With the generous support of industry partners and families invested in the future of skilled workers, approximately $1 million in SkillsUSA scholarships were made available to SkillsUSA members in the 2022–2023 academic year. In this banner scholarship year, 304 students accepted scholarships to attend postsecondary training or SkillsUSA conferences. This report highlights the annual scholarships, the donors and quotes from recipients who applied their awards to the 2022–2023 academic year.

This report does not include all prizes and scholarships awarded by SkillsUSA and SkillsUSA donors, such as those awarded to medalists at the National Skills & Leadership Conference (NLSC).
SCHOLARSHIPS

SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK
MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP

In 2023, thanks to a generous donation from Aerotek, SkillsUSA members in select pathways planning to enroll or currently enrolled in a community college, technical college, certification program or apprenticeship were eligible to apply for the new SkillsUSA–Aerotek “Make Your Mark” Scholarship. In Spring 2023, 356 students applied and 132 students received an award of up to $5,000 to continue their postsecondary training in their chosen field of study.

ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Nathan Adams

Nathan Adams is attending Wyoming Tech (Wyo.).

“Thank you for this amazing opportunity. This scholarship will help me so much to get on the fast track to being the best technician, apprentice, mentor and manager I can be.”

Monique Addison

Monique Addison is attending Blackhawk Technical College (Wis.).

“I am very honored and excited to have been selected to receive the Make Your Mark Scholarship. Thank you for kindly helping support my education goals. The gift received from this scholarship will be a major help in funding my efforts towards the CNC Technician program at Blackhawk Technical College.”

Adrianna Affolter

Adrianna Affolter is attending Minneapolis Community and Technical College (Minn.).
THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Damon Aitken

*Damon Aitken is attending Great Basin College (Nev.)*.

“I would like to deeply thank those at Aerotek for awarding me this very generous scholarship. I am enrolled in the Industrial Maintenance Program.”

Jessica Alaniz

*Jessica Alaniz is attending Texas State Technical College (Texas).*

“I’m honored to be one of this year’s recipients of the 2023 SkillsUSA–Aerotek Make Your Mark Scholarship. With this scholarship, I am not only able to continue my education in Wind Energy technology at Texas State Technical College, but now I am able to pass my military education benefits to my 7-year-old son for his future education. My continued dedication to Wind Energy has allowed me to achieve a GPA of 4.0. I hope to be an inspiration to my son (who now wants to build robots and wind turbines) and to my classmates.”

Ryan Altomer

*Ryan Altomer is an apprentice at Local Union 7, Latham (N.Y.)*.

“I can’t thank Aerotek enough for this scholarship opportunity! With the rise of gas prices, car costs and repairs, I don’t have to worry as much and will be able to perform my apprenticeship duties to the best of my abilities! Thank you, Aerotek!”

Jonathan Anderson

*Jonathan Anderson is attending Gordon Cooper Technology Center (Okla.)*.

“Thank you very much for the opportunity! This will impact my life in ways you can’t even tell.”

Salvador Arguello

*Salvador Arguello is attending North Dakota State College of Science (N.D.)*.

“Thank you Aerotek, this has made such a huge relief on my life. I was concerned about paying for college this semester, but with this scholarship I will definitely be able to finish my schooling.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Nathan Ax
Nathan Ax is attending Erwin Technical College ( Fla.).
“The scholarship will help me pay for my tools and school.”

Cristian Belman
Cristian Belman is attending Universal Technical Institute ( Texas).
“Thank you Aerotek for granting me this scholarship. It will be of immense help to my family and me. Being able to attend UTI will help me become a successful technician and hopefully support my family in the future.”

Alamar Benitez
Alamar Benitez is attending Los Angeles Community College ( Calif.).
“First I would like to say thank you so much for accepting me for this scholarship. This will benefit me in my manufacturing career path by paying for my certification to operate HAAS CNC Mill and Lathe.”

Manuel Bermudez
Manuel Bermudez is attending Arizona Western College ( Ariz.).
“I would like to thank the Aerotek scholarship committee for giving me and all the other recipients this amazing opportunity to further our education and pursue careers in engineering. This scholarship personally helped me because I am now able to go to school without having to pay for my tuition out-of-pocket which relieves a big financial burden off my shoulders.”
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Kabir Bhakta

*Kabir Bhakta is attending Southeast Community College (Neb.).*

“Thank you Aerotek for this scholarship. This will help me a lot throughout my college life so I can learn and become what I wanted to be. Thank you.”

Tristan Black

*Tristan Black is attending Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (Ariz.).*

“This scholarship will help me with some of the financial debt that would have been on my shoulders for the next couple of years. I am very grateful to Aerotek for helping me with it.”

Nikolaus Brown

*Nikolaus Brown is attending Utah Valley University (Utah).*

“Thank you, Aerotek, for allowing me to apply for this generous scholarship. With the fantastic faculty at UVU, I am learning valuable skills that I can use in my future career in woodworking. I believe that woodworking is a dying art that needs to be shared.”

Luci Brtek

*Luci Brtek is attending Dakota County Technical College (Minn.).*

“Thank you Aerotek for the scholarship! It will help me attain my career goals because I will be able to focus on school a lot more and not worry so much about paying my school loans.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

**William Butler**

*William Butler is attending State Technical College of Missouri (Mo.).*

“Thank you! This scholarship will help pay for some of the tools I need.”

**Hunter Carpenter**

*Hunter Carpenter is attending Kentucky Welding Institute (Ky.).*

“I want to thank you so much. This scholarship will help greatly by making it easier to afford tools for school.”

**Ruby Castillo**

*Ruby Castillo is attending Texas State Technical College (Texas).*

“Thank you for selecting me (to receive) the Make Your Mark Scholarship. After I graduate from this program I plan to complete an internship locally. Thank you, Aerotek, for believing in me as an individual.”

**Zachary Davis**

*Zachary Davis is attending Forsyth Technical College (N.C.).*

“First of all, I want to say thank you to Aerotek for providing this scholarship. This scholarship will help me maintain my goal of being debt free when I graduate from college.”

**Dayton Decker**

*Dayton Decker is attending State Technical College of Missouri (Mo.).*

“I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making the SkillsUSA scholarship possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor, and I am deeply appreciative of your support. This scholarship will help with required costs that could potentially hold me back from achieving my goals.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Edwin Diaz

*Edwin Diaz is attending Lanier Technical College (Ga.).*

“I wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation for the scholarship opportunity you have given me. Being chosen as a recipient of the Aerotek scholarship brings me joy and gratitude. This generous financial assistance will undoubtedly play a role in helping me pursue my career goal in collision repair.”

Samuel Diaz

*Samuel Diaz is attending Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (Ky.).*

“I am honored to be a recipient of this scholarship from Aerotek. It is super important for me to be able to continue my education and continue learning more about diesel technology. Thank you Aerotek!”

Jaedon Dimas

*Jaedon Dimas is attending Texas State Technical College (Texas).*

“I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for the scholarship you have awarded me. Your generous support will provide me with the financial means to pursue my education. With this scholarship, I will be able to focus more on my studies and immerse myself in valuable learning experiences without the burden of excessive financial stress.”

Canyon Echerd

*Canyon Echerd is attending Catawba Valley Community College (N.C.).*

“I am grateful for the opportunity to accept this scholarship to pursue my goal of becoming a licensed electrician. This scholarship will allow me to take classes that will prepare me to enter the electrical workforce.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Chipman Falls

*Chipman Falls is attending Texas State Technical College (Texas).*

“Thank you Aerotek sponsor for granting me this scholarship! I can now focus on my education and job search for the spring semester without worrying about funds. I plan to become a maintenance technician that repairs automated systems.”

Jonathan Farley

*Jonathan Farley is attending Fresno City College ( Calif.).*

“I am honored to receive your scholarship! I have been a proud member of SkillsUSA for the past two years, but I was astonished when I was offered this scholarship. If I had not, I would have struggled to afford to go to college this semester.”

Nicholas Farris

*Nicholas Farris is attending Vincennes University (Ind.).*

“I am eternally grateful for this scholarship. I have been dreaming of college and my career as a machinist since a very young age. This will relieve the financial burden from my shoulders. I will use this scholarship to get my degrees in Precision Machining and then open my own business for local and government machining. I am forever grateful.”

Camden Feldhaus

*Camden Feldhaus is attending Alfred State College (N.Y.).*

“This scholarship will take a decent amount out of my bill and help me achieve my goals. I plan to finish my postsecondary institution and get a job in the engineering field. With student loans weighing so heavily, this stressful life for myself and my future family.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Kolton Fischer

*Kolton Fischer, Northeast Community College (Neb.).*

“I would like to thank Aerotek for providing me with this amazing scholarship. This scholarship will greatly help me by allowing me to focus on my studies while not having to worry about financial issues after graduating.”

Alan Fong

*Alan Fong is attending College of Western Idaho (Idaho).*

“Thank you so much for providing me with this scholarship. I will use the money to pay for my tuition and the necessary materials for the class such as equipment, books and tools. I am truly thankful for the assistance and cannot thank you enough.”

Ashley Frank

*Ashley Frank is attending Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (Wis.).*

“This scholarship will alleviate the burden of tuition fees and related expenses, enabling me to focus wholeheartedly on my studies and personal development. I will be able to work part-time and put my efforts into my education. Focusing and honing my skills will bring the much-needed skills of the trade into my community. I am so grateful for this opportunity.”

Anselm Frietsch

*Anselm Frietsch is attending Des Moines Area Community College (Iowa).*

“Thank you Aerotek. With this scholarship, I will be able to complete my class in Construction Management. With my new knowledge and skills, I will be able to make my mark in my community and fulfill my career goal by starting a construction company.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

**Skylar Fryling**
*Skylar Fryling is attending the Auto Training Institute (Pa.)*

“Thank you so much for choosing me for this scholarship, it means so much to me and I’m so happy I get to move on with my education. I can’t thank you enough.”

