

Dear SkillsUSA Advisor, (SkillsUSA 2023-2024 #5)

### Item #1: Back-to-School Chapter Advisor Meeting Recap

SkillsUSA Maryland held the organization's annual back-to-school advisor's meeting, Wednesday, September 19, 2023. Special thanks to our post-secondary education partners at CCBC Catonsville for hosting yesterday's meeting. Special thanks also to Karolina Belen, Senior Manager, Professional Development, National SkillsUSA, for providing invaluable chapter management information and resources (and raffle prizes!) to help advisors build and strengthen chapters.

SkillsUSA Maryland was well-represented with 65 attendees from 18 Local Education Agencies (LEA) representing 30 new and returning chapters. Myah Hazan, State Officer Team President and Jack Newkirk, Chairman, Board of Directors, opened the meeting with welcome remarks and officer and board member introductions. State officers presented on a variety of topics in support of local chapters and student members. Thank you to the officer team for demonstrating professional behavior and excellent leadership and communication skills throughout the meeting.

As promised, the meeting included raffle prizes like SkillsUSA branded merchandise, Ocean City sweets and Lowe's gift cards. Congratulations to all winners!

**ACTION ITEM!** Please take 2 minutes to complete an online survey. Your feedback is important and will help to plan future meetings:

[2023 SkillsUSA Advisor Meeting Survey](#)

### Item #2: **ACTION ITEM!** SkillsUSA Advantage Research – Share This Great News!

At yesterday's meeting a two-page handout was shared highlighting "The SkillsUSA Advantage," a 22-page, data-driven report confirming important career-preparation advantages SkillsUSA members receive compared to non-members. See full report and two handouts **attached**. Be sure to share this good news with administrators, parents and colleagues as you promote your SkillsUSA chapter. Remember, data drives everything in education!

### Item #3: Chapter Excellence Program (CEP) – Take Your Chapter to The Next Level!

Kudos to seven (7) chapters who have already begun the CEP online application. Please utilize this easy, step-by-step process to build your chapter and empower and engage more students. Be sure to contact the SkillsUSA Customer Care Team or State Director if you need help: <https://www.skillsusa.org/customer-care/>

Every SkillsUSA Maryland chapter should be participating in CEP – the goal is achieving Models of Excellence status via student-led activation. Students learn and practice the skills that every employer seeks, including leadership, initiative, communication, teamwork and problem solving.

**Item #4: ACTION ITEM! Fall Leadership Conference – Time to Register!**

The online registration site is open for the Fall Leadership Conference, returning to the Carousel Hotel in Ocean City, MD, **November 2-3, 2023**. The registration fee for students, advisors and chaperones is **\$150.00** per person and hotel rooms are **\$125.00** per room. Single rooms are for adults only; however, students (and adults) can choose 2-4 occupants per room. Chapter attendees should plan to arrive by 12 noon, Thursday, November 2. The FLC closing ceremony concludes on Friday, November 3, at 2:30 pm. Three meals (Thurs. dinner, Friday breakfast and lunch), a conference T-shirt and giveaways will be provided to all registered attendees. Students (and advisors) will earn the Statesman or Advanced Statesman Awards - study guides will be released soon! Plan to register up to **25 attendees** (includes 1 adult chaperone for every 10 students - recommended). Contact the Director if you would like to send more students to FLC, to be determined on a space-available basis only.

The SkillsUSA online Conference Management System (CMS) is an easy and accurate way to register you and your chapter members for the conference. For advisors new to SkillsUSA Maryland, the CMS is the same online system used to add students and professional members. Here's the link: <https://www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/>

If you have any questions or problems with the online registration system, please contact Dennis Peaton, Conference Registration Manager, at [dennis.peaton@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.peaton@gmail.com)

**The FLC registration deadline is Friday, October 6, 2023.**



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