was not aware of CTE, we provided an overview about SkillsUSA and advocated for more funding for CTE. I also asked if he would be interested in attending the SkillsUSA regional conference so he could see students competing and striving to be better workers.

Rep. LaMalfa—met with Haley Slaybaugh at 11:32 a.m. Since the staff member was not aware of CTE, we provided an overview about SkillsUSA and advocated for more funding for CTE. I also asked if he would be interested in attending the SkillsUSA regional conference so he could see students competing and striving to be better workers. The staff member said that Rep. LaMalfa is passionate about education.

Rep. Cardenas—met with Devin Kolb at 1:13 p.m. We were able to speak with both Rep. Cardenas and his legislative aide Devin Kolb. Rep. Cardenas supports SkillsUSA and CTE. He believes students should get education in high school to work and earn money. He understands the employers' view of not being able to train new applicants from scratch. He said he will look into the CTE Caucus.

Rep. Harder—met with Sarah Monteith and Ryan Feldman at 12:10 p.m. We discussed the importance of CTE for the future workforce, the future of our nation, as well as the future growth of our economy. We invited him and his staff to join us at the regional competition on Feb. 1. They were very supportive of CTE.

Rep. Swalwell—met with Art Motta at 11:09 a.m. We presented an overview of SkillsUSA and described how CTE pathways provide students with job-specific skills. We requested that he join the CTE Caucus and asked him to attend the regional conference. Rep. Swalwell is passionate about having an inclusive society with technological aspects.

Rep. Panetta—met with Nora Taktajian at 10:23 a.m. The staff member didn't know much about CTE. We provided an overview of SkillsUSA and described how CTE pathways provide students with job-specific skills. We asked him to join the CTE Caucus and asked him to attend the regional conference. Rep. Panetta was very passionate about education.

Rep. Cook—met with Kellie Hartl at 11:44 a.m. We spoke to her about how CTE impacts our lives, what SkillsUSA does and told her our personal stories. We asked Rep. Cook to join the CTE Caucus and come to our regional conference. Rep. Cook supports SkillsUSA and CTE and wants to help people get jobs before they earn a degree.

Rep. Cisneros—met with Emma Norvell and Gavin at 11:25 a.m. We discussed the importance of CTE for the future workforce, the future of our nation and the future growth of our economy. We asked that Rep. Cisneros come to the regional conference and asked him to join the caucus.

Rep. Hunter—met with Olena Nalivkina at 1:00 p.m. We spoke with her about how CTE impacts our lives, what SkillsUSA does and told her our personal SkillsUSA stories. We asked for Rep. Hunter to continue to support CTE and attend an upcoming regional conference in his district. It was unclear whether Rep. Hunter supports CTE.

Rep. Lowenthal—met with Ngoc Nguyen at 11:47 a.m. We discussed the importance of CTE. We asked the congressman to join the CTE Caucus and asked him to join us at the regional conference. Rep. Lowenthal cares deeply about CTE programs.

Rep. Barragan—met with Mr. Riendo at 11:36 a.m. We discussed how CTE impacts our lives, what SkillsUSA does, and told him our personal SkillsUSA stories. We asked him to

join the caucus and attend a SkillsUSA regional conference. We weren't able to find out how he felt about SkillsUSA and CTE.

Rep. McClintock—met with Kyle Campbell at 10:27 a.m. We talked about the schools we attended and how increased Perkins funding could impact them. Rep. McClintock is an ally and will continue to support CTE programs and Perkins funding in the future.

Rep. Nunes—met with Mattheus Wagner at 11:56 a.m. We talked about how CTE impacts our lives, what SkillsUSA does and told him our personal SkillsUSA stories. Rep. Nunes supports SkillsUSA and CTE, but explained that he is not a part of the CTE Caucus because he doesn't want to be a member of any caucus.

Rep. Waters—met with Patrick Fergusson at 11:37 a.m. There was no one available to meet us. We were told to email a staffer as Rep. Waters is very invested in helping STEM and CTE students. We emailed the legislative director Patrick Ferguson. He unfortunately did not have time to meet with us, but said he would like to meet another time.