**Cole Gilliland**
*Cole Gilliland is attending State Technical College of Missouri (Mo.)*

“I would like to thank you for supporting me in my pursuit to further my education in CAT Diesel Technology. I am looking forward to the challenge of this program, and to continue working with Foley Equipment. Your support is much appreciated!”

**Peter Gonzalez**
*Peter Gonzalez is attending Northampton Community College (Pa.)*

“I would like to say thank you to Aerotek and all who helped make this decision. I’m truly grateful for all that you have done for me. I’m so excited and happy to put this scholarship to good use. I promise that I will use this scholarship to achieve my career goals.”

**Erica Graves**
*Erica Graves is attending Yavapai College (Ariz.)*

“With this scholarship I am now able to further my education and gain a degree. I hope to one day be a business owner or construction manager but I am taking steps to keep my options open while still taking classes to keep me on task. Thank you.”

**Kevin Graves**
*Kevin Graves is attending Montana State University (Mont.)*

“Thank you so much for awarding me the Aerotek Make Your Mark Scholarship. I am honored to receive this valuable award. It will really help me cover my expenses for the coming school year. By focusing my time on my studies, I know I will be more successful as I enter the workforce next year.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Brian Guitierrez
Brian Guitierrez is attending College of Lake County (Texas).

“I first off want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart, for providing me the opportunity to further my education by alleviating some of the financial burden associated with schooling. With this scholarship, I will have less student debt after graduation which will allow me to solely focus on starting my career in the diesel industry. I will push myself to new limits and work even harder, especially knowing a company like Aerotek took a chance on a 19-year-old young man. I am forever grateful to Aerotek and SkillsUSA for providing me this opportunity to succeed. I will make sure to not let anyone down. Aerotek, you are truly changing the lives of young men and women who want to change the world.”

Jonathan Guzman
Jonathan Guzman is attending Brookhaven College (Texas).

“I am really thankful for the opportunity that I have been given for this scholarship. This scholarship will help me with my expenses by taking some weight off of my shoulders. It will also help motivate me to keep going and accomplish my goals. Thank you!”

Keira Hansen
Keira Hansen is attending North Dakota State College of Science (N.D.).

“This truly is an amazing opportunity and I am excited to continue my career in welding. Thank you for your consideration and accepting me to receive the Make Your Mark Scholarship of 2023. This will help a lot with the fees of my welding education. Again, thank you for your generosity and consideration.”

Tanner Hargis
Tanner Hargis is attending State Technical College of Missouri (Mo.).

“Thank you for taking the time to analyze and select my application for the 2023 Aerotek/SkillsUSA scholarship. This scholarship will not only be helpful for college, it is also a reminder to me that the skilled trades can be a rewarding career.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Nathan Harper

*Nathan Harper plans to enroll in Northwest College (Wyo.)*.
“Thank you so much for choosing me to receive this scholarship! It means so much to me to have help. I’m making my career goals a reality! I appreciate all of your support.”

Christian Hattaway

*Christian Hattaway is attending Universal Technical Institute (Texas).*
“Thank you so much for choosing me to receive this scholarship. This money will lower the amount of student loans I need. That means I don’t have to worry about paying so much back and can focus on my studies and my future career goals.”

Will Hawkins

*Will Hawkins is attending Erwin Technical College (Fla.)*.
“This scholarship will help me pay for my school’s tuition and tools. It will also help provide me with knowledge that I will continuously use. I want to thank you for the opportunity.”

Hezekiah Heard

*Hezekiah Heard is attending SAU Tech (Ark.)*.
“I am writing this letter to express my gratitude for being selected as a recipient of the Make Your Mark Scholarship. I am incredibly honored and appreciative to have been chosen as a recipient of this prestigious award. The money awarded from this scholarship will be utilized for tuition and equipment. This scholarship will not only assist me in achieving my educational goals but will also serve as a constant reminder of the faith you have placed in me. Thank you for choosing to invest in me.”

Jaxson Hearod

*Jaxson Hearod is attending Missouri Welding Institute (Mo.)*.
“I would like to thank Aerotek for the generous scholarship. I have always wanted to learn welding and have enjoyed the last two years of welding in high school. I hope to learn many new techniques at MWI that will help me to obtain a position in a good company once I have graduated.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Landon Higgins
*Landon Higgins is attending Kentucky Welding Institute (Ky.)*.
“Thank you Aerotek for giving me this scholarship. This will go towards my dream of becoming a welder which is something I have wanted to do for a long time.”

Wyatt Holland
*Wyatt Holland is attending Midlands Technical College (S.C.)*.
“This scholarship will help me attain my career goals and give me the chance to get an education that I will use as the foundation to build my career upon.”

Tyler Hutcheson
*Tyler Hutcheson is attending Alfred State College (N.Y.)*.
“I would like to thank Aerotek. The opportunity that has been provided through their support is life changing. It allows me to get an education at Alfred State to do what I enjoy and then move forward towards a construction management position.”

Caleb Igo
*Caleb Igo is attending Kentucky Welding Institute (Ky.)*.
“Thank you for this scholarship. Without this I would not be able to start my career as a pipe welder.”

Willem Inman
*Willem Inman is attending SUNY-Delhi (N.Y.)*.
“I am grateful to Aerotek for their generosity because without this scholarship I would struggle to afford college and ultimately attain my career goals. I plan to use this scholarship to obtain my bachelor’s degree, which will allow me to begin a successful career in HVAC and plumbing.”
**SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP**

**ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS**

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**Damon Ivy**  
*Damon Ivy is attending Missouri Welding Institute (Mo).*

“Thank you for this scholarship. It will allow me to focus more on my future instead of paying back as much debt, I am very grateful for this opportunity.”

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**Jace Jensen**  
*Jace Jensen is attending Lincoln Technical Institute (Texas).*

“Thank you Aerotek for giving me the funding necessary to provide the education I seek in my trade!”

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**Jess Johnson**  
*Jess Johnson is attending Texas State Technical College (Texas).*

“This scholarship makes a big difference to me. It is helping me support my education and get my degree so I can move into my career. My goal is to build a career in my field, where I can succeed. I also want to use my education to help people as I move into the future. SkillsUSA was a great experience for me and taught me a lot about both my trade, and other technical colleges.”

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**Jayden Kamp**  
*Jayden Kamp is attending Alfred State College (N.Y.).*

“Thank you for helping me attain my goals, one step at a time. This will greatly help my academic journey and the path to my future. This scholarship will help fund my college costs and help me succeed in my career. Thank you once again!”

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**Cooper Kelly**  
*Cooper Kelly is attending Mitchell Technical College (S.D.).*

“I personally thank those at Aerotek and those with SkillsUSA that helped me gain this scholarship. This scholarship will help me to afford my schooling for the trade I want to pursue. It will help me become qualified in my trade area.”
SCHOLARSHIPS

SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Brandi Kettner
Brandi Kettner is attending Fox Valley Technical Center (Wis.).

“Thank you for creating this scholarship and allowing me to pay for my college. This scholarship will help me save up for the rest of my schooling a lot faster than without.”

Jake Kiper
Jake Kiper is attending Texas State Technical College (Texas).

“I first off want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for providing me the opportunity to further my education by alleviating some of the financial burden associated with schooling. With this scholarship, I will have less student debt after graduation which will allow me to solely focus on starting my career in the diesel industry. I will push myself to new limits and work even harder, especially knowing a company like Aerotek took a chance on a 19-year-old young man.”

Benjamin Klemen
Benjamin Klemen is attending North Dakota State College of Science (N.D.).

“Thank you so much for this scholarship! This scholarship will help me afford a college education to pursue my passion for welding!”

Riley Kolb
Riley Kolb is attending Wyoming Technical College (Wyo.).

“Thank you so much for granting me this scholarship money. It will give me options as I work my way through the automotive program. It will allow me to extend my time at Wyotech by taking additional enrichment classes.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Amber Kooren
“I cannot express my amount of gratitude for this scholarship I have been given and how much it will help with my financial situation.”

Dominic Lange
*Dominic Lange is attending Moraine Technical College (Wis.).*

“Thank you for granting me the privilege of this scholarship. It will be used for furthering my career by making schooling more accessible to me.”

Hamza Latif
*Hamza Latif is attending Western Suffolk BOCES (N.Y.).*

“I am truly honored and grateful to have received your scholarship. This opportunity means the world to me and will undoubtedly make a significant impact on my educational journey. I want to thank you for supporting my aspirations and I am excited to contribute my best efforts to my studies and make the most of this wonderful opportunity.”

Walker Laumeyer
*Walker Laumeyer is attending North Dakota State College of Science (N.D.).*

“I am truly grateful for this scholarship. Between working over 12 hours a day and helping coach the legion team I played for in high school I’ve been extremely busy, and this scholarship will take a lot of pressure off of me and my family. Once again thank you and I am truly grateful for this scholarship.”

Colin Lemieux
*Colin Lemieux is attending North Dakota State College of Science (N.D.).*

“Thank you for creating this scholarship and helping me to pay for my college. This scholarship will help me save up for the rest of my schooling a lot faster.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Chloe Limburg
Chloe Limburg is attending Lincoln Technical College (Colo.).

“Thank you so much for everything you are doing for me. Receiving this scholarship means that I can go to college and pursue my dreams and not be worried if I am making the right decision and putting myself in debt. I am so grateful that now I can do what I really love and pursue a trade.”

Rory Lingle
Rory Lingle is attending Gallatin College (Mont.).

“Thank you for choosing me as a recipient for your SkillsUSA Aerotek Scholarship. I have really enjoyed this program and I am extremely happy that our advisor Mr. Santistevan was able to get our chapter up and running for future students to enjoy. I am looking forward to starting my classes this fall at Gallatin College in Bozeman, Montana. Thank you again for choosing me.”

Kayla Lohse
Kayla Lohse is attending Northern Wisconsin Technical College (Wis.).

