



Executive Update

12.20.05

TO: Advisors
Board of Directors
Technical Committee Chairs
Championships Management Team
State Officers

FROM: Scott Soldat, Director

Arizona Update

➤ Director's Report

- Leadership Training Camp (LTC'05)
- Lights, Camera, Action, SkillsUSA!
- SkillsUSA—Arizona Scholarship
- 2006 National Conference Pin Design
- \$5700 Sundt Grant
- SkillsUSA Night @ Coyotes Game
- Invoices and Payments (Dee Bjelke, Data & Financial Management)

National Update

➤ Comments from Tim Lawrence, SkillsUSA, Executive Director

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Date	Event	Reg. Deadline	Location
January 6-7	State Officer Meeting	N/A	Phoenix, AZ
January 13	Board of Directors Meeting	N/A	Phoenix, AZ
February 2	SkillsUSA Night @ Coyotes Game	January 18	Glendale Arena
February 13-19	Career and Technical Education/ SkillsUSA Week	N/A	National

DEADLINES

- **NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** February 1, 2006
- **2006 National Pin Design Competition:** February 1, 2006
- **\$2500 SkillsUSA—Arizona Tuition/Tools Scholarship Deadline:** March 1, 2006
- **Guaranteed seats for Coyotes game:** January 18, 2006

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

This year's totally redesigned Leadership Training Camp was a huge success with 225 members in attendance. Thanks to the tremendous financial help from ABLE Information Technologies and the commitment from the LTC '05 planning committee, LTC participants had a jam-packed three days. Presenters included marketing specialists from the Phoenix Mercury; Louis Trammell, Arizona Division of Emergency Management; Colonel Walt Wright, Retired US Air Force; and Brandon Ames and Chris Bisgrove of Able Information Technologies.

SkillsUSA—Arizona members left Prescott a little better than we found it with our commitment to community service at this year's camp. Camp included three service project rotations. Groups of students were sent to work with the Prescott Creek Preservation Society, Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity, and the United Christian Youth Camp.

Lights, Camera, Action, SkillsUSA!

SkillsUSA is looking for students and teachers who can articulate their passion and belief in career and technical education (CTE) and SkillsUSA. Those who have a heartfelt story about how they got involved in CTE and SkillsUSA and would like to appear on film are strongly encouraged to participate.

The students and teachers chosen will be interviewed, filmed, taped, and photographed for use on the SkillsUSA Web site and possibly in a series of television, radio, and print public service announcements (PSA's). These PSA's will be made available to television and radio stations as well as newspapers from around the country. SkillsUSA chapters will be encouraged to download from the SkillsUSA Web site and promote these PSA's with the media in their own communities. Now's your chance—you can be a SkillsUSA star!

To be considered, write a short summary of your story and email it to Scott Leslie at sleslie@skillsusa.org, or if you prefer snail mail please type a summary of your story and send it to:

Scott Leslie
SkillsUSA
P.O. Box 3000
Leesburg, VA 20177-0300

If you are chosen, you will need to sign a release form, and if you are under 18, you will need a release signed by a parent before filming can commence. Release forms will be provided to you by SkillsUSA.

\$2500 SkillsUSA Tuition/Tools Scholarship

The SkillsUSA Board of Directors has authorized the 2nd 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.

\$5700 Sundt Grant

On December 9th SkillsUSA—Arizona state officers accepted a \$5700 grant from Sundt construction. The grant was used to fund the Washington Leadership Training Institute this past September. The Sundt Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation. Its mission is to fund activities and programs undertaken by other nonprofit organizations that improve the quality of life in the communities where the Sundt family of companies has an established office.

The students who attended WLTI will work as leaders in their communities through the SkillsUSA organization. Their leadership and community involvement will include at least 10 hours of community service (per person), working with other high school students to promote the importance of career awareness and investigation during high school and how to individually and collectively bring important education issues to local and state legislators.

**Advisor Action
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2006 National Conference Pin Design Competition

SkillsUSA is sponsoring a national conference pin design competition that is open to all dues-paying members of the organization. The winning design will become the official pin for the 2006 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. The student winner will receive national recognition plus industry awards valued at \$500 or more. The winner of the competition will be announced in April 2006, and the winner and his or her advisor will be invited to the national conference. Entries must be received in the SkillsUSA national office by 5:00 p.m. on February 1, 2006. Official rules can be downloaded from www.skillsusa.org/pindesign.html

**Advisor Action
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SkillsUSA Night @ Coyotes Game

The Phoenix Coyotes welcome SkillsUSA family and friends. Come see Wayne Gretzky, Shane Doan, and the Phoenix Coyotes battle the Los Angeles Kings on Thursday, February 2nd at 7:00PM at the Glendale Arena. Tickets are \$25 and include a Coyotes t-shirt, hat, and a coupon for one hot dog and soda during the game. For tickets and more information visit <http://www.azskillsusa.org/coyotes.htm>

**Advisor Action
Item** ☞

Invoices and Payments

Invoices were recently sent out to Advisors or their school districts (via purchase orders), for those who have payments that are due. Many of the invoices were sent by e-mail – so

Advisors, please check your e-mails.