Rep. Brownley—met with David Schutt at 11:06 a.m. We had a quick meeting. We shared our stories and experiences. Rep. Brownley strongly supports CTE.

Rep. Matsui—met with Alex Damato at 10:33 a.m. We talked about SkillsUSA and the CTE pathways we are involved in and extended an invitation to the SkillsUSA regional conference.

Rep. Eshoo—met with Rachel Fybel at 10:17 a.m. The staff member didn't know CTE, so we provided an overview on SkillsUSA as a whole. We gave her the business card of our state director and asked if Rep. Eshoo would consider joining the caucus. We asked her to attend the regional conference. Rachel mentioned that Rep. Eshoo values education.

Rep. Rouda—met with Sabir Muhammad at 10:40 a.m. We talked about our schools and told our Framework stories. We invited him to the reguinak conference. We asked if Rep. Rouda would consider joining the CTE Caucus.

Rep. Sherman. We visited the office, but there was no staffer to meet with us. We spoke to the front desk and they said he was a big supporter of CTE. We left a pin and a business card.

Rep. Thompson. We visited the office, but there wasn't anyone available to speak with us. We left a Framework pin and our business card.

Rep. Correa—met with Emilio Mendez at 11:24 a.m. We told Mr. Mendez about how CTE impacts our lives, what SkillsUSA does and our personal stories. Rep. Correa supports SkillsUSA and CTE programs and recognizes the need for higher education and additional funding for specific programs. We invited Rep. Correa to the regional conference.

Rep. Sanchez—met with Laila Goharioon at 10:12 a.m. We talked about CTE and the impact that SkillsUSA has had on our lives. Laila told us that Rep. Sanchez is already part of the CTE caucus.

Rep. McCarthy—met with Emma Rindles at 9:56 a.m. Emma was from Region 2, the Kern/Bakersfield area. Rep. McCarthy is not part of the CTE Caucus. We talked about SkillsUSA, funding, the skills gap and asked for him to become a member of the CTE Caucus. We advocated for more funding for CTE courses, and asked if he could attend the regional conference. Emma said that Rep. McCarthy is very passionate about education and CTE.

Rep. Ruiz. There wasn't a staff member for us to talk to so we left a pin and a business card at the front desk.

Rep. Katie Hill—met with Kleya Dhenin at 11:01 a.m. We spoke to her about how CTE impacts our lives, what SkillsUSA does, and told her our personal stories. We asked for Rep. Hill to support CTE, join the CTE Caucus and attending an upcoming SkillsUSA regional conference. We don't know if she supports CTE, but she does support STEM programs.

Rep. Khana—met with staff member at 10:35 a.m. We discussed the importance of CTE for the future workforce, the future of our nation and the growth of our economy. The staff member said that Rep. Khana has been considering joining the CTE Caucus for some time and is very supportive of CTE.

Rep. Schiff—met with Anthony Theissen at 10:52 a.m. We were invited into Rep. Schiff's private office for the meeting. Anthony Theissen told us about his high school experience and we each told our own Framework story. We talked about how beneficial Perkins funding was for CTE. We invited them to the regional conference.

Rep. Roybal-Allard—met with Jose Miranda at 12:11 p.m. Jose said that the representative is a huge supporter of CTE and said there is a misconception that only minorities do CTE. We told him our personal stories and how CTE has greatly impacted the lives of many students.

Rep. Porter—met with Briana Marticorena at 10:54 a.m. We told her how CTE has impacted our lives, what SkillsUSA does and relayed our personal SkillsUSA stories. Rep. Porter supports SkillsUSA and CTE programs. We were unsure if she is part of the CTE caucus.

Rep. Garamendi—met with Jacob Jernigan. Jacob understood the importance of decreasing the growing skills gap. We talked about the importance of CTE programs and the impact CTE has on students. We were told he does support the CTE caucus and we asked the representative to join it.

Rep. Davis—met with Samantha Viterbi at 10:35 a.m. We told her about how CTE impacts our lives, what SkillsUSA does and we told our personal SkillsUSA stories. She is not part of the CTE Caucus. We asked her to join and attend the SkillsUSA regional conference in her district.