“I’m so grateful and honored to receive this scholarship. This will go toward my second year of college. It will help me be able to focus on school without having to work as much to make up for the cost. Thank you once again for this scholarship!”

Hannis Longino
Hannis Longino is attending Middle Georgia State University (Ga.).

“SkillsUSA has helped me figure out a better plan for my future and how to achieve my life goals. I would like to thank the staff at Aerotek and SkillsUSA for granting me this scholarship. This money will allow me to attend Middle Georgia State University and get my degree in Aviation Maintenance Technology.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Fernando Lopez
Fernando Lopez is attending Universal Technical Institute (Texas).
“Aerotek, thank you for giving me the opportunity to apply for and receive this scholarship. This scholarship will help me achieve my goal of being an auto technician.”

Cameron Lord
Cameron Lord is attending IEC Electrical (Colo.).
“Hello Aerotek, I appreciate the gift of this scholarship. It will help me with my ability to keep a secure form of transportation while being able to acquire any tools or equipment needed to do my job properly. Again, I am highly grateful for this.”

Willie Lowe
Willie Lowe is attending Kentucky Welding Institute (Ky.).
“Thank you so much for giving me this scholarship. It will help me achieve my dreams of being a combo welder on the road.”

Steele Luedke
Steele Luedke is attending Fox Valley Technical College (Wis.).
“Thank you Aerotek for giving me the chance to even receive something like this! I know it takes a lot to go out of their way and create this. I plan on using my scholarship to buy tools and to finish paying off my tuition this year!”

Alex Lyall
Alex Lyall is attending Sinclair Community College (Ohio).
“I want to thank you for the generous scholarship offer. I have always wanted to pursue the mechanical engineering field, and this gift makes my dream that much closer to becoming reality. Keep supporting the workforce of the future. Thank you again!”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Carter Mabe
*Carter Mabe is attending Ranken Technical College (Mo.).*

“I would like to thank Aerotek for the scholarship they awarded me. This scholarship will help me better afford tuition and costs at Ranken Technical College where I will be working toward a degree in High Performance Racing Technology. I appreciate it and am so thankful for this opportunity.”

Jesse Manuel
*Jesse Manuel is attending Aims Community College (Colo.).*

Clayton Marohl
*Clayton Marohl is attending North Dakota State Technical College (N.D.).*

“I can’t thank Aerotek enough for awarding me with the Make Your Mark Scholarship. With this scholarship, I will be able to attain my career goals faster and easier. This scholarship will help take some of the financial worries away so I can focus more on attaining my career goals and progressing with my life. Thank you again Aerotek.”

Brett Martin
*Brett Martin is attending Utah Valley University (Utah).*

“I want to say thank you to the people at Aerotek that awarded me this scholarship! It will help me be able to learn to do the things that will help me in my career by opening more pathways for jobs. I’ll be able to get a job doing something that I love and maybe one day open my own business!”
Josh Mathews

Josh Mathews is attending Mid-State Technical College (Wis.).

“Receiving a scholarship allows me to focus on getting the most out of my education. I understand that my time at school is limited. Someday soon, I’ll have a full-time job and bigger bills to pay. Because of this scholarship, I can take advantage of the time I have at school by bringing my own projects to school and participating in SkillsUSA.”

Ian McKenzie

Ian McKenzie is attending Lawson Community College (Ala.).

“Thank you Aerotek for helping me pay for my college education. This scholarship will help me tremendously in the journey ahead of me.”

Christian McMackin

Christian McMackin is attending Missouri Welding Institute (Mo.).

“Thank you, Aerotek, for giving me this scholarship. This will go towards my dream of becoming a welder which is something I have wanted to do for a long time.”

Brett Miller

Brett Miller is attending Southeast Community College in Nebraska.

“Thank you for choosing me as a recipient of the Aerotek scholarship. This money will help with my last year of education. I can’t wait to use my trade skills and begin my career in manufacturing engineering.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Aiden Nauenburg

_Aiden Nauenburg is attending Northern Wyoming Community College (Wyo.)._

“I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for the scholarship opportunity you have given me. Being chosen as a recipient of the Aerotek scholarship brings me joy and gratitude. This generous financial assistance will undoubtedly play a role in helping me pursue my career goal in collision repair.”

Michael Nemec

_Michael Nemec is attending Pennsylvania College of Technology (Pa.)._

“Thank you for offering me this opportunity and award to further my career in building construction. This scholarship will help me in my future career goals. I have a strong work ethic and passion for this industry and this scholarship will enable me to obtain a solid education to prepare for my dream of owning my own business one day or being a manager on a construction website for a large company.”

Tam Nguygen

_Tam Nguyen is attending Houston Community College (Texas)._

“Thanks for funding. This scholarship means a lot to me. The money I receive from this will help me to pay the cost of living and the school’s tuition.”

Luke Oesterling

_Luke Oesterling is attending Owens Community College (Ohio)._

“Thank you so much Aerotek! Receiving this help with my tuition gives me the opportunity to better pursue a career in the diesel technology and heavy equipment mechanics fields.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Sean Paige
Sean Paige is attending Northern Maine Community College (Maine).

“Thank you so much for helping me further my education. I really appreciate it.”

Shayne Paoli
Shayne Paoli is attending Oklahoma State Institute of Technology (Okla.).

“Thank you for considering me for this scholarship. The assistance you are offering towards my future is greatly appreciated. I am looking forward to earning my degree as a heavy diesel mechanic. My grandpa spent his career as a mechanic supervisor for Solano County in California and I am proud to follow in his footsteps (just on bigger vehicles). With your generous scholarship, the pathway to this career is a little bit brighter. Thank you so very much for your kindness.”

Carson Parlberg
Carson Parlberg is attending Washtenaw Community College (Mich.).

“Thank you so much for selecting me as a scholarship recipient and thank you for seeing something in me and choosing to invest into my future. I start classes this fall at Washtenaw and I can’t wait to get started. Receiving your scholarship is going to help fund my classes and get any books I need for my classes. Again, thank you so very much. I am very grateful for Aerotek and SkillsUSA for everything they have done for me from being a state officer to awarding me with this scholarship!”

Christopher Pena
Christopher Pena is attending Texas State Technical College (Texas).

“Thank you so much, Aerotek, for allowing me the opportunity to apply for your scholarship. It means so much to my family and me, and especially to my future self. I am thankful beyond measure for what this scholarship will do for me. Thank you again for your time and consideration. God bless.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Noah Pfeiff
*Noah Pfeiff is attending North Dakota State College of Science (N.D.).*

“Thank you for helping me attain my career goal by helping me financially get through my second year of postsecondary schooling. With your generosity, I can get through schooling with less debt. I greatly appreciate that I was given this opportunity.”

Logan Picolet
*Logan Picolet is attending Roger State University (Okla.).*

“Thank you for choosing to support my future education needs. I am eager and excited to take process technology and earn my associate degree because I enjoy learning about and troubleshooting electrical. Electricity is a necessity and it is fascinating to learn about! Also, I am a hands-on learner and am grateful for this opportunity to learn by doing.”

Noah Powers
*Noah Powers is attending Texas State Technical College (Texas).*

“Thank you, Aerotek, for selecting me to receive this scholarship. This will allow me to maintain my school and work schedule without having to work additional hours to make ends meet. This gives me opportunities to hone and perfect my trade while being in the nurturing environment that TSTC has provided me. Attending SkillsUSA as a competitor gave me a different view of the trades. It has made me realize that professionalism is essential in being a successful tradesman. Thank you for supporting me and believing in the future of trades in America.”

Xsaria Puente
*Xsaria Puente is attending Adrian College (Mich.).*

“Thank you to Aerotek! This will help me and my mom a great deal. I am not only excited to further my education but to also help build a better future for myself.”
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

**Jason Rawls**

*Jason Rawls is attending Bevill State Community College (Ala.)*.

“I would like to thank Aerotek for providing this generous scholarship opportunity. I can rest much easier knowing that I will be able to finish the career goal that I set out to achieve in obtaining my associate’s degree in HVAC/R. Being able to finish my schooling without delay due to financial concerns will allow me to get out in the field practicing my skills quickly to fill a much needed void in my community. I’ll be doing a job that I have passion to do. Thank you again to Aerotek and all involved in helping me to make my career dreams become a reality.”

**Erica Redman**

*Erica Redman is an apprentice at Peterbilt (Mo.)*.

“Thank you so much for helping me accomplish my career goals. This will help me get a good set of tools for working on diesel trucks.”

**Connor Rhodes**

*Connor Rhodes is attending Blue Ridge Community and Technical College (W.V.)*.

“I am writing to express my gratitude for your generosity and the opportunity you have provided me with this award. Over the next four years, I aim to obtain my degree from Blue Ridge Community College, gain knowledge and experience working in a local machine shop full-time, and complete my four-year state machining apprenticeship. The scholarship will help me cover the cost of my education as I work towards my degree and these goals.”
SKILLSUSA—AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Cole Riegert
Cole Riegert is attending Minnesota State Community and Technical College (Minn.).
“I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making this scholarship possible. I was excited to learn of my selection for this honor and I am deeply appreciative of your support. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying. Thank you again for your generosity and support. I will do my best to make the most of the opportunities that have been put before me.”

Christopher Riether
Christopher Riether is attending Pennsylvania College of Technology (Pa.).
“Thank you for considering my application. I will be attending Pennsylvania College of Technology to be trained in residential construction and this scholarship will help me pay for my education. I look forward to attaining the skills I need to be successful in my chosen career. Thank you, Aerotek. I hope I will make you proud.”

Connor Riker
Connor Riker is attending Divers Institute of Technology (Wash.).
“Thank you, Aerotek! You’re helping me to achieve a dream and turn it into reality.”

Matthew Roberts
Matthew Roberts is attending Hinds Community College (Miss.).
“Thank you so much for the opportunity to pursue a college education in my chosen field! I never thought I would be able to go to college because I never excelled in academics in school but with this scholarship I will be graduating from the diesel technology program!”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Vicente Robles
*Vicente Robles is attending Texas State Technical College (Texas).*

“Thank you for the opportunity, I appreciate you helping me complete my educational goals.”

