



# Executive Update

Volume 3  
Edition 2

10.13.05

TO: Advisors  
Board of Directors  
Executive Council  
Technical Committee Chairs  
Championships Management Team

FROM: Scott Soldat, Director

## Arizona Update

### ➤ Director's Report

- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual SkillsUSA Golf Tournament
- Regional Fall Leadership Conferences (FLC'05)
- Leadership Training Camp (LTC'05)
- Professional Development Program Seminar (PDP)
- SkillsUSA--Arizona Youth Development Foundation (YDF) Committee
- SkillsUSA—Arizona Scholarship

## National Update

- Comments from Tim Lawrence, SkillsUSA, Executive Director

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## IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

### ➤ Regional Fall Conferences (FLC'05)

Date	Event	Reg. Deadline	Location
October 18	<a href="#">Region 5 Fall Leadership Conference</a>	Wed, Oct. 12, 2005	Peoria, AZ
October 20	<a href="#">Region 3 Fall Leadership Conference</a>	Fri., Oct. 14, 2005	Mesa, AZ
October 25	<a href="#">Region 4 Fall Leadership Conference</a>	Wed, Oct. 19, 2005	Flagstaff, AZ

## DEADLINES

- **NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP (fall deadline):** November 1, 2005
- **Leadership Training Camp (LTC'05) Registration Deadline:** November 4, 2005  
More information: [www.azskillsusa.org/LTC/ltc.htm](http://www.azskillsusa.org/LTC/ltc.htm)
- **PDP Seminar Registration Deadline:** November 4, 2005  
More information: <http://www.azskillsusa.org/Advisors/pdp.htm>
- **\$2500 SkillsUSA—Arizona Tuition/Tools Scholarship Deadline:** March 1, 2006

### **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament**

I'm happy to report that our annual tournament was great. Although our registration was down from 2004, the golfers had a great time and we have almost raised enough to fund the annual \$2500 tuition/tools scholarship.

### **Regions 1 & 2 Fall Leadership Conferences**

On Wednesday, September 28, I attended a great leadership conference at Metro Tech High School for Region 2. Buckeye High School was in attendance as well as many programs from Metro Tech. The students and teachers had a great day of leadership and elected an enthusiastic group of new regional officers.

Just 2 days later, I was in Yuma for the Region 1 Fall Leadership conference. I was impressed with the growth in registration from 120 last year to 185 this year. Go Region 1!! Most of the students in attendance were dressed SkillsUSA attire, and with the help of the local advisors and Isaias Favela, National Region 5 Vice-President, the conference was great. Region 1 has a fired-up group of new officers to lead the region.

### **Advisor Action Item** ☞

### **Leadership Training Camp (LTC'05) (November 16-18, 2005)**

As I've mentioned in the previous update, through the tremendous help from ABLE Information Technologies, several Advisors and our office staff, LTC is going to be an amazing experience. Registration is posted here: <http://www.azskillsusa.org/LTC/ltc.htm>. One of the most important changes will be group sizes. Each seminar will be reduced and students will be split into smaller sessions throughout the entire experience (except for a couple of large group sessions).

By the way, I'm not promising anything, but ABLE is trying to get a local sports celebrity to give a keynote speech... we're hoping that it happens.

### **Advisor Action Item** ☞

### **Professional Development Program Seminar (PDP)**

SkillsUSA's award-winning Professional Development Program (PDP) is a curriculum that gives students a seamless education that takes them from school work. In this one teacher training seminar you will: learn employability skills training from experts and seasoned teachers; learn how to integrate the PDP into your program; teach your students to manage their education; learn how to maximize business and industry partnerships and learn about the online version of the PDP.

Regular price of this seminar is \$250; however, due to State Farm's national partnership with SkillsUSA, the cost is only \$30 per person.

For more information and to register online, visit: <http://www.azskillsusa.org/Advisors/pdp.htm>

### **SkillsUSA—Arizona Youth Development Foundation (YDF) Committee**

During January 2004, our Board of Directors identified a need to develop a committee of business/industry partners to further the Organization's goals and help to provide long-term financial stability.

After a slow start, we're now making some significant progress. I hope to report great news in the near future. Stay tuned. Once the YDF committee is formed it will function to support only a few major events each year and assist the Organization with long range future planning.

### **\$2500 SkillsUSA Tuition/Tools Scholarship**

The SkillsUSA Board of Directors has authorized the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the \$2500 Tuition and/or Tools-of-the-Trade scholarship. The recipient must be a member of SkillsUSA—Arizona by the February 1, 2006 deadline, submit the application and must be selected by the Scholarship Committee following the March 1, 2006 deadline. The \$2500 can be used for tuition reimbursement and/or tools-of-the-trade. The Board is offering this generous scholarship to encourage members in the pursuit of post-secondary education and training.

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## **NATIONAL UPDATE**

by **Tim Lawrence, Executive Director, SkillsUSA**

### **Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTl)**

On Wednesday September 22, we completed our annual WLTl capstone-training program for students and their instructors. If there's anything that points to the reason SkillsUSA was founded in 1965, it's the Washington Leadership Training Institute. Our very first Washington, D.C. conference for students was held in 1966, even before the first Championships (then called the "Olympics"). WLTl has been going ever since as a method of preparing student leaders and building relationships with federal policymakers.

