



SkillsUSA®

CHAMPION'S LAUNCHPAD'09

FIRST EDITION OF THE YEAR

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GREETINGS!

As your new Florida SkillsUSA State Officer team, we would first like to say welcome to another great year in Florida SkillsUSA. In July, all the state officers met at the state officer training, and we have come up with quite an exciting agenda for the coming year.

The cover of this newsletter may imply that our theme for the 2009-2010 school year is Space. This theme will be used for the Florida only design contests, as well as for decorations and activities throughout the year.

Our team would also like to let you know that we welcome your questions and concerns. You have elected us to our respective offices, and it is our job to lead this organization; the only way to do that is to know what all the members of SkillsUSA Florida are thinking. You may direct any of your questions or concerns at any event that we are present at, as well as through your regional coordinators.

Finally, we all hope you have a wonderful year! We wish you good luck in school, as well as in any other activities you participate in. We look forward to seeing you soon!



2009-2010 FLORIDA SKILLSUSA STATE PRESIDENT



**TERENCE
SMITH**

Greetings Florida SkillsUSA members,

My name is, Terence Smith. I am your 2009-2010 Florida SkillsUSA State President. I attend Tampa Bay Technical High School in Tampa, Florida. I am a Senior in the Commercial Art Academy.

I have found myself to be the kind of leader that doesn't push people around with demands, but guides them with understanding. My personal philosophy on leadership is, "A good leader doesn't lead his team by walking in front of them, but walks with them." A good leader understands his team by learning everything about them by always working with them around. Being in their shoes can really open ones eyes to

that individual's personality. This is how I have come to understand this years state officer team. We are a family; we do everything as a family.

On a more personal note, I have a real love for music. I love it so much that I play the Bass Guitar. Through playing the Bass Guitar I learn more about music and I am able to appreciate it even more because of that. Though I love music, I plan to major in Aeronautical Engineering when I graduate. I have this unwavering passion for planes and aviation, so, it's only natural.

I have a good feeling about this year everyone and I know that Florida will, as always, be the number one state in SkillsUSA again this year!

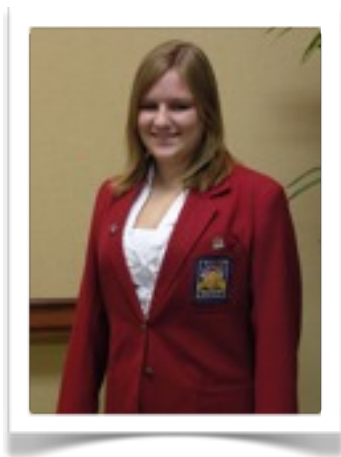
2009-2010 FLORIDA SKILLSUSA STATE VICE PRESIDENT

Hello fellow SkillsUSA members and friends. I'm Nathan Toro, your 2009-2010 Florida SkillsUSA Vice President. I am currently attending Washington Holmes Technical Center located in Chipley, Florida. I am involved in the Growing Green Fuel biodiesel project. I appreciate

everyone's support as all SkillsUSA members get ready to start the upcoming year. Never forget, we are members of a highly accredited organization. Please be ready to have a fun and exciting year, because we are truly champions at work.



2009-2010 FLORIDA SKILLSUSA STATE SECRETARY



I am Aimee Van Varick, your Florida SkillsUSA State Secretary. I'm 16 going into my senior year of the architecture program at Lyman High School in Longwood, Florida. I love to learn and also enjoy reading and, most of the time, I enjoy school. I also love to be artistic and creative so I often draw or create sculptures and such. Some things I like but don't often do are: riding horses, taking pictures, painting, and gardening.

My favorite thing is to be around my friends. I tend to get along with most anyone, but it always seems to be the crazy people that I grow closest to. I always have fun with my friends, whether we do something or just sit around talking. I like to think that I occupy my own newly beaten path, but I know that I share the same general direction as so many others. Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else.