__Rex Roeder__
*Rex Roeder is attending North Dakota State College of Science (N.D.).*

“Thank you, Aerotek! This scholarship will greatly help me in my education to pursue my dream of being a diesel technician.”

__Adriana Rogers__
*Adriana Rogers is attending Temple College (Texas).*

“I would like to thank Aerotek for awarding this scholarship to me. I am deeply grateful for your support. It will not only help me to continue my education in the fall, but it will also help me to pursue my future goals for next year to finish my degree in the spring. Again, I want to express my extreme gratitude.”

__Arelis Romero__
*Arelis Romero is attending Tulsa Welding School (Okla.).*

“Thank you, Aerotek, for the opportunity to obtain this scholarship. I plan to use the scholarship awarded to make my career goals achievable.”

__Wyatt Ross__
*Wyatt Ross is attending Trenholm State Community College (Ala.).*

“Thank you, Aerotek, for the Make Your Mark scholarship award. This award means as much as the money. I plan to get a degree in robotics as it is a growing field since the world is moving towards automation.”
Robert Ruppel
*Robert Ruppel is attending State Technical College (Mo.).*

“I want to thank Aerotek for providing me with this scholarship opportunity. It will help me to obtain my education and experience in the automotive and transportation field. I also hope to continue to influence other young people to consider a career in the technical fields. Having a trade skill is needed and an essential part of the world today and it tends to get overlooked as a career option.”

Natalie Salt
*Natalie Salt is attending Metropolitan Community College (Neb.).*

“Thank you for your generosity in funding the SkillsUSA–Aerotek scholarship. I am pleased to be selected as one of the recipients of this year’s scholarship award. I am so thankful for this scholarship as it will help me continue to be able to take classes this fall, including an electrical class and a masonry class. Thank you again for helping me financially so that I can achieve my goals.”

Isais Gonzalez Sanchez
*Isais Gonzalez Sanchez is attending College of Western Idaho (Idaho).*

“I am thankful for the opportunity this scholarship has given me. Knowing that there are many types of support out there, such as this scholarship, that can help me further my skills and knowledge in the path that I am pursuing is very reassuring. Purchasing textbooks, fees and equipment that I may need seems less stressful now!”

Tyler Sexton
*Tyler Sexton is attending UAM College of Technology-Crossett (Ark.).*

“Thank you so much, Aerotek, for helping with my college tuition so that I can continue my education at UAM of Crossett and work toward getting an AAS degree in Industrial Technology. I am honored to receive the Make Your Mark Scholarship and look forward to seeing where this new career will lead me in my future.”
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

**Melissa Shamburg**

*Melissa Shamburg will attend a postsecondary institution to be determined.*

“I am grateful and honored that I was accepted for the scholarship as it will definitely help with my education.”

**Henry Sharpe**

*Henry Sharpe is attending State Technical College of Missouri (Mo.)*

“I would like to thank Aerotek for their support and scholarship assistance. This scholarship will help me receive the training I need to pursue a career in civil construction.”

**John Shimkus**

*John Shimkus is attending Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology (Pa.)*

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to go to college. I am now able to go to the school of my choice so I can further my knowledge in my trade to achieve my dream.”

**Kristen Sisneros**

*Kristen Sisneros is attending Amarillo College (Texas).*

“Thank you so much for your donations to this scholarship fund. Because of this scholarship I can now attend my fall semester without worrying how I’m going to pay for it. I am a full-time student and employee and this will greatly reduce my stress and income insecurity. Without your scholarship, I am positive I would be struggling to get by.”

**Kaden Smith**

*Kaden Smith is attending Midland College (Texas).*

“Thank you Aerotek. Earning your scholarship will help me reach my goal of graduating college debt free. I plan to use the money to help me complete three certifications while in college: an entry level CADD certificate, an advanced level CADD certificate and a small business start-up certificate. Thank you for your support.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Connor Smith

Connor Smith is attending Northeast Community College (Neb.).

“Thank you for naming me as a recipient of the Aerotek and SkillsUSA Make Your Mark Scholarship! This award will help me cover my educational expenses as I pursue a degree in building construction at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska. Construction has been a passion of mine since I was little, and I am now excited to start my college and career path in this industry.”

Robert Smith

Robert Smith is attending University of Alabama-Birmingham (Ala.).

“Thank you so much for this great opportunity. I appreciate you awarding me this scholarship. I will be using this to complete my degree of choice and go into the workforce.”

Connor Stewart

Connor Stewart is attending Alfred State College (N.Y.).

“Thank you, Aerotek, for your generous scholarship. I will be studying heavy equipment, truck and diesel technician at Alfred State College. This scholarship means a lot because the cost of college is daunting. It will help me balance the costs of tuition, tools and other requirements to make sure I graduate ready to work as a technician. I hope to be able to improve transportation in the agriculture world.”

Harlie Storhoff

Harlie Storhoff is attending Dickinson State University (N. Dak.).

“Thank you for accepting me for this scholarship. It will help me get through my one year of college that will help me do what I love for the rest of my life.”
### SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP

#### ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

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**Alexander Tafya**

*Alexander Tafya is attending Pennsylvania College of Technology (Pa.)*.

“Thank you very much for the scholarship. You have no idea how much this will do for me!”

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**Jessie Taggett**

*Jessie Taggett is attending Northern Maine Community College (Maine)*.

“I want to thank Aerotek, for the opportunity to advance my career goals by going to college and being able to purchase the necessary tools to complete the program. By receiving this scholarship it allows me to continue my education in a trade field that is needed. Thank you very much.”

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**Justin Taylor**

*Justin Taylor is attending Missouri Welding Institute (Mo.)*.

“Thank you for the scholarship to continue my journey with welding. I am very much appreciative for having the opportunity.”

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**Tyler Thompson**

*Tyler Thompson is attending Metropolitan Community College (Neb.)*.

“Thank you for your generosity. I will be able to go to school and be able to start my own business.”

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**Jackson Tomascik**

*Jackson Tomascik is attending Erwin Technical College (Fla.)*.

“Thank you, Aerotek, for this opportunity to receive this scholarship. This will help me to buy power tools needed for plumbing jobs I will face. I will be able to buy all new equipment and equipment bags so I can have a reliable set of tools.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Duy Khuong Tran
Duy Khuong Tran is attending Community College of Denver (Colo.).

“This scholarship helps me have more opportunities to be exposed to more things in education. Not only that, but it also gives me more motivation to strive for the next, and I really appreciate that.”

Jorje Ucen
Jorje Ucen is attending Western Dakota Community College (S.D.).

“Thank you Aerotek for this scholarship. This will have a great impact on my career by helping me to pay for my tuition, books and fees. This scholarship is great for people like me that want to progress and become better students and do really well at their trade.”

Randyn Uden
Randyn Uden is attending Northeast Community College (Neb.).

“I want to thank Aerotek for helping me achieve my dream of going to school for welding. This scholarship will help me pay for school to become a certified welder. I have done a couple of jobs in welding and they helped me to find out that I’m indeed going for the right career.”

Taten Uden
Taten Uden is attending Northeast Community College (Neb.).

“I would like to send out a very special thanks to all the people that made this scholarship possible, not only for me but everyone else who received this amazing gift. I would also like to thank Aerotek for giving me such a great opportunity. I cannot put into words how much stress this has relieved and how grateful I am to be receiving this scholarship.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Keltin Vanarsdall

*Keltin Vanarsdall is attending Tulsa Welding School (Texas).*

“I am very grateful for this opportunity as it will help me financially as I continue my education. I will be able to lower my costs and not have as much to pay back when I am finished. Thanks for the consideration for this scholarship and I humbly accept. I want to also thank SkillsUSA for the guidance in becoming a certified welder with an associate’s degree.”

Elizabeth Vance

*Elizabeth Vance is attending College of Southern Idaho (Idaho).*

“I’m so grateful for the support. This scholarship will help me become successful in my trade by helping me to get an education. Thank you sincerely for my scholarship.”

Andrea Flores-Villanueva

*Andrea Flores-Villanueva is attending Hobart Institute of Welding (Ohio).*

“I thank Aerotek for giving me this amazing opportunity. This scholarship will help me get to my goals. It will help me go through the schooling to gain the knowledge that will allow me a world of new possibilities. I am beyond grateful and will use all these opportunities to the best of my abilities.”

Brett Vines

*Brett Vines is attending Caldwell Community College (N.C).*

“I couldn't begin to thank Aerotek enough. This scholarship will help me tremendously in attaining the education I need in order to pursue my dream career.”

Matthew Vogtman

*Matthew Vogtman is attending Iron Eagle Welding Academy (Mo.)*

“Thank you Aerotek for awarding me with this scholarship. This will help me be able to finish trade school with less debt so I will be able to afford a welding rig quicker. I would like to be a traveling pipeline welder.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Tyler Webb

*Tyler Webb is attending Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT)-Oneida (Tenn.)*

“I would like to take a moment to thank Aerotek for the opportunity to further my education. This scholarship will help us a lot and take a big burden off our shoulders. I will use this to help further my education in the diesel field and fulfill my career goals.”

Mason White

*Mason White is attending East Arkansas Community College (Ark.)*

“I highly appreciate Aerotek for accepting me for the scholarship to help me further my education. This will help me better understand the working of semi-trucks and help me progress into the field.”

Camille White

*Camille White is attending Tuskegee University (Ala.)*

“Thank you, Aerotek, for this amazing opportunity. This scholarship will help lift some of the financial burden that comes with college and allow me to focus more on my studies and less on my financial needs. Thank you again for all of your time and consideration.”

