

SkillsUSA State Officer Completes Leadership Training, Earns New Certification

Leesburg, Va.— Taylor Cooper, 17, of Jamesville, North Carolina was one of 300 SkillsUSA state officers from 40 states who completed Leverage training at the recent SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville, KY., and was among the first students in the nation to earn the new certification. About 300 students received the honor at the Leverage Awards luncheon, presented by Toyota USA Foundation manager Michael Medalla and SkillsUSA executive director Tim Lawrence. The group included middle school, high school and college/postsecondary SkillsUSA members who were attending the SkillsUSA conference at the Kentucky Exposition Center. Taylor is a student at Bear Grass Charter School where she is studying Engineering. Her advisor is Jack Beirne.

Training for the elected state officers included three days of leadership workshops focused on the SkillsUSA Framework essential elements of leadership, decision making, communication and job-specific skills. “SkillsUSA’s Leverage program is an innovation in training for CTE students that not only benefits the individual elected state officers who participate, but also their local chapters and state associations,” explains executive director Tim Lawrence. “This intense training fosters a much greater awareness and deeper engagement in our program and helps prepare these students for their leadership roles in the coming school year. Leverage strengthens SkillsUSA one student at a time and supports our goal of excellence in each program and partnership. Every student who completed Leverage this year gained new skills, increased knowledge and developed a deeper passion for SkillsUSA.”

The state officers received instruction and personal coaching and had multiple opportunities to apply the learning and master their communication skills by learning to deliver a personal SkillsUSA and CTE Framework story. Students practiced models for conflict resolution and critical thinking. Students also prepared presentations for upcoming SkillsUSA Fall Leadership

Conference workshops by developing and practicing their speaking and facilitation skills, processing experiences for maximum learning, setting context for learners and learning to effectively deliver directions for activities to other students.

SkillsUSA North Carolina state officers use this knowledge and training in serving as section leaders during the State Leadership Workshop at Camp Dixie, Fayetteville, NC held September 29 - October 1. This intense workshop provides SkillsUSA local officers, leaders and members an intense leadership experience where they grow their personal and leadership skills, enabling them to grow their local SkillsUSA chapters with intensity and motivation.

SkillsUSA is a student-led organization where elected state officers serve in key leadership roles to facilitate learning for nearly 400,000 members nationwide. These officers play a significant role in developing their peers as career-ready members across the country who are poised to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens.

The 2019 Leverage training was made possible through the generous support of ADESA, Centuri Construction Group, Ferguson Enterprises, Insurance Auto Auctions Inc., NASSCO, State Farm, Toyota USA Foundation and the U.S. Coast Guard.

About SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is a nonprofit partnership of education and industry to strengthen our nation's skilled workforce. Driven by employer demand, SkillsUSA helps students develop necessary personal and workplace skills along with technical skills grounded in academics. This SkillsUSA Framework empowers every student to succeed at work and in life, while helping to close the "skills gap" in which millions of positions go unfilled. Through SkillsUSA's championships program and curricula, employers have long ensured schools are teaching relevant technical skills, and with SkillsUSA's new credentialing process, they can now assess how ready potential employees are for the job. SkillsUSA has more than 360,000 annual members nationwide in high schools, colleges and middle schools, covering over 130 trade, technical and skilled service

occupations, and is recognized by the U.S. departments of Education and Labor as integral to career and technical education. For more information: www.skillsusa.org

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