

# Envision TOMORROW TODAY

A publication of SkillsUSA Michigan • www.miskillsusa.org

Fall 2014



Volume 9, Issue 1  
Fall 2014

## Inside this Issue...

Meet the Team.....	1
The American Dream.....	2
Taking the "Me" out of Media....	4
Being the Helping Hand.....	5
Fall Leadership Conference .....	5
Compete to Succeed.....	7
SkillsUSA/Virtual Reality.....	8
50 Years of America's Future....	8
Journey of 1000 Miles.....	9
Advisor of the Year.....	9
National Conference Results...	10
Pure Michigan Jump Start .....	11

## 2014-2015

### State Executive Council

Olivia Weidner  
Bay Arenac ISD Career Center  
State President

Ramon Moreno  
Lapeer County Ed Tech Center  
State Vice President

Teresa Strobel  
Kent Career Technical Center  
State Secretary

Julia Walton  
Oakland Schools Technical Center NE Campus  
State Treasurer

Jazlyn Acosta  
Breithaupt Career & Technical Center  
State Parliamentarian

Levi Smitter  
Kent Career Technical Center  
State Historian

Luis Vinalay  
Kent Career Technical Center  
State Sergeant-At-Arms

## Editorial Correspondence

Tammy Brown, Editor  
SkillsUSA Michigan  
Eastern Michigan University  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
(734) 487-3888 • Fax: (734) 487-4329  
www.miskillsusa.org • tbrown51@emich.edu

## Articles & Letters Welcome for Publication

The policy of SkillsUSA Michigan is that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, ethnicity, sex or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program or activity or in employment.



## Meet the Team

Olivia Weidner  
State President

Back in April, SkillsUSA champions from around the state were able to attend the SkillsUSA Michigan state competition. It was held at the Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan. During the three day state competition, seven highly motivated individuals were given the chance of a life time. A chance to represent 4,700 Michigan members of the SkillsUSA Michigan organization by being a State Officer.

Each individual was put to the test by: filling out an application, interviewing with advisers, taking a written test, campaigning, and delivering speeches on why they should be elected. Seven positions were filled at the delegate meeting: two Regional Officers, and five State Officers. As the adrenalin pumped and the nerves came to a still, a new beginning arose.

The next task for the incoming officers would come in May. Even though they would not start their term until the new school year arose, there was plenty of business to take care of. All seven members, as well as their state advisers, met at the Double Tree Hotel in Dearborn, Michigan. At the state conference, each officer was given a list of tasks to complete before attending the leadership conference in May. I am happy to report that each officer came prepared!

The state officer training lasted three days. During this time, the state officers attended leadership training, each officer had to memorize and recite a list of information by the time they left, officers positions were decided, and business was completed. Now, let's meet the team!

First, let's meet your Sergeant-at-Arms, Luis Vinalay. He is a student at Kent Career and Technical Center in Grand Rapids where he studies Graphics Communication. His dreams include attending Ferris State University for 3-D animation to become a 3-D animator for medical procedures. Luis is a hard worker and isn't afraid of asking questions. Just what we need on the officer team.

Your Historian is Levi Smitter. He is a dedicated student at Kent Career and Technical Center in Grand Rapids where he studied Graphic Communication, and is now studying 3-D animation. He longs to be a game designer for Rockstar and one day open his own studio. Levi is full of knowledge, and he is all ways bringing new ideas to the table and filling us in on the latest facts. He makes this year's team fun while taking care of business manners.

with



Now let's meet your Parliamentarian, Jazlyn Acosta. She is a student at Breithaupt Career and Technical Center in Detroit where she is in the Cosmetology program. Her lifelong goal is to work in a lab discovering new cures for sicknesses. Jazlyn is a great addition to the team because she's our peace maker. She always has innovative ways around a problem, which is perfect!

Next we have your Treasurer, Julia Walton. She is a student at Oakland Schools Technical Campus Northeast in Pontiac where she studies Cosmetology in hopes of working in the cosmetology field in a grand city. Julia is a driven girl who sets her mind on what the team needs, making it so much easier for everyone to get the job done.

Next we have your Secretary, Teresa Strobel. She is a student at Kent Career and Technical Center in Grand Rapids where she studies Graphics Communications. She is thinking of becoming either a music teacher or a youth minister. Teresa is great at recording all of our activities, as well as keeping the goal in mind.

Now let's meet your Vice President, Ramon Moreno. He is a student at Lapeer County ED Tech Center in Attica where he attends the Culinary Arts program. He has high hopes that his culinary experience will lead him to one day being a head chef at a popular restaurant. Ramon helps out the team by filling in wherever and whenever we need him. He always has a positive attitude.