Rep. Peters—met with Martha Spieker at 9:57 a.m. We met Rep. Peters in the hallway just as he was heading to a meeting. He asked if we wanted to take a picture with him. He gave us Martha Spieker's card and we gave him the brochure, the Framework card and our contact information.

Rep. Costa—met with Maisha Imam at 12:18 p.m. We stopped by, but another group was visiting. We revisited at 1:25 p.m. and there was no one to visit with us then either. We left the materials with her.

Rep. Lofgren—met with Chelsea Busick at 10:25 a.m. We spoke with her about how CTE impacts our lives, what SkillsUSA does, and told her our personal SkillsUSA stories. The staff assistant was unsure if Rep. Lofgren supports SkillsUSA or CTE. We invited the representative to join the CTE caucus and attend a SkillsUSA regional conference in her district.

Rep. McNerney—met with Mike Stoeber at 11:11 a.m. We thanked the representative for his outstanding support of CTE and, we talked about why we are advocating for more funding for CTE. Rep. McNerney is a major supporter of CTE programs and Perkins funding, and he is a member of the CTE Caucus.

Rep. Vargas—met with Eddie Meyer at 11:23 a.m. Eddie was very interested in what we had to say and said that Rep. Vargas is very supportive of CTE. The person at the front desk was very impressed with us and gave us a card for potential internships.

Rep. Bass—met with staffer at 12:24 p.m. The congresswoman and the legislative assistant were not available at that time. We told the staffer that SkillsUSA is an organization that helps us get skills to prepare for the workplace and how we're advocating for more funding for Perkins. The staffer said that Rep. Bass does support CTE. She was happy to see that we were advocating as students.

Rep. Speier—met with staffer at 9:50 a.m. We provided an overview about SkillsUSA and explained that it is a student-run organization that prepares students for the world of work. We explained about the 17 essential elements, how CTE helps close the skills gap and the funding that is needed for CTE. We asked for the representative to join the CTE Caucus. The staffer said that the representative was passionate about education.

Rep. Carbajal—met with Leila Miller at 10:20 a.m. We talked about how CTE impacts our lives, what SkillsUSA does, and told our personal SkillsUSA stories. We asked for the representative to consider coming to a SkillsUSA regional conference. We aren't sure about how the representative feels about SkillsUSA or CTE.

Rep. Huffman—met with Natasha Wood at 10:15 a.m. We told her how CTE impacts our lives, what SkillsUSA does and our personal stories. Rep. Huffman supports CTE and SkillsUSA and is a member of the CTE Caucus.

Rep. Lee—met with staffer at 10:03 a.m. We shared our Framework stories and how Perkins has impacted each of us. We talked about how SkillsUSA helps students in CTE programs become their best selves. I also discussed the importance of support for CTE and why we need more. We asked for the representative to join the CTE Caucus, but were assured that she is a strong supporter of CTE.

Rep. Huffman—met with Jordan Sciascia at 10:15 a.m.

Rep. Gomez—met with Maria Martirosyan at 10 a.m. We told her how CTE impacts our lives, what SkillsUSA does and our personal stories. We asked for continued support and for the representative to attend a SkillsUSA regional conference. We don't know if he supports CTE or SkillsUSA, and he is not part of the CTE Caucus.

Rep. Napolitano—met with Joseph Ciccone at 9:56 a.m. We talked with him about how CTE impacts our lives, what SkillsUSA does and told him our personal SkillsUSA stories. He is not a member of the CTE Caucus and we don't know his stance on CTE.

Rep. T.J. Cox—met with Lucine Mikhanjian at 9:35 a.m. We talked with her about how CTE impacts our lives, what SkillsUSA does and told her our personal stories. Rep. Cox supports SkillsUSA and CTE.

Rep. Bera—met with Kelvin Lum at 9:43 a.m. We spoke about how CTE impacts our lives, what SkillsUSA does and told our personal SkillsUSA stories. Mr. Lum explained that they share a strong support for CTE and that Rep. Bera plans to join the CTE Caucus.

COLORADO

Rep. Tipton—met with him at 1:30 p.m. The visit was a lot of fun. We felt prepared and were excited to share our knowledge of CTE, Perkins V and SkillsUSA. He was easy to talk to and we had a great conversation about Colorado CTE. We requested that he join the CTE Caucus and attend our state leadership and skills conference in April. He wasn't aware of the CTE Caucus, but agreed to do more research and consider joining.

