

Item #1: Welcome New and Returning SkillsUSA Board Members!

Thank you to all chapters that voted in the SkillsUSA Board of Directors election. Please join me in welcoming the newly elected members:

- **Tamara Baur**
- **Phil Cropper**
- **Rick Stephens**
- **Charlene Zinnel**

Board elections occur annually - please consider serving on the SkillsUSA Maryland board of directors!

Item #2: DANB Credential Opportunity Dental Assisting Competitors

Through a partnership with Dental Assisting National Board (DANB), SkillsUSA dental assisting competitors have an opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials at no cost.

Eligible competitors can apply to take the **Radiation Health and Safety (RHS)** and **Infection Control (ICE)** exams, with DANB covering exam fees and providing travel reimbursement to a local test center for approved participants. These exams are widely recognized, and in many states required, and are key components of the **Certified Dental Assistant (CDA)** certification pathway.

This opportunity allows students to:

- Earn nationally recognized credentials
- Build progress toward CDA certification
- Strengthen employability and career readiness
- Gain confidence through validated technical knowledge

Key Details:

- Competitor Claim Form available: **June 2, 2026** (distributed at orientation)
- Application deadline: **June 30, 2026**
- Approved participants must complete exams by **Dec. 31, 2026**

Encourage eligible dental assisting competitors to take advantage of this partner-supported opportunity to advance their credentials and career pathway.

Item #3: Explore Careers with John Deere

Join SkillsUSA for an inside look at career opportunities with John Deere. Hear directly from representatives in John Deere TECH, Aftermarket & Customer Support, and Manufacturing as they share how students can turn technical training into a rewarding career.

In this session, you will:

- Experience what the John Deere TECH program is like through a hands-on overview at ASU Beebe
- Learn how the John Deere TECH program prepares students for in-demand careers
- Discover how the Dealer Sponsor School program connects students with employers Hear real stories from John Deere employees and their SkillsUSA journey
- Explore careers in equipment manufacturing, service, and customer support

What you'll walk away with:

A clearer understanding of career pathways in equipment technology, manufacturing, and customer support, plus how programs like John Deere TECH and dealer sponsorships can support your transition from education to the workforce.

This session is part of the SkillsUSA Industry Insider series. Don't miss the opportunity to connect classroom learning to real-world careers.

Register for the event here: <https://app.pathful.com/wbl/sessions/111272>

Item #4: REMINDER: SkillsUSA Championships | NLSC Competition Webinar List

Not all competitions will host a webinar. Advisors and competitors should check the [Competition-Specific Updates](#) page to confirm whether their competition is offering one and to access the latest information.

Please have students and advisors mark their calendars for any sessions that apply to their competition. These webinars provide key expectations, updates, and guidance directly from the National Technical Committees.

Webinar titles will clearly identify any sessions that serve as a **mandatory orientation**. Competitors must either attend live or watch the full recording before arriving at NLSC. Recordings will be posted on the Competition Updates page within approximately 48 hours of the live session.

To view the full webinar list and access links, [click here](#). Sessions are listed in date and time order.

New this year: A link to the SkillsUSA Pathful webinar tool has been included. Competitors can log into their SkillsUSA Pathful account to view technical standards and use the webinar series to register for sessions that apply to them. Once registered, they will receive an email notification when the recording becomes available.

Navigation path: *Work-Based Learning > Join an Upcoming Session > Series > Preparation for SkillsUSA Championships Series*

Item #5: Earn Industry-Recognized Credentials at NLSC

Students attending NLSC have the opportunity to earn valuable industry-recognized credentials that enhance résumés and demonstrate technical proficiency.

Credentialing opportunities are available through leading industry partners, including:

- Autodesk
- National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3)
- FANUC
- Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC)
- YouScience

These credentials provide students with nationally recognized validation of their technical skills and knowledge across high-demand career pathways.

Advisors are encouraged to review the available credentials and share this opportunity with eligible students. Visit the NLSC website for complete details, eligibility requirements, and registration information.

Item #6: Share Your Community Service Stories with SkillsUSA!

The [SkillsUSA Champions digital hub](#) provides new content frequently, from inspiring features to stories about the great work chapters and partners are doing. We know your chapters are doing some amazing community service work this holiday season and we would love to write about it. To submit a story idea, send us the details through our [“Submit a Story”](#) link, and we’ll contact you.



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