



»» Present at SkillsUSA LEARN at NLSC!

Are you interested in sharing your expertise with others? The application is now open for interested presenters to submit proposals for professional development sessions at the 2026 National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC)! As part of the SkillsUSA LEARN initiative, we are reimagining professional development to deliver high-quality, engaging learning experiences that are practical, relevant and grounded in the SkillsUSA Framework. Proposals are being accepted for the following tracks:



- **Student Development** – *for students to develop their personal, workplace, and technical skills*
- **CTE Instructor Innovation and Development** – *for instructors to improve instruction*
- **Advisor Development** – *for advisors to develop chapters*
- **CTE Administrator/Leadership Development** – *for local school administrators*

Find more information about the tracks and proposal requirements in the [application here](#). Proposals will be accepted until Friday, March 6, at 5 p.m. EST.

We encourage you to submit a proposal yourself and/or share the application link with your student leaders, fellow educators or industry partners that can provide value to SkillsUSA members!

We look forward to providing premier learning opportunities for students, advisors and administrators at NLSC 2026! Questions? Contact pd@skillsusa.org.

»» Heavy-Duty Truck Industry Scholarship | Open to High School Seniors

An exciting opportunity for high school seniors interested in a future in the heavy-duty truck industry. The Technology & Maintenance Council (TMC) of the American Trucking Associations (ATA) has several scholarship opportunities for those seniors who want to begin or further their education. Complete scholarship details and applications are available at <https://tmc.trucking.org/scholarships>. Applications are **due April 15, 2026**, and scholarships will be awarded May 15, 2026.

- [Future Technician Scholarship Promotion](#)

Further questions please contact Erin Brennan | ebrennan@g-w.com | 919-600-3322.

»» Save the Date for Elevate 2026!

Mark your calendar for Elevate 2026, taking place Wednesday, Sept. 9. Elevate is SkillsUSA's virtual chapter officer development conference designed to help officer teams build or refine a strong, actionable SkillsUSA Program of Work for the year ahead. This year's conference will take place earlier than in previous years to better support chapters during key planning timelines.

As you begin planning for the next school year, add Elevate to your school calendar now and seek administrative approval before summer break. Consider electing chapter officers this spring, giving your team time to prepare and engage before the new year begins. Early planning helps ensure your chapter starts the year positioned for success. Be sure to review the [Chapter Officer Election Toolkit](#) and begin introducing Elevate to your chapter members.

Additional details, resources and promotional materials will be shared at the beginning of April. In the meantime, you can use the [Elevate website](#) to begin promoting the conference through your association communications.

Registration will open at the beginning of April and close on Friday, Sept. 4. The cost is **\$50 per chapter**, regardless of the number of participants.

Questions can be directed to Mary Kavan at mkavan@skillsusa.org.

»» Applications Open for Student Leadership and Professional Development National Facilitators!

SkillsUSA is seeking dynamic individuals to apply to be **National Facilitators!** These contract positions are responsible for delivering high-quality programming and representing SkillsUSA to members. There are two types of National Facilitators:

- **Student Leadership National Facilitators** facilitate student learning sessions at Leverage, Delegates and LEARN at NLSC, and at Elevate and WLTI. [Read more about the position here.](#)
- **Professional Development National Facilitators** support learning experiences for professional members for both state and national programs. Opportunities to facilitate professional development may vary year to year. [Read more about the position here.](#)

Please share the [National Facilitator Application](#) with anyone that you think would make outstanding national facilitators and create engaging, impactful experiences for students and/or professional SkillsUSA members.

The deadline to apply is Feb. 28, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET.

Questions can be directed to Dan Kelly at dkelly@skillsusa.org for Student Leadership or Mary Kavan at pd@skillsusa.org for Professional Development.

»» Travel Grants Available for Immersive Experience: Construction During NLSC

SkillsUSA is offering travel grants for the **Immersive Experience: Construction** at the 2026 National Leadership & Skills Conference. This hands-on program allows students to earn credentials, visit active jobsites and network with industry pros. To ensure all states have an equal opportunity to participate, grant applications are being released in two phases. Check the website today to see the timeline and secure funding for your students! [Learn more and apply here.](#)

»» Outstanding Career and Technical Educator Award: Nominations Open

The Outstanding Career and Technical Educator Award honors educators who exemplify excellence in CTE and meaningful engagement with SkillsUSA. Nominees may be put forward by peers, colleagues, supervisors, or students, and are selected based on their impact in education and contributions to SkillsUSA across local, state, and national levels. Award recipients are recognized during the National Leadership & Skills Conference.