Ty Willhite

*Ty Willhite is attending Missouri Welding Institute (Mo.)*

“Thank you, Aerotek, for giving me this scholarship and for giving me this opportunity to become a journeyman welder.”
SKILLSUSA–AEROTEK MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Ethan Willingham

*Ethan Willingham is attending Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology (Okla.).*

“Our country’s electrical grid is overtaxed. In Oklahoma, we enjoyed an abundance of energy in the past, but are seeing a rise in energy usage which limits our energy sources. I will use the knowledge I gain from OSUIT to improve energy efficiency, thereby reducing costs and usage for individual citizens, commercial businesses, and industries in Oklahoma. This will benefit both the people of the state and our overtaxed electrical grid. This is my plan for making my mark on the air conditioning and refrigeration industry.”

Dawson Woods

*Dawson Woods is attending State Technical Institute of Missouri (Mo.).*

“This scholarship will help me afford the correct tools that I will need to be an aircraft mechanic.”

Austin Wright

*Austin Wright is attending Lansing Community College (Mich.).*

“This truly is an amazing opportunity and I am excited to continue my career in welding. Thank you for your consideration and accepting me to receive the Make Your Mark Scholarship of 2023. This will help a lot with the fees of my welding education. Again, thank you for your generosity and consideration.”
THE MARSHA DAVES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Each year, one scholarship award of $1,500 is awarded to a SkillsUSA state officer in any pathway to support continued education at the college/postsecondary level. In the 2022–2023 academic year, 71 students applied to the Marsha Daves Memorial Scholarship.

ABOUT MARSHA DAVES

During her SkillsUSA career, Marsha Daves filled many roles. She was the first recipient of the Marsha Daves Lifetime Achievement Award, a SkillsUSA Board of Directors member, chair of the Oklahoma State Director’s Association, recipient of the Honorary Life Award and director of Education and Training with the national SkillsUSA staff. To the students and colleagues who were able to work with Marsha, her role was truly an educator, advisor and mentor.

ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENT

This year’s recipient Ricarda Pallazhco graduated from Passaic County Technical Vocational School (N.J.) where she served as the SkillsUSA local chapter president and the New Jersey state office president for the 2022–2023 school year.

Ricarda Pallazhco

“I want to express my gratitude for the Marsha Daves Memorial Scholarship. It is a true honor to be the 2023 recipient. SkillsUSA has provided me with a plethora of opportunities throughout my high school career, which has helped me transform into a better leader in my community. I have obtained the skills needed to have a successful career. With this scholarship, I can pursue a higher level of education to obtain the knowledge needed to succeed in the future. This scholarship will help ease the financial stress of college, therefore allowing me to focus more on my studies. I will dedicate myself to my education and positively impact my community. Once again, thank you for this honor!”
THE SKILLSUSA-NTHS SCHOLARSHIP

The SkillsUSA-NTHS Scholarship is made possible through a partnership between SkillsUSA and NTHS. Scholarship awards of $1,000 each are awarded annually to four qualified students who are members of both SkillsUSA and NTHS. In the 2022–2023 academic year, 206 students applied to the NTHS Scholarship and five students were selected to receive a scholarship award.

ABOUT NTHS

The National Technical Honor Society is an educational non-profit organization that exists to honor, recognize, and empower students and teachers in career and technical education. As the honor society for career and technical Education, NTHS serves over 100,000 active members annually in both secondary and postsecondary chapters across the country.

ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Emma Dana

*Emma Dana graduated from River Valley Technical Center (Vt.) and is studying architecture at Carnegie Melon University (Pa.).*

“Thank you for your support! Thanks to this scholarship and many others, I do not have to worry about paying for my first year of college. This money will help me study architecture and become a licensed architect in the future. I hope to focus on sustainable architecture.”

Jana DeVaul

*Jana DeVaul graduated from Northland Career Center (Mo.) and is studying education at Northwest Missouri State University (Mo.).*

“I’m so excited to have been chosen for this scholarship. This scholarship will help me to pursue my dream of becoming an elementary school teacher. Since I am a student funding her own education, this scholarship will be a tremendous help. Thank you again for all of your time and support!”
SCHOLARSHIPS

SKILLS USA 2022–2023 ACADEMIC YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS REPORT

THE SKILLSUSA-NTHS SCHOLARSHIP

ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Kai Portalla

Kai Portalla graduated from Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School (Mass.) and is now studying Mechanical Engineering and Marine Biology from the University of Maine in Orono (Maine).

“My love for the outdoors has driven the majority of my actions throughout my life, and I have finally come to realize that I want to dedicate my life to restoring and conserving the beauty of mother nature. I have always lived near the ocean and I do not want to just stand by and watch as the human impact destroys my home. I could have chosen to follow an environmental engineering path, but I want to learn equally as much about the ecosystems and fauna I will be working in/and around, as the physics behind how I will be affecting them.”

Pari Sharma

Pari Sharma graduated from Mountain House High School (Calif.) and is studying computer science at San Jose University (Calif.).

“I am honored to be selected as a recipient. Words cannot express how much this means to me. I intend to pursue Computer Science at a higher level to combat the increased threat of climate change, which I have personally experienced due to the wildfires and droughts in California. I will dive deep into predictive analytics and machine learning, generating emission-related forecasts to identify valuable opportunities in the field.”

Kai Taylor

Kai Taylor graduated from West Carteret High School (N.C.) and is studying engineering at North Carolina State University (N.C.).

“From the bottom of my heart, thank you so very much for the nomination for this scholarship. With this scholarship, I intend to fund my postsecondary education at North Carolina State University (NCSU). At NCSU I intend to take part in their offered engineering and other STEM programs. This scholarship will help alleviate some degree of financial obligations in college, which will allow me to focus even more on my studies. Thank you, once again!”
THE SHARON MELTON MYERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Each year, scholarship awards of $1,000 each are awarded to two SkillsUSA members in any pathway to support continued education at the college/postsecondary level. In 2023, 61 students applied to the Sharon Melton Myers Memorial Scholarship.

ABOUT SHARON MELTON MYERS

Sharon Ruth Melton Myers was an active member of the McMinn County Vocational Center SkillsUSA chapter in Tennessee from 1985 through 1988. During this time, Sharon participated in local, state and national SkillsUSA activities.

She served as a local officer in 1986–87, Tennessee state secretary in 1986–87 and as national president in 1987–88. She also participated in the chapter’s Opening and Closing Ceremonies team in 1986–88. Following graduation from McMinn High in 1988, Sharon continued as a tireless supporter of SkillsUSA, serving as a national officer trainer for several years.

She was integral in establishing a Tennessee SkillsUSA alumni charter and constitution while attending David Lipscomb College in Nashville. Sharon was dedicated to the ideals of SkillsUSA and its mission.
THE SHARON MELTON MYERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Grace Smith

Grace Smith was the 2022–2023 SkillsUSA national officer president. She graduated from Elma High School (Wash.) and is now studying behavioral neuroscience at Western Washington University.

“I am so grateful for this opportunity and investment in my education journey! I will be attending Western Washington University in the fall to pursue a degree in behavioral neuroscience to become a pediatric occupational therapist. This financial contribution makes not only my career dreams a possibility, but also a possibility for the impact that I will have in all the little lives I will work with! THANK YOU!”

Jordan Toler

Jordan Toler graduated from West Craven High School (N.C.) where she served as the SkillsUSA chapter president. She is now studying business administration at North Carolina State University in Raleigh (N.C.).

“I would like to express my gratitude and say thank you for selecting me for the Sharon Melton Myers Scholarship and a big thanks to the sponsors that provided me with this opportunity. Sharon’s story stuck out to me and her message for all SkillsUSA members is one I will never forget. I intend to pursue a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing. SkillsUSA has prepared me greatly for the professional world by providing me with training in the Job Interview skill set. I plan to stay right here in North Carolina and work in Raleigh. Again, I can’t thank you enough for this generous gift that will aid my education.”
THE AIR-CONDITIONING, HEATING, AND REFRIGERATION INSTITUTE (AHRI) CLIFFORD TED REES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Each year, four SkillsUSA members studying HVAC-R are selected by AHRI to receive a $2,500 award towards their continued study of HVAC-R at the college/postsecondary level. AHRI members manufacture quality, efficient and innovative HVAC-R equipment and components for sale around the world. These products account for more than 90% of the residential and commercial equipment manufactured and sold in North America. In the 2022–2023 academic year, 31 students applied to the AHRI Clifford Ted Rees Memorial Scholarship.

ABOUT THE AHRI CLIFFORD TED REES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

AHRI members manufacture quality, efficient, and innovative HVAC-R equipment and components for sale around the world. These products account for more than 90% of the residential and commercial equipment manufactured and sold in North America.

ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Hunter Claflin

Hunter Claflin was the 2022–2023 SkillsUSA national officer parliamentarian. He graduated from Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical School (Mass.) and will be pursuing an apprenticeship in HVAC-R in the fall of 2023.

“Thank you so much for this scholarship as it will help me establish myself within the Pipefitters Union.”
THE AHRI CLIFFORD TED REES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Cole Hamby

Cole Hamby graduated from Northland Center (Mo.) and is studying HVAC-R at Johnson County Community College (Kan.).

“I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for awarding me the [AHRI] Clifford H. Ted Rees, Jr. to attend Johnson County Community College. Receiving these scholarships is an incredible honor and I am humbled to have been chosen as a recipient.”

Brandon Ochinang

Brandon Ochinang graduated from Soledad High School (Calif.) and will be studying construction at Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) in Morristown (Tenn.).

“Thank you so much for choosing me as the recipient of this award. I will use this money to pursue my dreams. When I begin my career I hope to give back to the community just as your organization gave to me. Thank you once again.”

Jason Rawls

Jason Rawls studies HVAC-R and Applied Science at Bevill State Community College (Ala.).

