



Congratulations to Mark O'Dell from Nicholas County Career & Technical Center—2021 SkillsUSA West Virginia Advisor of the Year.

Congratulations to Brooke High School – 2021 Gold Chapter of Distinction

- If you missed the 2021 SLSC Opening Awards Ceremony here is the video link: <https://boxcast.tv/view/skillsusa-wv-2021-slsc-395715>
- Hats off to the students and advisors during the 2021 virtual SkillsUSA WV SLSC.
- Judges were amazed at what the students accomplished during a year of a pandemic.
- Scores, pins, certificates, banners and gift cards have been checked three times.

- Chapter prize boxes will be shipped today via USPS. I know it will be tempting but DO NOT OPEN the banner envelope until after the awards. I don't want to spoil the surprise of GOLD medals.
- An envelope with Lowe's Gift Cards is included in the box. Gold - \$30, Silver - \$25, Bronze - \$10. Each card has a URL and challenge code to enter for redemption. **If a student loses their card, I can NOT replace!!! The exact number needed for medalists has been included.
- I included the \$300 cards for Total Participation Schools. You may use the card in the manner directed by your administrator. This includes: Fred W. Eberle, Putnam Career & Technical Center, Roane Jackson Technical Center, Monongalia County Technical Educational Center.
- Lincoln donated additional prizes for medalists in Welding, Welding Fabrication, Welding Sculpture. I'll email lead advisors after awards to setup delivery. Miller GOLD prizes are included with the gift cards for all of the above contests plus Collision Repair.
- Chapters- Please plan a setup with one

camera for all competitors and rename your zoom account your school name.

- We have a little surprise of how we will announce medalist and this will help greatly to pull off the virtual production. If students will be attending from home, or another location other than your CTE center encourage them to name their zoom as: Name_CTE Center Example: Melissa Wilkinson, Grafton High School.
- The conference program and zoom link to join the Awards/Closing was sent to the lead advisor registered for the conference. The conference program is also available for competitors at the LMS website under the Orientation.
- We will be broadcasting for parents, family, other chapters, and friends on the SkillsUSA WV Facebook page and SkillsUSA WV.org
- **We request that only students and advisors registered for the conference use the zoom link. Anyone else please use the broadcast link.**
- Awards/Closing Q & A session Tuesday, March 30 @ 3pm.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 304-553-7794,,586168719#](#) United States, Charleston

Phone Conference ID: 586 168 719#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

- 2020-2021 SkillsUSA Theme: SkillsUSA: Champions at Work, Empowered to Succeed
- 2020-2021 Esthetics Competition theme is “Carnival.”

Important 2020-2021 SkillsUSA WV Dates

April 1, 2021 - SkillsUSA WV Closing/Awards Ceremony @ 9:00am

National News



Spotlight on the “Connect” Track of the Connect to My Future Conference
The upcoming Connect to My Future (CTMF) conference will be comprised of three separate tracks: “Explore” is for middle school students, “Aspire” is for high school students, and “Connect” is the first SkillsUSA virtual career experience designed specifically for high school seniors and college/ postsecondary students. Connect is designed to develop the Essential Elements of Job-Specific Skills, Professional Development and Professionalism. Students will receive a personalized interview schedule that allows them an opportunity to connect directly with industry and receive coaching and feedback. Connect will be held **May 6 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET**. Morning and afternoon sessions are available so that students can select the workshop times that fit best their schedules.

All **students** who are “**completers**” of the Connect track will **receive a T-shirt!** Students will be considered completers by participating in all three components of the program: pre-conference résumé review, completion of both scheduled mock interviews, and attendance at each of the three conference workshops. Completion of each of these components will be tracked by SkillsUSA staff and reported back to participants’ advisors. **Teachers** who register 10 students will also **receive a T-shirt**, and those who sign up 50 will receive a SkillsUSA Member Handbook. Teachers who sign up 100 or more students will receive the T-shirt, the handbook, and a bundle of educational resources.

Registration is now open until Friday, April 16. The cost of the conference is \$25 per SkillsUSA school, thanks to the support of our lead sponsors — Toyota, Magna, NCCER — and numerous partnering companies. More information on the CTMF conference is [available here](#). You can also reach out to our Customer Care Team at customer care@skillsusa.org or by phone at 844-875-4557.

Home Depot Foundation Scholarship Deadline Days Away

In honor of SkillsUSA's National Signing Day 2021, The Home Depot Foundation has announced its "Building a Path to Pro" scholarship opportunity for eligible high school seniors. This effort is part of The Home Depot Foundation's larger commitment to fill the nation's skilled labor gap, and the scholarship program will enable six students participating in National Signing Day to further their education in the trades.

Active SkillsUSA members who live in Region 2 (Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia) — and are high school seniors planning to continue their education in the building/construction trades — are eligible to apply before the **March 31** deadline. Six scholarships of up to \$5,000 each are available.

[Full details on this Home Depot Foundation scholarship can be found here.](#)
Check out all the [SkillsUSA scholarship opportunities for students here.](#)

Plan Now for the Return of SkillsUSA National Signing Day on May 4

On Tuesday, May 4, SkillsUSA National Signing Day will celebrate high school seniors and college/postsecondary students who have chosen to pursue careers as professionals in the skilled trades. Local SkillsUSA chapters are encouraged to host a signing day event 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.

An electronic toolkit of resources is available to advisors at SkillsUSA CONNECT to assist them with planning their local chapter event. The toolkit includes items such as an event logo, an event invitation template, social media posts, a sample press release, thank you notes and an event planning checklist. To learn more, login to your account at SkillsUSA CONNECT or [visit the Signing Day page on our website.](#) Please [register here](#) before April 16.

Student2Student Mentoring Program Entries Due April 1

SkillsUSA's Student2Student mentoring program is a national recognition opportunity that connects young people to personal growth, development, and economic opportunities. When a SkillsUSA chapter mentors an elementary- or middle-school classroom, it helps younger students imagine careers and helps older students practice their skills.

Student2Student recognizes SkillsUSA chapters that are involved in a mentoring program in their communities. To enter, submit your mentoring project plan, description and outcomes. The winning chapter will be recognized at the National Leadership and Skills Conference. They'll also receive a plaque and a \$500 check to use toward expanding next year's mentoring project. Winners are announced in May. For more information, contact Tyler Chaffin at tchaffin@skillsusa.org or visit [the Student2Student page on our website.](#)

President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) Applications Due April 1

SkillsUSA is a certifying organization of the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA), allowing advisors, student members and registered alumni to earn recognition for community service activities and time spent volunteering.

This award is a presidential honor that recognizes the valuable contributions of volunteers across the country who are answering a national call to serve others through their current activities or lifetime efforts. With SkillsUSA's focus on community service, advisors and students may already meet the requirements to receive the award. To qualify, SkillsUSA members, advisors or alumni can submit a record of their service hours.

[Click here for more PVSA details](#) and requirements for submission.