FLORIDA

Rep. Demings—met with a staffer at 11:27 a.m. The visit was successful because we left a message to be given to her. We also spoke with the receptionist and discussed the importance of CTE to our economy.

Rep. Soto—met with Juliette Barbera at 9:45 a.m. She was not familiar with CTE. The representative appeared at the end of the meeting and we introduced ourselves to him and had a quick conversation. He is a member of the CTE Caucus and he supports CTE.

Rep. Webster—met with Jessica Thompson at 10:00 a.m. The visit went smoothly. She didn't know much about CTE, but seemed very interested when we talked about our programs. After discussing what SkillsUSA and CTE has done for us, she became a supporter. She also seemed interested in coming to see our school in Leesburg, Fla.

Rep. Gaetz—met with Peter Holland at 1 p.m. He was very eager to hear about our CTE stories and how he could help. We asked for the representative to join the CTE Caucus and to come to Pensacola for the state conference.

Rep. Murphy—met with Ken Heidegger at 11 a.m. He knew a lot about Perkins. He told us they are working to close the skills gap by encouraging higher education levels for CTE students. We discussed the importance of CTE and why it is important to the economy. The representative is very supportive of CTE.

Rep. Rutherford—met with staffer at 2 p.m.

Rep. Crist—met with David Thompson at 1 p.m. The meeting went well. The staffer grew up near my school and we chatted about that. He was unaware of the skills gap and the CTE Caucus. He promised to look into joining the CTE Caucus.

GEORGIA

Sen. Perdue—met with Charlotte Kaye at 10:30 a.m. Each state officer shared their CTE story and a few key statistics like 10,000 baby boomers reach retirement every day and CTE supports training a skilled workforce to fill those positions. Charlotte said that both she and the senator support CTE and understand that a four-year university is not for everyone.

Sen. Isakson—met with Michael Black at 10:00 a.m. Michael told us that Sen. Isakson is a career-long supporter of education. We shared information about SkillsUSA and he was surprised to learn that Georgia won the second highest number of medals (72) medals at the National Leadership and Skills Competition. Sen. Isakson served as the co-chair of the CTE Caucus from 2015-2017.

Rep. Allen—met with him. The visit was brief. We talked about the importance of CTE and Perkins V. He supports CTE and supported Perkins V.

Rep. Woodall—met with him. He was very enthusiastic about CTE and SkillsUSA. He said that listening to the stories helped him make the connection between Perkins V and real student experiences.

INDIANA

Sen. Todd Young—met with Nancy Martinez at 11:30 a.m. She was very attentive and engaged in our conversation. She asked everyone's name and program area along with where they lived. Since Sen. Young is one of the chairs of the CTE Caucus, he is very supportive of CTE. We asked for him to continue to support CTE and Perkins and push for Pell Grant availability for CTE students in postsecondary trade schools.

Rep. Baird—met with Jackson Hammond at 10 a.m. The staffer seemed to be put out by our visit and didn't seem interested. We asked for continued support for CTE and Perkins funding. He did say that Rep. Baird supports CTE.

Rep. Walorski—met with James Welsh and Jackie at 12:45 p.m. Both James and Jackie were very attentive. Jackie was the most supportive and excited about us being in the office. She was also very excited to meet people who were from her district and genuine about her answers to our questions. We asked for continuous support for Perkins and CTE.

KANSAS

Sen. Roberts—met with Ryan Dalbec and Flin Hyre at 2 p.m. They greeted us warmly. We talked about SkillsUSA, our mission and the Framework and invited them to the state and national conferences. They support CTE.

Sen. Moran—met with Bryan Swartz at 1 p.m. Bryan had a great personality. We talked about SkillsUSA, our mission and the Framework and about the Double the Investment in CTE campaign. We asked if Rep. Moran would consider joining the CTE Caucus. Bryan said they would like to come to the state and national conference and would like to go on some school visits.

KENTUCKY

Rep. Comer—met with him at 2 p.m. He was easy to get along with and loved to talk about CTE. We discussed how Perkins affects our schools and what could be improved. Rep. Comer is part of the CTE Caucus. He was a state officer for FFA during high school and a welding student at Monroe County Vocational School.