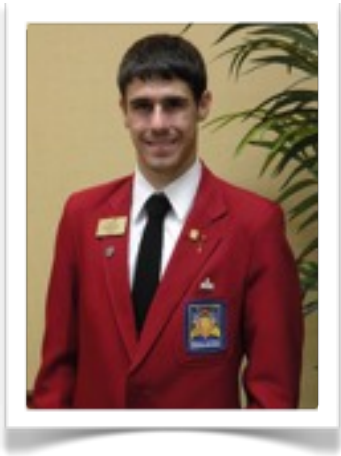
2009-2010 FLORIDA SKILLSUSA STATE HISTORIAN

I am Christopher Herring, your Florida State Historian. Currently I am attending Central Florida Community College pursuing a degree in computer science. As I have all ready told my fellow officers my life is made up of school, work and SkillsUSA. I have managed to start a small computer repair business, composed of me, my phone, and some business cards. SkillsUSA is the final piece of the pie that brings everything together. It is a very important part of my life because it is an organization devoted to principals and higher

learning. The skills it has given me to change my life have given me a positive outlook on life. My hobbies include coin collecting, video games, and although I am pursuing a career in computers it will all ways remain a hobby of mine. Finally, let me say I am looking forward to a great year not only with my officer team but also with my fellow SkillsUSA members. I hope to see all of you at the state championships. Always go for the gold, and win or lose you are always a champion. Good luck to everyone and here's to a great year.



2009-2010 FLORIDA SKILLSUSA STATE PARLIAMENTARIAN



Greetings Florida SkillsUSA members. My name is Michael Brun, and I am serving as your 2009-2010 State Parliamentarian. I am a sophomore at the University of South Florida, where I am studying Civil Engineering. At USF, I am serving as the very first president of the newly formed SkillsUSA chapter. I have been involved with SkillsUSA for 4 years now, and this is my second term as a Florida State Officer. During the 2007-2008 school year, I served as the State Historian. I

have also held positions on the chapter level in high school, as well as the regional level. I have competed in leadership competitions at the regional, state and national levels. Outside of school, work and SkillsUSA, I enjoy architecture, photography, graphic arts and video production. After college, I hope to attain a master's degree in architecture and eventually be self-employed. I look forward to this year, and I hope all of you are as excited as I am for what is to come!

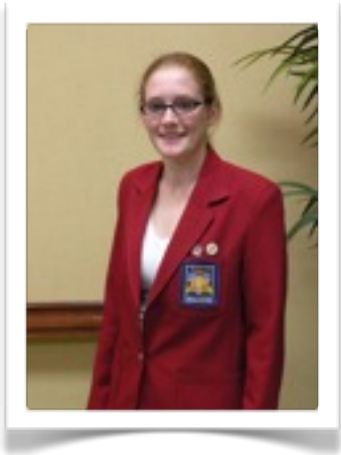
2009-2010 FLORIDA SKILLSUSA STATE SERGEANT AT ARMS

Hello, my name is Tyrell King, and I am your 2009-2010 Florida SkillsUSA Sergeant at Arms. I am 17 years old, and I attend Marion Technical Institute, which is in Ocala, FL, and I am in the Construction Technology program. I have been involved with SkillsUSA for 2 years, and recently served as the Region 2

Treasurer. Outside of school, I like to play football, run track and do weightlifting. When I graduate high school, I am either going to go to college, or I am going to go into the transportation business. I am looking forward to a great year as a Florida SkillsUSA State Officer.



2009-2010 FLORIDA SKILLSUSA STATE AWARDS COORDINATOR



Hi everyone. My name is Kelsey Keys. I'm 17 and I attend the Career Academy at Central Florida Community College where I am studying Criminal Justice. I was a chapter officer for 3 years and held the positions President, Vice President, and Secretary. I was a regional officer for 2 years serving as both Historian and President. This year

is my first year as a State officer and I am the Awards Coordinator. In my spare time, I like to watch movies, play chess and other board games, and listen to music. After I graduate high school, I plan on attending Central Florida Community College for 1 more year, then I hope to transfer to a university.

