

2023-2024 KYTSA Annual Report

Expansion and Regional Restructuring

The Kentucky Technology Student Association (KYTSA) experienced an unprecedented 61% increase in membership, bringing the total to 18,847 students. This growth necessitated the creation of a seventh region, named the NK TSA region. The establishment of this new region allowed for more localized events and better resource distribution, demonstrating KYTSA's adaptability and commitment to accommodating its expanding membership base. The first regional conference for this new region was hosted by Northern Kentucky University, which helped in fostering relationships between high school students and higher education institutions.

The Pigman region's division into Pigman East and Pigman West further illustrates the growth management strategies employed by KYTSA. By splitting this region, KYTSA ensured that each smaller region could provide more focused support and opportunities to its members. This structural change highlights KYTSA's proactive approach to managing its rapid expansion and ensuring quality experiences for its members.

Chapter Growth

The increase in membership also translated into more high school and middle school chapters. With the addition of five new high school chapters and seven new middle school chapters, the total number of chapters grew to 165. This growth indicates a rising interest in STEM fields among younger students, which is critical for developing future professionals in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Regional Events

Importance of Regional Conferences

KYTSA's seven distinct regions each hosted an annual regional conference, typically held at regional universities. These conferences are crucial as they provide platforms for students to exhibit their knowledge and leadership skills. Additionally, these events facilitate exposure to university-level STEM programs, thereby encouraging students to pursue further education in these fields.

State Events

Record Participation and State Conference Highlights

The state conference held in March 2024 at the Downtown Louisville Marriott set a new attendance record with 1,884 participants. This high turnout underscores the increasing popularity and significance of KYTSA's activities among students. The state conference included various competitive events, workshops, and leadership training sessions, offering comprehensive development opportunities for attendees. The election of the 2024/25 state officer team at this event was a key highlight, providing students with a platform to engage in governance and decision-making processes, thereby enhancing their leadership skills.

National Events

Achievements at the TSA National Conference

At the national level, over 300 Kentucky students participated in the TSA National Conference held from June 26 to June 30, 2024, in Orlando, Florida. Kentucky students achieved remarkable success, with 21 top ten finalists, reflecting the high caliber of KYTSA's programs and the talent of its members. Notable achievements included:

- **Belfry Middle School:** 1st place in Inventions and Innovations
- **Lafayette High School:** 3rd place in Architectural Design
- **Campbell County High School:** 3rd place in Coding

Other top ten finalists came from a variety of schools and disciplines, showcasing the diverse talents of KYTSA members. These achievements not only highlight individual and team excellence but also enhance the reputation of KYTSA on a national level.

Special Awards

- **Lynn Schentrup of Bryan Station High School:** Recognized as the Kentucky High School Advisor of the Year
- **Cailee Marcum of Pikeville Junior High School:** Recognized as the Kentucky Middle School Advisor of the Year

These recognitions underscore the dedication and impact of KYTSA advisors in guiding and mentoring students, contributing significantly to their success.

Leadership Development

Revival of the Leadership Conference

After many years, KYTSA held a Leadership Conference in 2023, attended by 175 members. This conference focused on developing leadership skills among students, an essential aspect of KYTSA's mission. Leadership training is crucial for preparing students to take on future roles in STEM fields and beyond, ensuring that they are not only technically proficient but also capable leaders.

Conclusion

The 2023-2024 school year was a landmark period for KYTSA, marked by significant growth in membership, structural expansions, and notable achievements at state and national levels. The organization's efforts in providing diverse opportunities for student engagement in STEM, leadership development, and competitive excellence have made a profound impact on the educational and professional trajectories of its members. KYTSA's continuous evolution and success underscore its vital role in fostering a new generation of skilled and motivated STEM leaders in Kentucky.