Dear SkillsUSA Advisor, (SkillsUSA 2021-2022 #1)   **Three** **Attachments With This Message**

**Item #1: Welcome Back SkillsUSA Maryland Advisors!**

**Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year!** The State Officer team, Board of Directors and I wish you great success as you prepare your students for a productive and engaging year. We look forward to helping you make connections, build relationships and grow and strengthen your SkillsUSA chapters.

The SkillsUSA competition theme for the 2021-22 school year is:

**SkillsUSA: United as One**

The topic to be addressed by contestants in the 2022 SkillsUSA Chapter Display, Prepared Speech and Promotional Bulletin Board competitions is our theme, “SkillsUSA: United as One.”

**Within this topic, contestants might illustrate or discuss any of the following:**

1. What does “United as One” mean to you in relation to your SkillsUSA chapter?
2. How has your participation in SkillsUSA made you a better team member and what have you learned and demonstrated around the Essential Element of teamwork?
3. How has your participation in SkillsUSA impacted your knowledge and demonstration of the Essential Element of multicultural sensitive and awareness?
4. How is the theme, “SkillsUSA: United as One” related to the SkillsUSA Framework and how will the Framework, in turn, prepare you for career success.
5. What activities or learning within your career and technical education program have prepared you to contribute to a business setting with the attitude of “United as One”?

Visit this link to learn more about the 2021-2022 theme and to see the theme art: <https://www.skillsusa.org/about/theme/>

**Item #2: 2021-2022 Lead Advisor Contact List**

Please carefully review the “Lead Advisor Contact 2021-2022” spreadsheet to confirm that your chapter representative(s) information is accurate and current. You should have already received an invitation-to-edit email to make changes/updates via Google Docs. Please contact state director asap if you did not receive this invitation.

**Item #3: SkillsUSA Maryland Back-to-School Advisor's Meeting – IN-PERSON!**

We are excited to announce that the annual back-to-school chapter advisor meeting will be in-person this year! The meeting will be hosted by the Center of Applied Technology North (CATN), 800 Stevenson Road, Severn, MD 21144, on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 9am-2:30pm. Special thanks to Principal Joe Rose and the CATN team for making an in-person opportunity possible.

Please make sure that all new and experienced SkillsUSA advisors attend these important meeting.

As an added incentive for your chapter to be represented every attending SkillsUSA advisor will receive a free gift and the Board of Directors will be raffling Lowe’s gift cards to go home with several lucky advisors!

Online registration will be released soon.

**Item #4: SkillsUSA Registration Site Open For 2021-2022 School Year**

If you or any chapter advisors need assistance with SkillsUSA membership or registration, hotline operators are ready to answer questions about starting a new chapter, ways to engage chapter members or strategies to strengthen an existing chapter. Operators are on call 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday (EDT). To reach the hotline, call 844-875-4557 or email operators@skillsusa.org. You can also chat online on the membership registration site. **See flyer attached.**

Professional members receive these great benefits:

* ***Framework Integration Toolkit*** — The Framework Integration Toolkit has everything you need to ensure career readiness for students, including videos, Framework Foundation lesson plans, experiential activities and more.
* ***Program of Work Toolkit*** — The Program of Work Toolkit includes the Program of Work Launch Activity Guides, including Virtual Classroom edition, videos and resources to help you implement effective activities.
* ***Jump Into STEM!***  Updated to include Virtual Classroom edition — The “Jump into STEM!” curriculum provides an opportunity for SkillsUSA members to engage and mentor elementary- and middle-school students in STEM learning while creating an open door to future recruitment into high-school career and technical education programs. The program highlights engaging, hands-on learning provided by current SkillsUSA members for younger students.
* ***2021-2022 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards*** — The *SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards* are the official rules and regulations for each competition that’s part of the SkillsUSA Championships, and they are included as a benefit of professional membership. Along with rules for all national events, the standards include an overview, lists of technical skills and knowledge required, clothing requirements, and eligibility and equipment lists. It also lists the embedded academic skills in math, English and science.

SkillsUSA professional members receive all of these materials when they submit membership along with a valid email address. The *2021-22* *SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards* and other materials are provided through a digital delivery system. National/state dues for professional members is $27 and $15 for students.

Becoming a professional member of SkillsUSA is one of the best ways to demonstrate to students the importance of joining a professional organization and the opportunities that membership will provide.

Membership kit information is available here: <https://www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/membership-kit-2/>

Benefits of Professional Membership Flyer: <https://www.skillsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Guide-to-Pro-Benefits-2020.pdf>

**Item #5: SkillsUSA Maryland Website – New Look Coming Soon!**

Please visit the SkillsUSA Maryland official website to stay informed and up-to-date regarding state association information and activities.  Check the website often as important and helpful information will continue to be posted throughout the school year.  Melvin Baker, Frederick County Career and Technology Center, is our official website manager. Here's a link to the website: <http://mdskillsusa.org/>

**Remember:**if you experience difficulty opening emails, attachments, etc., all advisor updates are available online via the SkillsUSA Maryland official website: [www.mdskillsusa.org](http://www.mdskillsusa.org/)  At the homepage select “Resources” (in red box) then select “Advisors.”  Updates will be listed according to release date.

**Item #6: SkillsUSA Framework**

As you introduce SkillsUSA to new students, teachers, administrators and business and industry partners please be sure to include the SkillsUSA Framework. The Framework will enable your students to more clearly understand and articulate the benefits of SkillsUSA chapter participation in support of personal, workplace and technical skill development. The 2021-2022 chapter membership kit frequently references the Framework and Chapter Excellence Program (CEP). Visit the following link to learn more about the SkillsUSA Framework and to share informative videos with your students: <https://www.skillsusa.org/about/skillsusa-framework/>

**Item #7: 2021 Virtual National Leadership Conference – Maryland Highlights**

Outstanding Maryland students, advisors and chapters were recognized at SkillsUSA’s first virtual National Leadership Conference Awards Ceremony, Friday, June 26, 2020. Highlights and recognitions include:

**National Voting Delegates**

Sage Baltimore, Frederick Career and Technology Center

Allison Guzman, Frederick Career and Technology Center

Zayda Hamm, Worcester Technical High School

Annalee Johnson, Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center

Abigail McCrobie, Southern Garrett High School

D'Shaun Tyler, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center

**Chapter Excellence Program (CEP) Chapters of Distinction - Gold Level**

Dorchester Career and Technology Center

**Career Essentials Certified Teachers**

Eric Millham, Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center

Melissa Palmer, North Point High School

Anna Taitano, North Point High School

Share this good news with instructors, administrators, parents and business and industry partners.  Let’s make sure that everyone knows Maryland CTE students, teachers, programs and chapters continue to be among the best in the nation!

**Item #8: 2021-2022 State Officer Team**

The SkillsUSA Maryland state officers are looking forward to connecting and interacting this year with your students. Be sure to invite our state officers to join a local chapter meeting. Contact Charlene Zinnel for more information on scheduling a virtual visit:

**Katherine Akins**, President

Calvert Career and Technology Academy – Calvert County

**Jessica Beck**, Vice President

Worcester Technical High School – Worcester County

**Markayla Purnell**, Secretary

Worcester Technical High School – Worcester County

**Megan Humm**, Reporter

Calvert Career and Technology Academy – Calvert County

**Emily Smetana**, Parliamentarian

Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center – St. Mary’s County

**State Officer Advisor:**

Charlene Zinnel

SkillsUSA Maryland Board of Directors

Dorchester Career and Technology Center - Dorchester County

**Thank you for all you continue to do for Maryland Career and Technical Education students and SkillsUSA Maryland. See you September 22!**