Rep. Guthrie—met with Fleming at 2 p.m. Rep. Guthrie is a strong advocate for CTE programs. We invited him to Bullitt County ATC to observe and meet some of the local officer team members and students. He is part of the CTE caucus.

Rep. Barr—met with him at 11:30 a.m. We thanked him for his support of CTE. He is part of the CTE Caucus and many other trade-based caucuses.

LOUISIANA

Sen. Cassidy—met with Tim Carlton at 1 p.m. The visit went well. We talked about closing the skills gap and asked for continued funding and support of CTE programs. Tim Carlton was familiar with the school we go to and praised our CTE programs. He referred to them as a gen in north Louisiana. He also talked about the importance of CTE because our state has a lot of oil industries and they hire CTE students.

Rep. Johnson—met with Brad Morris at 9:55 a.m. He said the congressman supports CTE and understands the need for funding such as Perkins. We shared that CTE jobs pay higher and that we have an estimated 6 to 7 million unfilled jobs. The representative voted in support of CTE bills. He also toured our campus' welding program.

MASSACHUSETTS

Sen. Warren—met with Abby and Alex at 9:30 a.m. We told Alex and Abby a CTE story and discussed the CTE Caucus, diversity in the workplace, the elimination of the OCTAE office, supporting non-traditional students, immigration issues and leadership in CTE. We asked for her to consider joining the CTE Caucus. Sen. Warren supports CTE. Our state has met with her numerous times and she has always put on her red blazer for the visit because she has tremendous pride in her states SkillsUSA program. Abby also shared that many senators, including Sen. Warren, are opposed to the elimination of the OCTAE office.

MICHIGAN

Rep. Tliab—met with Mariam Jalloul. Rep. Tliab is a new congressman and Mariam was very overwhelmed by us. We had to meet her in the Dunkin Donuts on the basement level because there was not enough room in the representative's office. Dunkin Donuts was very busy and we ended up meeting with her in the hallway. She was very supportive of CTE and SkillsUSA, but was very new to the whole process and kept asking questions about why we were there and if she could accept our gifts.

MISSOURI

Sen. Hawley—met with Eric Teetsel at 12:45 p.m. He was very nice. I would rate this meeting as a five out of five. He said multiple times that even though he is not on the appropriations committee, he could confidently say that when it comes to votes, he will always vote in our favor. The office wants to keep CTE as a priority for our education system.

Sen. Blunt—met with Nick Seelinger at 12:30 p.m. We discussed the importance of CTE and how SkillsUSA helps with so much more than just technical schools. We also talked about the workplace and personal skills.

Rep. Graves—met with Meghan Schmidthlein at 10 a.m. The meeting went well and it seemed like they were very excited to meet with us and learn more about SkillsUSA and CTE. They support CTE.

Rep. Hartzler—met with Carley Hesser at 10 a.m. Carley Hesser was very receptive to our message about increasing the awareness of CTE in middle schools. We shared our CTE stories and asked his opinion on what we could do to spark conversations and how to talk to other members of congress who aren't as supportive of CTE. Rep. Hartzler is on the CTE Caucus and frequently visits technical centers, including ours.

Rep. Long—met with Michael Kotsovos at 1:45 p.m. We thanked them for their support of CTE. We asked for an increase in Perkins funding. We talked about trying to take the stigma out of technical schools. This means when people are thinking about technical schools, they think it's not as good as college. They also don't realize how many CTE programs are available. Rep. Long supports CTE and believes it is vital for the workforce.

NEW JERSEY

Rep. Norcross—met with Jared at 11:30 a.m. We talked about CTE, Perkins and the SkillsUSA Framework. Our goal was to gain support of CTE and talk about the importance of Perkins V. Rep. Norcross fully supports CTE and also supports Perkins V. He agrees that educating students today is going to help close the skills gap in the future.

Rep. Van Drew—met with him at 12 p.m. We discussed the importance of CTE, closing the skills gap and the importance of Perkins. The congressman is a big supporter of CTE. He understands the importance and value of schools receiving Perkins and understands that there are many employment opportunities in the skilled trades.