We ask that you make efforts to process these payments right away. If you have purchase orders that need to be invoiced, please fax to Dee Bjelke at (602) 364-1524. Be advised that unpaid bills may jeopardize your participation in the SkillsUSA--Arizona Championships in April of 2006.

Please note that when you register for a conference online, once you hit submit, an invoice will be generated. Payments are due 30 days from this date (the registration date). Please make note of the payment policy http://www.azskillsusa.org/payment_policy.htm. If your school district requires an updated invoice that could not be generated at the time you registered, please forward a request to Dee Bjelke. You may fax to the number shown above or e-mail dbjelke@azskillsusa.org.

NATIONAL UPDATE

by Tim Lawrence, Executive Director, SkillsUSA

Webcast Planned for CTE Week

We are working with the National Dissemination Center for CTE, on behalf of the other CTSOs, to produce another Webcast about student organizations and CTE in February. SkillsUSA is taking the lead on this again. CTSO student officers will be highlighted. Our plan for the program is to have a discussion with the new acting assistant secretary of the U.S. Office of Vocational and Adult Education, Mr. Beto Gonzalez. During the 90minute discussion, each of the organizations will have assigned topics to cover the work of the CTSOs overall. Topics include professional development, academic achievement and business-education partnerships made possible for CTE by CTSOs scheduled for February 16 at 3:00 p.m. Tune in at the U.S. Department of Education. I'll let you know the specific internet address later.

New Staff Member

We have hired an associate director for the Business & Industry Partnerships Department. Chris Powell is a 1998 graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point with a BS in urban forestry. After college, Chris served as an agroforestry extension agent for the Peace Corps for two years in Mandinka village in Senegal, West Africa. After the Peace Corps, Chris worked in the U.S. Virgin Islands as a forestry coordinator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as a marketing and networking representative for The Care of Trees in Dulles, Virginia, and currently as a program manager for Alley Cat Allies (animal protection) in Bethesda, Maryland. We look forward to welcoming Chris at SkillsUSA, and I'm sure you will welcome him, too, when you have an opportunity.

Meeting of the Student Organizations

On Tuesday, November 29, CTSO executive directors from the National Coordinating Council of the Career and Technical Student Organizations, (NCCCTSO) met at the SkillsUSA National Leadership Center. Kim Green, from NASDCTEc, Seth Turner from ACTE and Kathy Oliver, state CTE director of Maryland, joined us. I serve as chairman for the group this year. The NCCCTSO had a packed agenda and covered a lot of ground.

One item was a report on preliminary results from the CTSO research project being conducted by the National Research Center for CTE under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). The study is on the effects of membership in CTSOs in comparison to high school students generally and to those students enrolled in CTE who are not members of CTSOs. Jim Stone of the Center joined us via conference call. The preliminary results from the study are just that: preliminary. The Center plans further work to be more complete. Among the findings thus far:

College plans:

- Students in CTE and CTSO programs aspire more often to attend two-year colleges, compared to the general group of students who aspire more often to attend four-year colleges.
- Their college aspirations may be realistic and adaptive, if they wish to pursue a technical career.
- This finding is consistent with other DOE research.

Working and Job Choice:

- CTE and CTSO students have higher certainty of job choice than the general population of students.
- CTSO students work more hours (in actual, paying jobs) than other students.

For CTSO members specifically:

- Participation in competitive events positively affected grades, academic engagement, academic/job skills and career self-efficacy.

During the meeting, there was an extensive discussion on the impact of career clusters on CTE and student organizations. The directors agreed that all CTSO competitive events be aligned by cluster. A meeting of the NASDCTEc in June will include presentations and discussions of integrating the CTSOs into the cluster movement. Kim Green encouraged each student organization to be involved in every national cluster advisory committee where the CTSO has a role. For SkillsUSA, that's potentially 15 of the 16 cluster committees.

Another topic was establishing and adopting uniform national management standards for the governance and financial practices of the CTSOs. The aim is to ensure consistent practices by state CTSO associations nationwide. The group is interested in the use of the SkillsUSA voluntary governance and financial standards as the benchmark.

Highlights

SkillsUSA was invited by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration to present the NOCTI/NASDCTEc/SkillsUSA Employability Skills Assessment and Certification Program on November 9. Six organizations (including two from DOL) presented. Also included was ACT on the WorkKeys assessment and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which is developing its own employability skills assessment "to meet employer needs." Tom Holdsworth and Karen Perrino represented SkillsUSA. Tom said he made a point during his remarks that SkillsUSA not only assesses and certifies skills, we also teach them.

Marsha Daves reports excellent attendance and participation in the State Farm sponsored PDP seminars. She had 40 instructors in Phoenix, 30 in Columbus, Ohio and 30 in Hartford, Connecticut.

On December 2, the national staff visited the National Zoo and held their annual holiday luncheon and staff service awards ceremony. Five senior staff members were honored for a combined 125 years of service to the organization.