“I would personally like to thank AHRI and the Rees Scholarship Foundation for awarding me this scholarship. This will now assure that I get to stay in school and complete my HVAC/R course of study. Without receiving such generous funding, it would have been likely that I would have had to delay my education for an indefinite amount of time due to insufficient financial resources. I would also like the thank SkillsUSA for their part as well. This will put me on track to receive my Associate in Applied Science degree by spring or summer of 2024. At that time I plan to review for my state contractor exam, gain a reasonable amount of working experience, and work toward the goal of starting my own business within three years of completing school. Once again, thank you to everyone who helped make this dream possible. I am looking forward to a long and prosperous career in the HVAC trade. Thank you.”
LARRY RASH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Each year, two scholarships of $2,500 are awarded to SkillsUSA members studying architectural drafting. One award is presented to a selected applicant; the second is awarded to the national high school gold medalist in architectural drafting. In the 2022–2023 academic year, 55 students applied to the Larry Rash Memorial Scholarship.

ABOUT LARRY RASH

Larry Rash grew up building with Lego bricks in grade school. 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 and 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, Florida. Around the office at DBDG, Larry provided QA reviews of every plan before it left the office, researched building codes, and provided quality feedback to drafters so that they understood the why behind specific building requirements and regulations. Larry also regularly attended local builder association meetings and kept staff and clients up to date on changes and trends in the industry.

Larry enjoyed being challenged and one of his favorite hobbies included visiting and photographing architectural sites in his spare time. His life passion was designing homes where families could live out their dreams. We know that he would be honored to sponsor young individuals pursuing careers in architecture.
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

 Evalynn Sanford

 Evalynn Sanford is the 2023 SkillsUSA national high school gold medalist for architecture. Evalynn graduated from Camden County High School (Ga.) and is now studying architecture at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah (Ga.).

 “I want to thank you for offering me the SkillsUSA Larry Rash Memorial Scholarship. This will help me continue my education on to the next level as I go to SCAD to become an architect. Again, thank you for this opportunity; this will impact me greatly in the near future.”

 Nicole Xiong

 Nicole Xiong graduated from Glen A. Wilson High School (Calif.) and is studying architectural drafting at Rio Hondo College (Calif.).

 “I am so grateful for having the opportunity to receive such a generous channel of support for my academic journey in architecture. I will use the skills I gain in my career to design spaces that bring peace among people and our environment. Your loving scholarship offer has made me more confident and excited to pursue my dreams. I sincerely thank you!”
FIELDPIECE #MASTEROFTHETRADE SCHOLARSHIP

Each year Fieldpiece awards multiple $2,500 scholarships to SkillsUSA members studying HVAC-R.

ABOUT FIELDPIECE #MASTEROFTHETRADE

For over 30 years, Fieldpiece has been devoted to the HVAC-R trade—making tools for HVAC-R pros by HVAC-R pros. Fieldpiece cares deeply about this industry and is committed to creating opportunities for those who want to build a successful career in HVAC-R.

ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Hunter Claflin

Hunter Claflin was the 2022–2023 SkillsUSA national officer parliamentarian. He graduated from Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical School (Mass.) and will be pursuing an apprenticeship in HVAC-R in the fall of 2023.

“Thank you! [This scholarship] will assist me with my training and obtaining all the tools I will need to perform in my career.”

Irma Gonzalez

Irma Gonzalez is studying HVAC-R Central Carolina Community College (N.C.).

“Thank you so much for this scholarship to help pay for my school, supplies and equipment that I will need for class and an apprenticeship. I am honored that I was chosen for the $2,500 scholarship.”
Cole Hamby

Cole Hamby graduated from Northland Center (Mo.) and is studying HVAC-R at Johnson County Community College (Kan.).

“I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the Fieldpiece #MasteroftheTrade Scholarship. I hope to one day give back to my Missouri community and help others achieve their goals just as you have helped me.”

Thomas Harling

Thomas Harling is studying HVAC-R at University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Neb.).

“Thank you Fieldpiece Instruments for your generous scholarship! As a future skilled and technical science (STS) educator, I plan to promote and advocate HVACR technology, SkillsUSA and other trades in my future classes, and this generous scholarship will help me pay for the education necessary for this to happen! I am excited to give back to the HVACR industry by providing them with quality workers, trained through proper education in my future STS classroom!”

Jason Rawls

Jason Rawls studies HVAC-R and Applied Science at Bevill State Community College (Ala.).

“I would like to thank Fieldpiece and SkillsUSA for providing me this generous scholarship. With such funding, it will assure that I can now complete my HVAC course of study uninterrupted. This will help me to achieve a dream I have had for many years but have just recently had a chance to start making a reality. Thank you again to Fieldpiece and SkillsUSA for helping me to make this happen. The future looks bright and I can’t wait to see what lies ahead. Thank you.”

Ben Williams

Ben Williams graduated from Pontotoc Technology Center (Okla.) and is studying HVAC-R at Oklahoma Baptist University.

“Thank you Fieldpiece for helping to spur my future!”
FINE HOMEBUILDING
#KEEPCRAFTALIVE SCHOLARSHIP

Each year Fine Homebuilding Magazine awards multiple $2,500 scholarships to SkillsUSA members studying homebuilding related pathways.

ABOUT FINE HOMEBUILDING

Fine Homebuilding Magazine’s #KeepCraftAlive campaign celebrates those who have chosen to passionately pursue a career in design, building and remodeling.

ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Tristan Black
*Tristan Black is attending Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (Ariz.).*

“I am honored to receive this scholarship. I have learned basic construction, operation of heavy equipment, knowledge of hand tools and plumbing, and I have found my niche as an electrician. Your scholarship will help me achieve this goal. I appreciate you helping me financially and choosing me. Thank you.”

Jordan Coon
*Jordan Coon graduated from Tupelo High School (Miss.) and is studying construction at Mississippi State University (Miss.).*

“Thank you for choosing me as a recipient of the SkillsUSA Fine Homebuilding #KeepCraftAlive scholarship. This scholarship will allow me to begin my college education without incurring student debt. I look forward to gaining additional knowledge in the construction industry to be able to continue this noble profession. I will serve you well and thank you again for providing me with this opportunity.”

Thomas De La Varga
*Thomas De La Varga graduated from Martin Luther King High School (Calif.) and will begin postsecondary studies in 2024.*
FINE HOMEBUILDING #KEEPCRAFTALIVE SCHOLARSHIP

ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Cole Hamby

Cole Hamby graduated from Northland Center (Mo.) and is studying HVAC-R at Johnson County Community College (Kan.).

“This [scholarship award] will assist me in reducing the financial burden of pursuing a college education and allow me to achieve my dreams of obtaining an HVAC Technology Certificate and an Associate of Applied Science in HVAC Technology. These scholarships not only provide financial support but also serves as a motivation to continue my hard work and dedication in the HVAC trade.”

Carson Korte

Carson Korte graduated from Scarlet Oaks High School (Ohio) and is studying residential and commercial electricity at UC Clermont (Ohio).

“I just wanted to say thank you so much for this opportunity. I am attending college at UC Clermont for business management because one day it is my goal to own my own business in the electrical trade. Thank you for helping me become one step closer to accomplishing my career goal for the future.”

Taylor LeBlanc

Taylor LeBlanc graduated from Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School (Mass.) and is studying carpentry and construction at Endicott College (Mass.).

“Thank you so much for granting me this scholarship! I am very excited to try things out at Endicott and see what piques my interest. I am incredibly grateful for this scholarship that will go towards my education at Endicott College!”

Madison Montoya

Madison Montoya is studying the construction trades and carpentry at Utah State University (Utah).

“Thank you for your generosity! This will help greatly in my future education at USU. With this scholarship I will be able to pay tuition, fees, books and many other college expenses. I won’t have to stress about finding another source of income to provide for my educational needs. Scholarships like these take so much stress off of me and my family! Thank you again for choosing me to receive this wonderful scholarship!”
Brandon Ochinang
Brandon Ochinang graduated from Soledad High School (Calif.) and is attending Tennessee College of Applied Technology–Morristown (TCAT-Morristown).
Brandon has received more than one scholarship from SkillsUSA. His message can be read earlier in this report.

Gabriella Romanelli
Gabriella Romanelli is entering her senior year at High Tech High School (N.J.) where she is studying architecture. Upon high school graduation, her scholarship award will be applied to her tuition bill at the postsecondary institution of her choice.
“Thank you so much for the scholarship!”

Gleb Samoshuk
Gleb Samoshuk graduated from Oneida Herkimer Madison BOCES (N.Y.) and is studying the construction trades at Utica University (N.Y.).
“I want to say a big thank you to the sponsors of this scholarship. I can’t thank you enough how much I appreciate that you have chosen me to be given this scholarship. The money from this scholarship will help me cover the tuition costs for college. I have been working hard to save money for college because I don’t want my father to pay for my college tuition, because he has already paid enough to support and provide for our family. It is an amazing thing that people are willing to donate money to help students pay for education expenses, because in the country that I came from (Russia) there is no such thing as people donating money to students they don’t even know. So, I especially want to thank the people who made this all possible. Thank you!”
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Evan Smith

*Evan Smith graduated from Statesboro High School (Ga.) and is studying construction at Kennesaw State University (Ga.).*

“My sincere appreciation for sponsoring the SkillsUSA scholarship #KeepCraftAlive to help SkillsUSA members like me attend college. I am pursuing a career in construction management because SkillsUSA has confirmed my passion for building and allowed me to develop the skills needed to be successful both in the classroom and on the job site.”

Tristy Thomas

*Tristy Thomas graduated from Pathways Innovation Center (Wyo.) and is studying construction trades at Casper College (Wyo.).*

“I am beyond grateful to receive the #KeepCraftAlive scholarship for the upcoming school year. Having this generous financial aid will allow me to fully focus on my studies without the stress of worrying about paying for it. Thank you so much, I appreciate it deeply.”

Nicole Xiong

*Nicole Xiong graduated from Glen A. Wilson High School (Calif.) and is studying architectural drafting at Rio Hondo College (Calif.).*

Nicole has received more than one scholarship from SkillsUSA. Her message can be read earlier in this report.
BOB WESTPHAL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Bob Westphal Memorial Scholarship provides annual scholarship awards to multiple applicants who demonstrate promise in the construction trades, with an emphasis on sustainability. In the 2022–2023 academic year, 66 students applied to the Bob Westphal Memorial Scholarship. Four students were selected to receive a scholarship award of $2,500 each.