NEW YORK

Sen. Schumer—met with Kara Pitts at 11 a.m. She had a lot of knowledge about CTE, but did not know about the skills gap. She explained that Sen. Schumer couldn't join the CTE Caucus, but was a supporter of CTE funding. **Rep. Brindisi**—met with Jonathan Lipe at 9:45 a.m. We talked about how SkillsUSA helps with CTE.

Rep. Tonko—met with Noor Teebi Nimer at 11 a.m. The visit was a success. Rep. Tonko is a huge supporter of CTE and a member of the CTE Caucus, so we thanked him for his support. We shared some current skills gap facts and what each of our campuses does with Perkins V funding. We invited him to visit our campus and to the New York fall leadership conference since the conference will be held in his congressional district.

Rep. Maloney—met with Beverly Hart at 10 a.m. The visit went well. We stressed the importance of Perkins funding in our school and explained how CTE helps to close the skills gap. Rep. Maloney already belongs to the CTE Caucus.

Rep. Meeks—met with Dharamjeet Singh at 11:25 a.m. Though we had not scheduled an important, he made time to see us. He was thoroughly impressed by the students' involvement in CTE. The students told their stories of how CTE is helping them prepare for their careers. He seemed pleased to learn about us and assured us that education is of the utmost importance to the congressman.

Rep. Delgado—met with both the congressman and Curtis Doster at 10 a.m. The congressman was impressed by how much CTE has prepared us for our futures. We shared our stories and our concerns about the potential OCTAE merger and he promised to look further into the issue. We requested he continue to support CTE and SkillsUSA.

OHIO

Sen. Portman—met with Janessa Lopez at 11 a.m. We started the meeting with formal introductions and asked her about her knowledge about SkillsUSA. We told her our CTE and SkillsUSA stories and asked her if she had any questions. We asked her about her job and how she got there. We invited her and Sen. Portman to our state conference.

Rep. Jordan—met with Emily Greene at 1 p.m. We started the meeting with formal introductions and asked her about her knowledge about SkillsUSA. We asked about her job and how she got there. We invited her and Rep. Jordan to our state conference.

OKLAHOMA

Sen. Inhofe—met with Devin at 2 p.m. Devin was very kind and a pleasure to talk to. We shared our CTE stories and talked about what Perkins funding has done for the students. He was a former CTE student and mentioned that he has visited some CTE schools in Oklahoma.

Rep. Mullen—met with Matthew Brownlee at 1 p.m. Matthew did an excellent job talking to us about their support for CTE. We advocated for CTE and more Perkins funding. Rep. Mullen has his own plumbing business!

Rep. Cole—met with him at 1 p.m. Rep. Cole was very enthusiastic about CTE. He asked questions about our stories and goals. We told him our stories and he loved hearing about the diversity in our programs and our leadership and how our programs are helping us achieve our goals. He is a strong supporter.

Rep. Lucas—met with him at 11:30 a.m. Rep. Lucas and his staff were very friendly and the visit was personable, comfortable and enjoyable. We shared our CTE stories and talked about STEM. We thanked him for his support. He is a member of the CTE Caucus.

Rep. Hern—met with him at 11:30 a.m. He was very nice. We told him our CTE stories and talked about drafting. He told us he would always support CTE.

PENNSYLVANIA

Rep. Dean—met with a staffer at 8:40 a.m. The visit went well. We talked about SkillsUSA and Perkins funding. We asked for Rep. Dean to consider joining the CTE Caucus. The staffer didn't know much about CTE or SkillsUSA, but she seemed interested in learning more.

Rep. Perry—met with Mike Maiale at 10:15 a.m. We talked about SkillsUSA. Rep. Perry is on the CTE Caucus. We presented our CTE stories and explained how the Framework has benefited us.

Rep. Joyce—met with Frederic Sotnick at 10:15 a.m. Frederic didn't understand CTE and didn't know about Perkins. We talked about SkillsUSA, CTE and Perkins and told our Framework stories.

Rep. Reschenthaler—met with Mike D'Orazio at 2 p.m. We asked him to join the CTE Caucus and asked if he would consider a visit to our school.