2009-2010 FLORIDA SKILLSUSA STATE GOODWILL AMBASSADOR

Hello,

My Name is Carrington McCormick, I am a sophomore at Bayshore High School in Bradenton, FL. I study under the Television Production Department in school, I am serving as your 2009-2010 Florida SkillsUSA Goodwill Ambassador. The tasks I will maintain are not limited to: Promoting fair and active representation for all student

members, sending reminders to members, advisors and others when appropriate. My hobbies include song writing, graphic designing, audio mixing, and producing. My goals in life are: To represent SkillsUSA Florida to the fullest, to become a National Officer my junior year, and to get a job in graphic designing. Going to Nationals furthered my interest in SkillsUSA.



2009-2010 FLORIDA SKILLSUSA STATE EVENT SPECIALIST



Hi everyone! I am Sienna Badura and I am your 2009-2010 Florida SkillsUSA Event Specialist. I am a Senior at Lyman High School in the Leadership program. I have been in SkillsUSA for the past year and a half, and was even Region 3's Secretary last year. Last year I had the privilege of going to Kansas City and being part of National Courtesy Corps. In addition to SkillsUSA I have

played varsity lacrosse for the past three years, and I am a Girl Scout. Also, I play alto saxophone in jazz band and bass clarinet in band. I hope to major in architectural design next year when I go to a university. I am looking forward to another great year in SkillsUSA! I would like to encourage everyone to head out to SLTW and if not, I will see you at State Competition in April!

These are your Florida SkillsUSA state officers. They were elected by delegates from across the state in April 2009 at the State Leadership and Skills Conference to serve during the 2009-2010 year. Each has been assigned a set of duties which they are responsible for this year. SkillsUSA is a student-run organization, and much like a chapter, which depends on its

officers to lead and organize events, the state depends on these individuals to develop a program of work, and subsequently execute the parts of that program. These officers have a job to do this year. They are not the only ones though. Florida SkillsUSA is depending on you, the members and advisors, to tell us what you are thinking. An effective leader (or group

of leaders in this case) must be in constant communication with those he or she is leading to ensure that everything runs smoothly and things that need to be changed are changed. With this in mind, it is the hope of these officers that everyone provide feedback whenever possible so that they can serve in their position to the best of their ability throughout the coming year.

National Leadership and Skills Conference

Kansas City, Missouri -- June 2009



An energy that can't be described. A sight that you must see with your own eyes to believe. A breath-taking display of skills and leadership. Thousands of people bearing the SkillsUSA logo on a red blazer, swarming the city streets of Kansas City, Missouri.

A very common conclusion of the SkillsUSA National Conference is simply that you must experience it to believe it.

The Opening Ceremony on Tuesday night, as well as the Closing Ceremony on Friday night, both held at Kemper Arena, are nothing less than incredible. The energy of the 15,000 SkillsUSA members can be felt for days after witnessing the events.

Florida has become an unstoppable force on the national front. Our state brought home more gold, more silver and more bronze medals

than any other state this year - after taking home the most gold last year. We have brought the largest delegation to nationals three years in a row.

This year, we accomplished something else remarkable. Three outstanding individuals from our state ran for positions as national officers. All three candidates were elected to SkillsUSA National Office! Becky Kimball is serving as a secondary officer, while Brandon Mullings and Annalee Santos are serving as college/post-secondary officers.

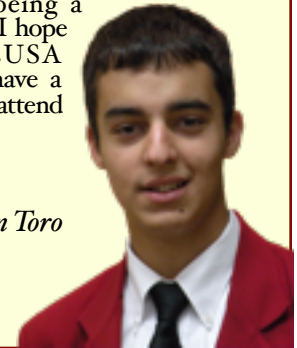
However, the national conference is not just competitions and an election. Throughout the duration of the week, an event called Techspo is held. Industry partners come and set up tables and displays, providing demonstrations of their products as well as giving out information and

Nationals Personal Story

I was given the opportunity to attend and compete at the 2009-2010 National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City, MO. It was an awesome experience. I went with two other team members and we presented our Growing Green Fuel Biodiesel Project. Our career cluster was Agriculture and Natural resources. There were many people from business and industry that attended. They were very supportive throughout the event. That shows me that people are ready for SkillsUSA members to step into the workplace. We are the best of the best, and as SkillsUSA members we are the skilled workforce of tomorrow. My favorite part of NLSC was the Techspo and Opening Ceremony. A few things I learned at NLSC were to stand behind your team in the face of adversity, and challenges will arise but accept them and focus

on truly being a champion. I hope all SkillsUSA members have a chance to attend NLSC.