Finally, let's meet your President, Olivia Weidner. She is a student at the Bay Arenac-ISD Career Center in Bay City where she studies Culinary Arts. Her dream is to one day own her own bakery, where she can dish out delicious pastries and teach kids how to bake. It is her job on the team to be a leader, and keep the team on track, which is exactly what she does.

Together, all seven officers make the perfect state officer team!



The 2014-2015 State Officer Team

Left to Right: Levi Smitter, Luis Vinalay, Jazlyn Acosta, Julia Walton, Olivia Weidner, Ramon Moreno and Teresa Strobel



## The American Dream

**Ramon Moreno**  
State Vice President

The American Dream is something you cannot see; it is something you achieve. In its simplest form, all it takes is a mindset of hard work, determination, and confidence. Striving for excellence to better your life, in a way that your mind may not be able to comprehend. It benefits your family and brings pride to yourself in such a humble way that your name may stay hidden but resounds to yourself and your family.

Many periodicals tell us the American dream is dead. Social media has devoted a myriad of websites promoting this philosophy. For me, it is only dead to those who do not have faith in it anymore. The people who have stopped putting an effort into achieving the dream that this great country offers us. The American dream is alive. Yes, you are going to have to go through obstacles in the process of attaining the dream. It takes hard work. It takes commitment. Many of my peers do not want to put in the effort. To them, I say they need to wake up to the reality that the American dream is still attainable. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said himself, "So even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream." He had the vision, passion and commitment needed to be successful.

The American dream to some people means being financially successful: a big house, nice car, lots of money or fame. For me, that does not encompass the American dream. From the time I was a young boy, the American dream has been about starting with nothing and working hard to achieve success. It means you can provide a better future for your family; a better lifestyle for

your family then the way you grew up.

I have lived this dream myself. My parents are both from Mexico and they had a harsh childhood growing up. My parents could not afford material things that we take for granted today. They struggled to have food on the table every day. They did not have clean running water or refrigeration. All things that I have and take for granted today. They did not want my brothers and me to grow up the same way they did growing up. As a parent, you always want the best for your children.

My parents moved from Mexico to America, the "land of opportunity". The land where you can start from scratch and hard work enables you to become successful. As a matter of fact, where else in the world can you start with nothing and provide your family with a comfortable living? That is what my parents did for me. We have never lived a flashy lifestyle but we have been very fortunate to, at least, have everything that we need. My parents came to this country inspired to see their children grow and become successful. Right now with SkillsUSA, I am making that dream a reality for them. The American dream.

SkillsUSA is giving me the opportunities to help me make my parents dream a reality. I have already learned proper business etiquette and business attire. I am learning how to run official meetings, improving my public speaking, and generating contacts that will benefit me in the future. By learning these skills, I am improving my chances of success for the future. Also, I have become eligible for scholarships which will

ensure my college future and beyond. This is all affording me the opportunity to start working on my own American dream. Gaining my independence will take commitment and hard work, but I have been raised to believe that is what I must do to succeed.

SkillsUSA is helping thousands of students achieve their American dream. SkillsUSA lets you compete against other students in something you are passionate about. SkillsUSA has over 75 competitions that you can compete in. Each of the 75 competitions branches off into more competitions. For example, the Culinary program can be split up in to Commercial Baking, Culinary Arts, Restaurant Service, and Team Banquet. SkillsUSA gives students the opportunity to learn what they want to be doing in the future in a more in depth way. SkillsUSA is also partnered with industries and workplaces to put students right in the work fields. That gives students the knowledge of having hands-on and the experience of the real world so when they are in the real world they will excel and surpass others to be successful in what they love to do.

The American dream leads back to one simple word, opportunity. The opportunity to be who you want to be. The opportunity to become successful. The opportunity to live the American dream. I hope whoever reads this is having an awesome day, but if not, maybe this quote from Thomas Edison will make an impression on you, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overall and looks like hard work". Hard work has never hurt anyone.





# WANTED:

## ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGISTS.

**Lawrence Technological University** isn't for just anyone. We want the engineering technologists, production specialists, and entrepreneurs who will be the innovators of tomorrow.

Maximize your career opportunities! Earn your **BS in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering Technology** at Lawrence Tech.

If you believe that everything is possible, and that *possible* is everything, we want you at LTU.

Learn more at [www.ltu.edu/BSMMET](http://www.ltu.edu/BSMMET).

**LTU**

POSSIBLE IS EVERYTHING.

Ready to apply now? Visit [ltu.edu/applyfree](http://ltu.edu/applyfree).