RHODE ISLAND

Sen. Reed—met with him at 12 p.m. We began with our Framework stories and talked about credentials we can receive from a vocational program. Sen. Reed mentioned that the field of cyber security is expanding quickly. He also mentioned that key areas in need of qualified workers are in welding and construction. Sen. Reed visited the Cranston Area Career and Technical Center welding class and the Davies Career and Technical Center's automotive class. Rep. Reed wants to open more vocational classes for adults.

Rep. Langevin—met with him and Kerry McKittrick at 1:45 p.m. We had an amazing time. He was sweet and open to our discussion. We told our Framework stories. We also talked about Perkins and how it allows us to have hands-on experience. We talked about our internships and how we are putting the skills we learn into practice. Rep. Langevin said, "if you do small things well, they'll give you bigger responsibilities." He also added, "school is a perseverance test and you want to spend your education wisely. You want to show how you're able to complete the work." Rep. Langevin is a big supporter of CTE and SkillsUSA. He truly cares for our education and it shows.

Rep. Caruolo—met with David Caruolo at 11:30 a.m. We introduced ourselves and told our Framework stories. David mentioned that he had studied in Providence and attended the East Providence Career and Technical Center. He said it is important for kids to have the opportunity to find their own path. He said in order to get more programs started, we have to deal with the state and federal government. He said the "pie" of funding depends on how you cut it and some believe money should go elsewhere.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Sen. Graham—met with Megan Dorn at 1:30 p.m. Lindsay was very helpful and gave us some great tips for the future. Sen. Graham supports CTE.

Sen. Scott—met with Abdul Quarim Kalumbi at 11:30 a.m. Not a great visit. We received pretty much a blank stare throughout our presentation.

Rep. Wilson—met with him at 1:30 p.m. It was a fantastic experience. We talked about how CTE affects students with disabilities, high school and postsecondary students and South Carolina as a whole. Rep. Wilson is on the CTE Caucus.

Rep. Timmons—met with him at 11 a.m. He was very nice. We talked about CTE and Perkins funding. He said he would do everything he can to support CTE.

TENNESSEE

Sen. Alexander—met with Jake Baker at 10:30 a.m. Tennessee postsecondary had attended a meeting on Tennessee Tuesday where we previously met Sen. Alexander and Sen. Blackburn. During this meeting we told our SkillsUSA stories and discussed how Perkins V is being used in our postsecondary schools. We told him that Perkins is being used for a Start SMART grant for new postsecondary chapters in Tennessee. Sen. Alexander supports CTE and WIOA.

TEXAS

Sen. Cornyn—met with Patrick Michaels at 10:30 a.m. He wasn't very responsive, but did show interest in what we talked about. He took notes when we talked about fact and seemed more interested in concrete information rather than our personal stories. We discussed the skills gap, Perkins V and the negative impact of the consolidation of the education offices. CTE is a priority for him.

Rep. Granger—met with Heather Campbell at 11:30 a.m. Heather was very friendly and interested in what we had to say. She was impressed with our passion and knowledge about CTE and SkillsUSA and our professionalism. We invited Rep. Granger to one of our district conferences or our state conference. Rep. Granger was a school teacher and is supportive of any legislation that benefits CTE.

Rep. Johnson—met with Kenneth Nealy at 11:53 a.m. Kenneth was very nice. We talked about how SkillsUSA provides with soft skills and prepares for the future. He said a lot of people don't want to go to a four-year college and instead want to go straight to the workforce.

Rep. Johnson—met with Kenneth Nealy at 11 a.m. We told him about SkillsUSA and CTE. We also talked about the impact it has had on each of us and how the Framework is being implemented in our daily lives. We talked about the competitions we offer and closing the

skills gap. He talked about how Rep. Johnson was a huge supporter of CTE and how he has witnessed what happens when a person gets the technical skills needed to be employed.

Rep. Johnson—met with staffer at 12 p.m. The visit was very nice. The people you talk to are sweet and want to hear what you have to say. They didn't know what CTE is, so we explained it. She is a part of the CTE Caucus.

Rep. Conaway—met with Chase Savage at 10 a.m. The students had a great discussion with Chase about Perkins, the importance of CTE programs and what we can do to move CTE forward. The students asked him to visit the schools in his district to see the benefits of funding the programs. Chase Savage was a former SkillsUSA District 11 officer, so he is very familiar with SkillsUSA.