Over 210 people attended the five-day event, a third of them instructors and state association directors. The theme was "The Power of One," and the training was in advocacy for both the students and the instructors.

In recent years, we've concentrated more on advocacy and Washington visits with Congress and the administration and not on chapter management, as we once did. This year, we took it further by offering training – particularly for instructors – on working as advocates for CTE back in their states and communities. In short, we're trying to help build support for CTE where the real decisions are made: in the states. We're working to support the state CTE directors and ACTE state associations in their advocacy initiatives.

We had some outstanding speakers. Our keynote speaker was Major General Vincent Boles, Chief of Ordinance, U.S. Army, and he did an exceptional job. Assistant Secretary of Labor, Emily DeRocco, spoke at the U.S. Department of Labor. Greg Settle, Manager of Retail Training, Education and Development for Mercedes-Benz USA spoke Monday night. Presenters for advisors included: Kim Green, NASDCTEc; Seth Turner, ACTE; Ann Benson, former state CTE director of Oklahoma; and Matthew Gambill, Georgia ACTE. There were two additional presentations on best practices by Richard Carter (Advisor of the Year) and Vic Schiro, two instructors who've been doing great advocacy at the state level. Marsha Daves ran it all with lots of help from staff and 1996-97 national officer/now trainer, Crystal Smith, ran the student training.

On Tuesday September 21, our student and teacher delegations put the face of CTE in front of Congress. They met with nearly a third of the Senate in their confirmed 68 Congressional office visits. That includes an extended visit with the Senate HELP committee chairman, Mike Enzi. Not surprisingly, the word back from the Hill is positive about CTE.

Particular thanks go to our WLTl sponsors, State Farm and Caterpillar. The participant evaluations are in and tallied, and they're good. Actually, they're better than good. Both students and teachers ranked almost every category over 4.5 on a 5 point scale.

### **Students and Advisors Raise Funds for Katrina Victims**

The students and advisors from 24 states who attended the 2005 Washington Leadership Training Institute raised \$1,000.00 for Hurricane Katrina victims. An auction held during the closing social raised \$691.00. Additionally, SkillsUSA bracelets were also sold during the conference and this raised another \$309.00 to support those in need. All proceeds will go to a SkillsUSA special fund set up by the Youth Development Foundation to aid SkillsUSA chapters and members adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina and now Rita. Special thanks go to everyone who donated WLTl auction items.

### **CTSOs Involved in Maryland Leadership Academy**

On September 22, I had the pleasure of joining executives from National FFA, FBLA and DECA for presentations to approximately 140 school administrators in Baltimore as part of the Maryland Department of Education's leadership academy. The afternoon session was divided into two parts. The first was a panel presentation on the purpose of CTsOs and integration of our programs into instruction and teacher motivation. During the second breakout session, a school principal and I fielded questions on creating and managing business partnerships,

advisory councils, professional development and academic integration. Thanks to Maryland state association director, Chuck Wallace, for his assistance.

### **CTE – CTSO Research Study**

On September 19, Jim Stone brought some preliminary findings from the CTE National Research Center's study on the value of CTSOs in career and technical education to a meeting of the CTSO coordinating council in Reston, Virginia. Jim reports that they're seeing positive results. The next meeting on the study will be here at SkillsUSA on November 29.

### **State CTSO Board Training**

This year, I've done state association board training and strategic planning in Massachusetts, Minnesota, Virginia, Indiana, New Mexico and – most recently – in North Carolina. While in North Carolina, I did training with several of the other CTSO boards of directors.

### **Highlights**

While at the U.S. Department of Labor on Tuesday, I also met briefly with Tony Swoope, administrator of the Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services. Bob Baird of the Independent Electrical Contractors suggested the meeting so we could start discussing SkillsUSA's role in matching CTE programs with apprenticeships. At least I didn't have to introduce SkillsUSA to Mr. Swoope. He's an honorary life member of SkillsUSA Ohio.

Representatives from K2Share visited with us last week to discuss a K12 life skills curriculum they would like to develop. They also reported that they have acquired all of the rights to Career-Safe from the Texas Engineering Extension Service. According to their figures, since 2003, nearly 50,000 students nationwide have either completed or enrolled in the CareerSafe Online OSHA Training Program. The overall satisfaction rating is above 96% with 47% of sales from repeat customers.

Last week, Eric Gearhart attended the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary breakfast of the SkillsUSA Council in Lehigh, Pennsylvania. Eric reports approximately 100 people attended including past executive directors of the council, Pete Carey and Diane Donaher. Congratulations to Luke Cunningham and Bryan Gault who co-chair the council and to Carol Obando-Derstine, executive director.

I just returned from Atlanta, Georgia where I attended the Refrigeration Service Engineers Society Board Meeting and the NASDCTEc fall meeting in Harrisburg, Pa.

That's it for now. As always, thank you for all you do for the great students and teachers we serve.