-Nathan Toro



promotional products. Wednesday night is the Champions Festival, which is a great social event. Thursday is a trip to the theme park, Worlds of Fun. And if all that isn't enough to keep you busy, Friday morning is a huge community service project.

By the end of the week, everyone goes home exhausted, but satisfied. They bring home medals, stories and experiences, as well as great friendships. The National Skills and Leadership Conference is an unforgettable and quite possibly even a life-changing experience.

WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE - SEPTEMBER 2009



Every September, the streets of our nation's capital are flooded with a group of students. These students are not there just as a class field trip and a history lesson, they are there for something far greater. They turn heads as they walk from building to building – perhaps because they are

confident and determined, but more likely because they are all wearing bright red blazers. What are they doing strolling through Washington D.C.?

They are attending the Washington Leadership Training Institute, an annual SkillsUSA event where students have the opportunity to learn about our government, learn about our organization, and tour the city while meeting with congressmen and senators as advocates for Career and Technical Education. They are there to inform our nation's leaders about what it is we do, and why it is

imperative that they continue to support the Perkins Funding that assists students studying for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations.

This month, a select few of our state officers will have the chance to attend this conference. They will meet with congressmen and senators after training sessions that will arm them with information about Career and Technical Education. They will also have the opportunity to receive their National Statesman, the highest honor in SkillsUSA.

-Michael Brun-

STATE LEADERSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOP - COMING IN OCTOBER

The fall season in SkillsUSA plays host to a great opportunity for Florida members: the State Leadership Training Workshop. SLTW is the largest training workshop the state of Florida holds for its members; last year we had just about one hundred people in attendance, and this year we want to do everything bigger and better! To go along with our space theme, SLTW or "Space Academy" will allow SkillsUSA members to congregate with their peers from other schools, building bonds that will last a long time and learning skills that will last you your lifetime.

Everyone will be split up into four different teams: Enterprise, Endeavor, Discovery, and Atlantis; each named after a space shuttle. These teams will participate in ice breakers, games, and even mini-competitions such as Quiz Bowl and Outstanding Chapter Notebook. The teams will go through rotations and learn how to make a motion and use parliamentary procedure; they will learn facts about SkillsUSA and proper etiquette; there will be a jeopardy game to help everyone learn about how our

government works; and there will be a public speaking workshop. All of these things will help participants prepare for one thing: the Florida Statesman, which is the highest honor a SkillsUSA member can receive at the state level.



SLTW is not only the perfect time to get your Statesman, but it is also a great way to meet all the state officers. By getting to know them, you become further involved with SkillsUSA, and you will learn so much, and maybe even aspire to become one yourself. The State Leadership Training Workshop will give you to skills you need to be a regional officer, and will give you a great stepping stone to a state officer position. In addition, Courtesy

Corps elections are held at SLTW. For those of you who don't know, State and National Competitions require a great deal of work, and students on Courtesy Corps are vital to these two events running smoothly. In exchange for their services, the students elected to Courtesy Corps will get to go to State Competition all expenses paid, and a select few from that group get to go on to Nationals. As a member of both State and National Courtesy Corps, I can honestly say that while you work hard, you learn so much about the organization, you make a ton of new friends, and you have more fun than you can possibly imagine.

SkillsUSA is about improving yourself not only as a worker, but also as a person. The State Leadership Training Workshop requires only 4 days of your time (October 20-24 to be exact), but you will take away so much more than you put in. Some of your most fond SkillsUSA memories will be made here, as well as some of your favorite friendships. If you can only attend one SkillsUSA event, this is the one to chose.

-Sienna Badura