Rep. Vela—met with him at 9:45 a.m. Rep. Vela was very nice and supportive. We talked about CTE and the skills gap. He offered us the opportunity to job shadow. He said he is in favor of CTE. He asked us if CTE was helping us and we told him yes!

Rep. Cuellar—met with Alexis at 3:30 p.m. We talked about SkillsUSA and how it helps us prepare for our future by improving our life skills. Rep. Cuellar supports SkillsUSA and CTE and is a big fan of grants for low income areas he represents.

Rep. Cuellar—met with Alexis at 1 p.m. The visit was quick since she had met with three other groups that day. We talked about what CTE programs we are involved in and how we have been impacted by SkillsUSA. We invited them to come to our state conference for our showcase of skills to further influence Perkins V funding. We encouraged the growth of Pell grants. Alexis mentioned that Rep. Cuellar is a supporter of education and she would investigate the CTE Caucus and encourage him to join.

Rep. Allred—met with Janelle McClure at 11:30 a.m. The meeting started early and went very well. The staffer was very impressed by our knowledge of CTE. We shared three of our Framework stories and, we discussed the CTE Caucus and urged him to become a part of it. Rep. Allred is an avid supporter of CTE and has attended our culinary class restaurant.

Rep. Gonzalez—met with Paulina Carillo at 10 a.m. Everyone in the group had the opportunity to share their story. We talked about how CTE and SkillsUSA has helped us and how we are more prepared than college students. Rep. Gonzalez is a believer in vocational education. We asked for him to come to our fall leadership conference.

Rep. John Ratcliffe—met with staffer at 2:10 p.m. We came in earlier than expected and asked for a tour before the meeting. The staffer gave us a tour and after the tour ended we came back to Rep. Ratcliffe's office for the meeting. We gave him our gifts. We also had a sign from the CTE Rally that said "we are the champions" and he asked if that was for him too, so we gave it to him. We took pictures. He was very supportive of CTE. We asked for him to join the CTE Caucus.

Rep. Escobar—met with Freida Fray at 1 p.m. We made the points we wanted to. We discussed CTE and SkillsUSA.

Rep. Sanders—met with him at 2 p.m. We talked about CTE, SkillsUSA and the CTE Caucus. We discussed how SkillsUSA has prepared us for the world of work. He supports education as a whole and the importance of CTE.

Rep. Arrington—met with Jessica at 1:45 p.m. All members of our group introduced ourselves and interacted with him. He was very informative and personable. The meeting lasted about 30 minutes and was held on the steps of the Capitol. Rep. Arrington supports CTE and voted for reauthorization.

Rep. Hurd—met with Rachel Thompson at 11 a.m. She displayed a sense of excitement and joy when she talked to us. She gave us constructive criticism and showed that she truly cared about what each student had to say about our plans for the future. Rep. Hurd supports CTE and recently voted affirmatively for reauthorization of Perkins.

Rep. Thornberry—met with Kamal Patel at 1:20 p.m. The meeting went smoothly and he was very kind. We shared our experiences in SkillsUSA and talked about how Perkins funding works in our chapter. Rep. Thornberry supports CTE.

Rep. Weber—met with him at 1:30 p.m. He was very nice and acted like he truly cared about both our district and CTE. It was a great experience to meet someone who truly cares for what we do. We learned that Rep. Weber worked and owned an air conditioning company. We shared our stories. He is a member of the CTE Caucus.

WEST VIRGINIA

Sen. Manchin—met with him at 10:15 a.m. It was a very brief but successful meeting. Sen. Manchin is a big supporter of CTE. We had a discussion about how CTE is good and needs to be bigger.

Sen. Capito—met with Dana Righter at 9:30 a.m. It was a very successful visit. We talked about how important CTE is and how good it is for students to be a part of it. Sen. Capito is part of the CTE Caucus.

Rep. Mooney—met with a staffer at 11:15 a.m. It was a very successful visit. We talked about CTE and asked if he would join the CTE Caucus. The staffer said he is not part of the CTE Caucus, but that CTE is important to him.