The Bob Westphal Memorial Scholarship program was established to honor the memory of Robert H. Westphal (1944–2020) in recognition of his impact on the oil and gas pipeline industry. The program is aimed at assisting students interested in pursuing a career in energy construction.

Westphal committed a lifetime of leadership in pipeline construction. He gave back to the industry in many ways, including leadership positions with industry associations and in working with labor organizations.

Christopher Brinkley

Christopher Brinkley is attending the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith (Ark.) and is studying welding.

“Thank you for investing in my education as I pursue a higher education degree. I intend to use this scholarship to help further my education and welding knowledge. These funds will be used to help me attain the career goal of becoming a welding inspector. I choose to further my education after high school so that I would be set up for success instead of failure in the future. Thank you for sponsoring a huge part of my education and trusting me as a recipient for the Bob Westphal Memorial Scholarship. I hope to make you proud of your decision. Thank you again for all your support.”

ABOUT THE DONORS

Established in 2020 by Benjamin Media, publisher of Trenchless Technology, and Continuum Capital, in cooperation with SkillsUSA, the Bob Westphal Memorial Scholarship is a five-year program that has been presented annually since 2021 in memory of their esteemed friend and colleague, Bob Westphal.

ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS
BOB WESTPHAL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

**Gatlin Bunch**

*Gatlin Bunch is attending Missouri State University–West Plains (Mo.).*

“I would like to thank the sponsor of this scholarship for great contribution to my further education in my choice of career field. This scholarship will help me attain my career goals by providing further education. With this further education, I will get the certifications necessary to begin my welding career.”

**Jordan Coon**

*Jordan Coon is attending Mississippi State University (Miss.) and is studying construction.*

“I would like to thank the sponsors of this scholarship. With this scholarship, I was able to fully pay for my freshman year of college. Going to college will help me learn about construction and help me learn what I love.”

**Korbin Hunt**

*Korbin Hunt graduated from Campbell County High School (Wyo.) and plans to enroll in a postsecondary institution in the summer of 2024.*

“SkillsUSA has empowered me with leadership attributes that I once applied as a student in high school and continue to exercise today. The qualities I developed because of this program had a significant impact on me, but it wasn’t until starting my basic military training that I fully understood what it really means to be a leader. With these skills, I will defend my country, offer a brighter future for those motivated to learn, and shape tomorrow in the world’s greatest Air Force.”
SKILLSUSA NATIONAL SIGNING DAY SCHOLARSHIP

SkillsUSA National Signing Day was held Thursday, May 4, 2023 to celebrate high school seniors and college/postsecondary students who have chosen to pursue a career as a professional in any of the skilled trades. Local SkillsUSA chapters across the U.S. celebrated students by inviting business partners, school administrators, teachers, elected officials, SkillsUSA alumni, family and friends to honor students signing letters of intent for a job offer, apprenticeship or advanced technical training in a skilled trade. In the 2022-2023 academic year, 28 SkillsUSA members applied to the SkillsUSA National Signing Day Scholarship. Nineteen $1,000 scholarship awards were granted to selected scholarship applicants who participated in SkillsUSA National Signing Day. Recipients who elected to share a message are featured below.

ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Kodi Anderson

*Kodi Anderson is now studying Digital Cinema at Cochise Community College (Ariz.).*

“I have participated in SkillsUSA for the past four years that I have been in high school. It is such an amazing experience to be a part of it. I will take what I have learned from SkillsUSA and apply the skills instilled in me moving forward to make you proud. Your scholarship will mean so much to me helping with the cost of my education at Cochise College. Once again THANK YOU SkillsUSA for the 2023 SkillsUSA National Signing Day Scholarship.”

Tristan Black

*Tristan Black is attending Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (Ariz.).*

“Thank you for this amazing opportunity. This scholarship will help me with the next step in my journey.”
SKILLSUSA NATIONAL SIGNING DAY SCHOLARSHIP

ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Carly Boutwell

Carly Boutwell is studying welding at Reid State University (Ala.).

“I would like to thank everyone who made this opportunity possible. I am more than grateful to receive this scholarship to further my career in welding as a female.”

Hayden Busch

Hayden Busch is now working as a finish trim carpenter with Loparo Custom Carpentry (Ohio).

“I would like to formally thank SkillsUSA for giving me and all other winners the opportunity to apply for this award. I will be starting a job as a finish trim carpenter right out of high school and this scholarship will aid me in getting the new tools that I will need.”

Corbin Candela

Corbin Candela is now studying Agriculture at Angelo State University (Texas).

“I cannot say thank you enough for granting me the Signing Day Scholarship. I will be able to apply these funds to my agriculture degree at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas.”

Chase Deleon

Chase Deleon is now attending Arizona State University (Ariz.) where he is studying Film and Media Production.

“Thank you so much for this scholarship and opportunity. This will help with my first-year finances as I pursue a degree in Film and Media Production at Arizona State University. Helping with the financial side, I am able to fulfill my goals during my postsecondary education. I am hoping to become an audio engineer or film editor, focusing on sound and music editing, crossing over my passions for both music and film.”
SKILLSUSA NATIONAL SIGNING DAY SCHOLARSHIP

ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Emma Furches

Emma Furches is now attending West Virginia University (W.V.) where she is studying early childhood education.

“Earning this scholarship is not only an honor, but also serves as an aid in paying for my university expenses. I want to thank the sponsor of this scholarship for providing this opportunity, as well as SkillsUSA West Virginia and the Mercer County SkillsUSA Chapter for giving me the resources necessary to build my resume and sharpen my professional and workforce skills. This scholarship will help cover a portion of my expenses at West Virginia University, where I will be a part of the Elementary Education program on my journey to becoming an educator. I am the 2023 WV State Champion for Early Childhood Education, received my Officer Statesman Pin earlier this year, and now have been awarded this scholarship. To have received so many honors from SkillsUSA is truly a blessing, for all of which I am very thankful.”

Erica Graves

Erica Graves is now studying Construction at Yavapai College in Arizona.

“Thank you so much for helping me with my dream and future career. It helps more than you will ever know and I am so grateful.”

J’Quavious Johnson

J’Quavious Johnson is currently employed at Colonial Oil in Savannah (Ga.).

“I would like to thank you for the National Signing Day Scholarship. This will assist in purchasing the personal protective equipment (PPE) I will need in order to start my career at Colonial Oil in Savannah. My time with SkillsUSA taught me so many different skills. Learning how to research, interview and speak assisted me in obtaining this position.”
Marielle Kan

Marielle is now studying Motion Design at Ringling College of Art and Design (Fla.).

“I am beyond excited to have received the National Signing Day scholarship to help further my education for a future career in Motion Design while attending Ringling College of Art and Design! I am committed to making the most of my time in the coming years with my future studies.”

Laura Mausteller

Laura Mausteller is currently studying architecture at Pennsylvania College of Technology (Pa.).

“Thank you so much for this scholarship! This will give me a chance to get a portion of my fall tuition at Penn Tech paid for so I can pursue higher education in the Architectural field.”

Caydance Metcalfe

Caydance Metcalfe is now studying Mechanical Engineering at University of Mount Union (Ohio).

“Thank you for selecting me for this honor, I plan to use this towards earning my bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering. After getting my bachelor’s degree, I intend to pursue a master's in aerospace engineering.”

Elisua Ortiz

Elisua Ortiz is entering her senior year at Osborne High School and Cobb Innovation and Technology Academy (Ga.) where she is studying architecture and construction.
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Trevor Parker

Trevor Parker is now studying Mechanical Engineering at the University of Toledo (Ohio).

“This scholarship will allow me to help advance my career in mechanical engineering at the University of Toledo. It will allow me to grow in my engineering and robotic skills to gain a better future.”

Savannah Peters

Savannah Peters is attending Missouri Western University (Mo.).

“Thank you for accepting me as a candidate for this scholarship, this scholarship will help take some of the heavy weight off of the cost of tuition so I can focus on my goal of getting my bachelor’s degree.”

Kya Rankin

Kya Rankin is now studying Culinary Arts at Tarrant County College (Texas).

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to explore my passion and grow as a chef and a person. With this scholarship, I will be able to pay for my first semester and be able to focus on classes rather than on paying for them.”

Dylan Reiff

Dylan Reiff is currently enrolled as a student at Bucknell University (Pa.).

“I would like to sincerely thank SkillsUSA for awarding me this scholarship. This scholarship will bring me closer to my goal of gaining a college education by helping provide for some of the tuition costs.”

Alyssa Sizemore

Alyssa Sizemore is studying education at Concord University (W.V.).

“Thank you for this scholarship! This will help fund my academics and allow me to achieve my goal of becoming an educator without having a heap of student loans to eventually pay off!”
SKILLSUSA EVENT SCHOLARSHIPS

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS NLSC TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

SkillsUSA is grateful to the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools for continuing to support SkillsUSA high school members competing at the national level by awarding $69,150 in travel scholarships to students competing at the 2023 National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) in Atlanta. In 2023, 107 SkillsUSA members from 34 states and 27 competition areas received scholarship awards up to $1,500 each to offset the costs of lodging, registration, and travel to and from Atlanta. Thanks to the generosity of Harbor Freight, available funds allowed all 107 eligible applicants to receive the scholarship. Of these students, 21 competitors won a national gold, silver, or bronze medal in their competition area!