Nominations are due by March 1. More information and the nomination form can be found at www.skillsusa.org/recognition/awards-programs/. For questions or support with the nomination process, contact Chris Anderson at pd@skillsusa.org.

»» Honorary Life Membership Award: Nominations Open

The SkillsUSA Honorary Life Membership Award recognizes individuals whose long-standing service has advanced the mission and impact of SkillsUSA at the local, state, and national levels. This honor is reserved for professional members who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the organization and to career and technical education. Recipients are recognized during the Recognition Session at the National Leadership & Skills Conference.

Nominations are due by March 1. More information and the nomination form can be found at www.skillsusa.org/recognition/awards-programs/. For questions or support with the nomination process, contact Chris Anderson at pd@skillsusa.org.

»» Igniting Her Potential

She's a national pageant queen, a competitive athlete, a community volunteer with 3,000+ hours under her belt — and she's still in high school. But what drives Tiarah Thornton isn't the trophies or the titles. It's a deeply personal story that started with unimaginable loss at age five and led her to find her voice in the most unexpected places. How did a small-town West Virginia student become one of SkillsUSA's most inspiring competitors? And what are the four steps she swears by to unlock anyone's potential? Read her full story to find out.



[Read the full story on the SkillsUSA Champions Hub.](#)

»» Don't Forget to Register Members by the March 1 Deadline

The national SkillsUSA membership deadline is **March 1**. Student members must meet both state and national membership deadlines to be eligible for national competitions, to serve as voting delegates or to run for national office. This deadline also applies to national scholarships, awards and honors. For information on state membership deadlines, visit the [State Association Dues and Deadlines](#) link.

Professional members, it isn't too late to take advantage of your 2025-26 membership benefits, including access to these resources:

- **Professional Member Resources:**

- **SkillsUSA Pathful:** a dynamic digital platform that supports career exploration and connects students with industry professionals through live and on-demand content
- SkillsUSA Framework Integration Toolkit
- SkillsUSA Program of Work Toolkit
- Xplore
- SkillsUSA Technical Standards
- E-Courses (SkillsUSA Framework Certification, CTE Knowledge Certification and Building Self-Motivation in Student Leaders).
- Advisor Professional Development

»» SkillsUSA College/Postsecondary Scholarships Are Open!

Many students are thinking ahead to the cost of college and SkillsUSA offers exclusive scholarship opportunities for members pursuing postsecondary education. Registered SkillsUSA members with upcoming tuition expenses for the fall 2026 academic term can apply for scholarships provided by SkillsUSA and our industry partners.



Scholarships now open include:

- Clifford “Ted” Rees Memorial Scholarship (\$2,500, closes April 17)
- Fine Homebuilding #KeepCraftAlive Scholarship (\$2,500, closes April 17)
- Larry Rash Memorial Scholarship (\$2,500, closes April 17)
- Marsha Daves Memorial Scholarship (\$1,500, closes April 17)
- NAPA/SkillsUSA Transportation Repair Pathway Scholarship (\$2,500, closes June 30)
- National Technical Honor Society Scholarship (\$1,000, closes April 17)
- Sharon Melton Myers Memorial (\$1,000, closes April 17)

SkillsUSA partners with Kaleidoscope to provide a streamlined application platform. Students are encouraged to explore the [SkillsUSA Scholarships webpage](#) now to view available opportunities and more will be posted soon. For scholarship questions or assistance in applying, reach out to [Customer Care](#).

»» Share Your Community Service Stories with SkillsUSA!

The [SkillsUSA Champions digital hub](#) provides new content frequently, from inspiring features to stories about the great work chapters and partners are doing. We know your chapters are doing some amazing community service work this holiday season and we would love to write about it. To submit a story idea, send us the details through our [“Submit a Story”](#) link, and we’ll contact you.