SkillsUSA Advisors, (SkillsUSA 2026-2027 #6)

Item #1: **ACTION ITEM!** Statesman and Advanced Statesman Study Guides and Instructions

Study guides are now posted on the Fall Conference page! Students planning to earn their Statesman or Advanced Statesman Award and lapel pin at the Fall Leadership Conference (FLC) should review the aligned study guides and instructions now posted on the state association website, Fall Conference page: https://www.new.mdskillsusa.org/fall-conference/

Statesman Award - FLC first-time participants can earn the Statesman Award by attending all breakout sessions and planned activities and reciting SkillsUSA-related information to state officers, board members and targeted alumni volunteers. It's a fun and engaging way to learn more about SkillsUSA and meet other members. Everything your students need to know is included in the Statesman study guide!

Advanced Statesman Award – FLC-returning students are encouraged to earn the Advanced Statesman Award. The pre-conference worksheet and study guide are posted on the Fall Conference page. FLC session work aligns to the Chapter Excellence Program (CEP) and will allow your students to begin developing CEP projects! Here's more about the Chapter Excellence Program.

Item #2: IBM "SkillsBuild" Technical Session

Bring emerging technology into your classroom with free, workforce-aligned resources from IBM "SkillsBuild." Join SkillsUSA and IBM for an advisor-only webinar with Kiki Huckaby, Corporate Social Responsibility Manager at IBM. Explore practical ways to incorporate artificial intelligence, data and cybersecurity into your instruction, and learn how to participate in the IBM SkillsBuild Educator Challenge for a chance to win an IBM-branded *The North Face* fleece.

Date: Oct. 29, 2026

Time: 4–5 p.m. ET

During this session, you'll learn how to:

- Access IBM SkillsBuild's free learning resources and credential opportunities.
- Connect course content to your training program and classroom instruction.
- Get started with the SkillsUSA + IBM SkillsBuild Challenge and track course completion.

IBM SkillsBuild Educator Challenge

Facilitate at least 30 course completions for a chance to receive an IBM-branded *The North Face* fleece. Join the webinar to learn the participation requirements and how to verify progress.

Registration:

- **Membership submitted?** Register through SkillsUSA Pathful.
- **Membership not yet submitted?** Complete this registration form.

Item #3: Take Up the Challenge! National Conference Pin and T-Shirt Design

SkillsUSA is offering the 2027 National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) Pin and T-shirt Design Challenge to all dues-paying student members. The winning designs will become the official T-shirt and pin for the 2027 NLSC. The challenge is open now, entries must be received by February 1, 2027, at midnight ET, and winners will be announced on February 8. Download the rules below:

- NLSC T-shirt Design
- NLSC Pin Design

Item #4: Connect with Carrier!

Join Carrier for an advisor-only SkillsUSA Technical Session to explore industry insights, helpful resources and practical ideas you can bring back to your classroom. Connect with industry expertise and discover ways to support your students' learning and career exploration.

Event Details

Tuesday, November 3 | 3–4 p.m. ET

How to Register

- Membership submitted? Register through SkillsUSA Pathful.
- Membership not yet submitted? Complete this registration form.

Item #5: Work-Based Learning Spotlight: Industry Tours Guide

Planning a company visit or facility tour? SkillsUSA's **Industry Tours Guide** can help you turn the experience into a meaningful work-based learning opportunity. The guide supports intentional planning before, during and after a tour, offering strategies to prepare students, coordinate with industry partners and help students reflect on the careers, skills and workplace expectations they observe. Use the guide to plan your next industry tour!

Access it on SkillsUSA ***Pathful***:

- Find the *Work-Based Learning Toolkit* under Professional Member Benefits and select *More Details*.
- Locate *Work-Based Learning Guides* and select *Preview*.
- Choose *Download the Industry Tours Guide*, then select *Download Document*

Item #6: Help Us Celebrate Excellence in Trade and Industrial Education: Nominations Due Oct. 30

Know someone making a difference in Trade and Industrial Education? The ACTE T&I Division, in partnership with SkillsUSA, invites you to nominate an outstanding professional whose dedication, leadership and contributions are helping strengthen career and technical education. Honorees will be recognized through the National Trade and Industrial Education Division Awards at the annual ACTE CareerTech VISION conference. *Please note: The Trade and Industrial Division Awards are separate from the ACTE Excellence Awards*.

This year's conference takes place December 2–5, 2026, in New Orleans, and the nomination deadline is October 30, 2026. Eligible individuals may be nominated in the categories below, and self-nominations are welcome. If you submit a nomination on someone else's behalf, please notify the nominee.

- Teacher of the Year
- New Teacher of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement

For additional conference information, please visit ACTE CareerTech VISION.

Item #7: Level UP Your Membership — and Earn Free SkillsUSA Resources!

SkillsUSA advisors have an extra reason to grow their chapters this year! Advisors who register at least 15 student members in one technical program, along with one or more instructors as professional members, by Nov. 15 will receive a **free** SkillsUSA Educational Resource.

Chapters can also earn SkillsUSA Framework banners by growing their membership over last year. Chapters that register 25 more members than last year will receive a **free** SkillsUSA Framework banner, while chapters registering 50 or more additional members will receive **two free** Chapter Framework banners. Qualifying advisors will receive an email after Nov. 15 with instructions for redeeming their incentives. Start recruiting now, grow your chapter and **Level Up** your SkillsUSA membership! Check out the promotional flyer.

Item #8: Careers in Your Community Challenge

The U.S. Department of Education has launched the Careers in Your Community Challenge, the fourth challenge in its CTE Momentum series to prepare high school students for rewarding careers and increase access to career and technical education (CTE). The challenge invites high schools from across the country to propose solutions that improve career exploration at their schools. Submissions are due by November 19, 2026, at 6 p.m. ET, and up to 10 winning teams will receive an equal share of the $50,000 prize pool.

Ready to get started? CTE teachers can review the challenge details, selection criteria and available resources with students, then work together to identify opportunities to strengthen career exploration at your schools. Subscribe to the CTE Momentum newsletter for challenge updates and reminders.

Item #9: Capitol Gains

Advocacy is a skill like any other, and 471 SkillsUSA students, advisors and state directors from 31 state associations put it to work at the 2026 Washington Leadership Training Institute, Sept. 26–30. After days of training on the SkillsUSA Framework and CTE policy, students met face to face with their senators and representatives to make the case for career and technical education and Perkins funding. The week also welcomed WorldSkills USA competitors fresh from Shanghai and closed with 297 members earning the SkillsUSA National Statesman Award.

Read the full story on the SkillsUSA Champions hub.

Item #10: 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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