2023 RECIPIENT MEDALISTS

Karl Keiderling New York (TEAM AD)
Bronze in Welding Fabrication

Konol Barton New York (TEAM AD)
Bronze in Welding Fabrication

Raymond Hofer (TEAM AD)
Bronze in Welding Fabrication

Aaliyah Kinney Pennsylvania (TEAM B)
Bronze in Opening and Closing Ceremonies
Student of Electrical Construction Wiring

Elia McKnight Pennsylvania (TEAM B)
Bronze in Opening and Closing Ceremonies
Student of Electrical Construction Wiring
2023 RECIPIENT MEDALISTS

**Clayton Petlock**  *Pennsylvania*
Bronze in HVAC-R

**Noe Diaz**  *Illinois*
Bronze in CNC 5-Axis Milling Programmer

**Aidan Hawkins**  *Michigan*
Bronze in Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair

**Eric Thomas**  *Missouri*
Bronze in Industrial Motor Control

**Muhammad Yousaf**  *Texas*
Silver in Mechatronics

**Israel Bugarin**  *North Carolina*
Silver in Masonry

**Leeandra Reyes**  *California (TEAM N)*
Silver in Career Pathways Showcase
Student of TeamWorks

**Nelley Vaca**  *California (TEAM N)*
Silver in Career Pathways Showcase
Student of TeamWorks

**Jaden Godoy**  *California (TEAM N)*
Silver in Career Pathways Showcase
Student of TeamWorks

**MaryJane “MJ” Pederson**  *Tennessee*
Gold in Job Interview
Student of Mechatronics
2023 RECIPIENT MEDALISTS

Timothy Walters  Montana
Gold in Technical Computer Applications

Carson Dayton  Oregon
Bronze in Automotive Service Technology

Daniel Olinger  Pennsylvania (TEAM Z)
Gold, Automated Manufacturing Technology

Madison Short  Pennsylvania (TEAM Z)
Gold, Automated Manufacturing Technology

Lily Williams  Arkansas
Gold, Automotive Refinishing Technology

Cohen Smith  Mississippi
Gold, Job Skill Demonstration Open
Student of Automotive Service Technology

RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHTS

Elijah Somlock  Indian Valley Vocational Center (Ill.)

“My deepest gratitude goes out to Harbor Freight for awarding me this scholarship. Harbor Freight, your investment in my ability to attend the national conference brings me to my next steps in achieving my career goals. By attending the conference, I will be granted the opportunity to create contacts and friendships, all while representing SkillsUSA, my state, my chapter and myself. My career goals are aimed towards the field of aviation, but welding, fabricating, and blueprint reading are all applicable skills needed in that particular field as well. Thank you for this scholarship as it will begin to open the door towards my future career.”
SKILLSUSA EVENT SCHOLARSHIPS
HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS
NLSC TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHTS

Kaden Smith  
Grandfalls-Royalty ISD (Texas)

“Thank you so much for the travel scholarship to attend the National Skills & Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. This scholarship will greatly help my small school be able to afford to send me to the NLSC. I come from a very small school district and I am the first person that has ever qualified to compete at the national level. Being able to attend and compete will help me enhance my leadership and interview skills. Both of these skills are crucial to my success once I complete my certification and pursue employment. Thank you again for your generous scholarship to help with the travel expenses to NLSC.”

Lea Lockhart  
Edward Bell Career Tech Center (Ala.)

“I really appreciate the scholarship from Harbor Freight to help me attend the 2023 National Leadership & Skills Conference. I am excited to represent Alabama in the Chapter Display competition. I have learned to use new tools, be a better welder and a better project organizer. I am thankful for the help from Harbor Freight to go to this competition and I will give it my best.”

Jacob McGuire  
Fayette Institute of Technology (W.V.)

“Thank you so much for this scholarship! Being from an impoverished area this is a huge help for us in our expenses to get to the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference. This scholarship makes it much more financially feasible to attend the conference which will give me great experience and networking opportunities to help me reach my career goals!”
RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHTS

Cohen Smith  South Panola High School (Miss.)

“I want to thank Harbor Freight for the scholarship. Without it I would not have been able to attend the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference. Being able to attend the conference will give me the opportunity to meet industry professionals and earn scholarships that will help me to continue my education. Thank you again for this great opportunity!!!!!!”

Aaliyah Kinney  Lawrence County CTC (Pa.)

“Dear Harbor Freight: I would like to thank you for offering the opportunity for us to apply for the NLSC scholarship! It will be a great help toward our trip to compete at nationals. Your kindness sends a big message to kids like me: You believe in today’s youth and in our abilities! I promise to work hard to make you proud!”
ROBERT L. FLINT STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP (WLTI)

The Student Leadership Development Scholarship provides support for top students who have insufficient chapter, school or community resources to attend Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTI), a national-level SkillsUSA leadership training. In 2023, 26 students applied to receive the Robert L. Flint Student Leadership Development Scholarship to attend WLTI. Four awards of $800 each make it possible for these students to attend WLTI September 23–27, 2023.

ABOUT THE DONOR

This scholarship was made possible due to a generous contribution from Robert L. Flint, a former Caterpillar executive and longtime supporter of SkillsUSA.

ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Blake Bonds

Blake Bonds is the parliamentarian of his SkillsUSA chapter at Franklin County Career and Technical Center (Miss.).

“I am so grateful for this scholarship! We are currently struggling to raise the funds needed for this trip, so the surprise of receiving this scholarship was such a blessing. Thank you for providing me with this once in a lifetime opportunity. This experience will not only help me bring awareness of the needs of my school district’s trades program to our congressmen and congresswomen, but it will also open doors for scholarship opportunities in my near future.”
ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Emanuel Morales

Emmanuel Morales is the reporter of his SkillsUSA chapter at Thomas Jefferson High School (Colo.).

“Thank you very much for helping me reach my goal of learning how to be a better leader so I could better support my community; furthermore, by sponsoring this scholarship, you are aiding me in growing personally and professionally. I will use WLTI to the fullest because I want to help reach SkillsUSA’s mission and lead our country into having a more skilled workforce. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.”

Janet Penaloza

Janet Penaloza is president of her SkillsUSA chapter at Lanier Technical College (Ga.).

“I would personally like to express my gratitude to you for choosing me as one of the recipients of the 2023 WLTI Robert L. Flint Student Leadership Development Award. Because I have taken on a leadership role as a SkillsUSA state officer and am president at my local chapter, this training will help me grow and extend my education as a leader. Thank you again for your thoughtful and generous gift.”

Monica Sifuentes Velazquez

Monica Sifuentes Velazquez is vice president of her SkillsUSA chapter at Gwinnett Technical College (Ga.).

“I want to express my gratitude to SkillsUSA for giving me the chance to attend the WLTI and for providing me with the opportunity to pursue my career goals. Your scholarship has been instrumental in supporting my educational pursuits, and I am truly grateful for your generosity. I feel honored to have been selected as a recipient of the WLTI Robert L. Flint Leadership Development Scholarship, and I am confident that this event will help me grow and succeed. Once again, thank you for enabling me to follow my dreams.”
ROBERT L. FLINT STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP (LEVERAGE)

The Student Leadership Development Scholarship provides support for high-performing SkillsUSA state officers who have insufficient chapter, school or community resources to attend Leverage, an intensive leadership conference for SkillsUSA state officers. 2023 Leverage took place June 17–19 at NLSC and focused on developing leadership, communication and responsibility. At Leverage, state officers establish their role within their respective team, learn how to communicate effectively on behalf of SkillsUSA and dig deeper into the role of state officer. Travel awards of $1,300 are granted annually to four recipients. In the 2022–2023 academic year, 23 students applied to the Robert L. Flint Student Leadership Development Scholarship to attend Leverage.

ABOUT THE DONOR

This scholarship was made possible due to a generous contribution from Robert L. Flint, a former Caterpillar executive and longtime supporter of SkillsUSA.

ABOUT THE 2022–2023 RECIPIENTS

Madison Ervin  
Lawrence County Technology and Career Center, SkillsUSA Mississippi

“This training will allow me experiences that will enrich my communication, leadership and teamwork abilities to prepare for this important role. As I work to serve in this position, I will also serve as a mentor for my local SkillsUSA Chapter at Lawrence County Technology and Career Center. I will use my training from Leverage to encourage and prepare younger students who will follow in my footsteps at the state level and beyond. Reaching further into the future, I hope to serve my local community in the role of EMT and firefighter someday. I am so honored and excited to be chosen for this scholarship. I will use the knowledge gained during leverage to bring back to my local chapter. Thank You!”
About the 2022–2023 Recipients

Maddie Lambert  
Roane-Jackson Technical Center, SkillsUSA  
West Virginia

“I plan to implement my skills learned at Leverage to better my community and the members of SkillsUSA. My plan is to use Leverage to create a skills conference that is memorable, fun, and educational while implementing all knowledge and skills learned at Leverage. The knowledge and skills of Leverage will be used to strengthen our community. While gathering a community of strong individuals I plan to serve the community with responsibility, determination, respect and purpose. I will be someone who can serve not only students but people in the community. Thank you for all your work to SkillsUSA to make it a lifetime experience for so many people!”

Brandon Martinez  
Amarillo College, SkillsUSA Texas

“It seems to be easy for people to think they know what others can and can’t do but I don’t know my limits at this young age, and SkillsUSA is helping me reach even higher and deeper than I thought. Until now, I have done my best to help my family and friends, and now I’m excited to be able to serve others as a SkillsUSA Ambassador. I will work hard to inspire people to let them know that they can also overcome their limits as they know them now so they can push to achieve even greater accomplishments in their future.”

Shilo Petrilla  
Somerset Career and Technical College, SkillsUSA  
Pennsylvania

“When I was younger, I used to be excruciatingly shy and new people used to intimidate me. This resulted in numerous missed opportunities. I attended a very small school where I was constantly surrounded by my friends and people I was comfortable with. Here I was able to be outgoing and develop leadership skills, but this did not translate to other areas outside those walls. However, throughout my time at SkillsUSA these walls have been obliterated. Thank you so much for this scholarship! This is truly amazing, and I feel extremely honored. The National Leadership & Skills Conference is such a great opportunity to grow as a student, leader, and as a future member of the workforce. Your support means a tremendous amount. Thank you so much again!”