Architecture and Design | Arts and Sciences | Engineering | Management

Lawrence Technological University  
21000 West Ten Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48075-1058 | 800.225.5588 | [admissions@ltu.edu](mailto:admissions@ltu.edu) | [www.LTU.edu](http://www.LTU.edu)



## Taking the “Me” Out of Media

Teresa Strobel  
State Secretary

In today’s society, social media and technology have become a very prominent part of our lives. We can go almost anywhere and find somebody on their phone, camera, tablet or Nook doing something from posting a picture to just catching up on the latest news. This is what our world has become. Everything is on the internet. If we want to hear the latest news; check the internet. If we want to see what our friends have been up to this past weekend; check the internet. The options varying from Twitter to Instagram to Facebook are endless! We can easily become conformed to this way of life, living off the internet! Many times we do things on the internet that we would never do in real life; or say things that we would never say to somebody’s face. Why is this? Because the internet has not just become a way to communicate, but it’s a wall, a protection against the real world. Many times we think that since I don’t have to face the person, it’s ok. In our minds, there are no consequences. The internet becomes an invisible wall that will protect us. Most of us use the internet in this way, whether we know it or not. The internet has become all about “me”.

Above all, the internet is a source of entertainment! Almost any song or movie clip is at the touch of our fingertips! So many times we listen to music, as catchy as it is, that conforms our minds into thinking and acting like what the songs states. One of the greatest examples that I can think of is an Adele song. Now, don’t get

me wrong, I absolutely love listening to Adele. You could probably hear me singing “Someone Like You” at the top of my lungs on late nights with my friends, but right now I’m referring to the song “Rumor Had It.” As catchy of a song this is, one of the lines state, “...just ‘cause I said it, don’t mean that I meant it.” So many times we live our social-media lives like that. We’ll say things that we really don’t mean. Slowly but surely, lyrics like this will crawl into our lives without our knowing. We start doing and saying things that we never really mean, we only do it because of impulse or whim to just get a reaction.

So, do our words really mean anything anymore? Do we ever wonder “What does this all mean?”. If you have ever had these thoughts, it means we should do something about the way the internet is affecting us! We are the only ones who can make change happen in the world. There are so many ways that we can change how the internet culture is affecting us! One way in particular is by THINKing! Yup, THINKing! In my tech center, there is a poster with the following acronym for THINK:

- “T” stands for “is it TRUE?” How many times do we post something about someone that’s not true because we’re just saying it out of spite? How many lyrics do we listen to which speak the truth?

- “H” stands for “is it HELPFUL?” Is what we’re saying going to lift someone up, or bring someone down? Sometimes the littlest things can make someone’s day, or absolutely ruin it. Be the person who makes someone’s day.
- “I” stands for “is it INSPIRING?” Will whatever we’re listening to or watching make us a better person? Or is what we’re saying going to make someone else inspired to go out there and also be inspiring?
- “N” stands for “is it NECESSARY?” Is what we’re saying really going to make a difference in what’s going on? We might feel good saying something rude or have a great comeback to somebody’s comment; but does it really make us feel better? Often times later on, we will regret it. If we don’t say unnecessary things, we won’t regret it later.
- “K” stands for “is it KIND?” It’s said we catch a fly with honey not with vinegar. We will get further in life if you’re kind. So be kind to others and hopefully, they will be kind in return.

Five simple steps that we can all do. Five simple steps that can help make the world a better place. To take the time to really stop and THINK about what we’re doing, listening to, or saying. So take a moment and turn the “Me” in Media upside-down and make it “We”. WE can be the change that will rock a generation.





# Being the Helping Hand

**Julia Walton**  
State Treasurer

Who doesn't appreciate a helping hand? Whether it is financially, physically, or emotionally, everyone goes through periods of time in their lives where they need some assistance. Think back to a time where you were really grateful for the help of a friend, it made you feel pretty good. Now think to a time you lent a hand to a friend who needed it, it made you feel even better.

Community service projects could range from working in a food bank, to collecting cans and bottles for families in need, to helping in an animal shelter, or to planting trees in your local park. There are so many opportunities to reach out and touch those, right around you. It is so important to give back. Volunteering develops new skills such as communication, empathy, leadership, and self-esteem. It changes the way you think and go about doing certain tasks. Not only does it improve the individual but it really helps those who are struggling to do things on their own. An extra set of hands can really help in almost any situation. Without the help of volunteers, many programs and organizations would not be able to be as successful as they are. Volunteers really make a difference, especially when it comes to funds. When someone helps without being paid, that money can go somewhere that will be more beneficial.

In July, the Michigan State Officers went to the Giving Tree Farm in Lansing. This community garden that was built for people with disabilities, and over the last 12 years it has grown to be over seven acres and is a certified organic farm that sends its produce to local restaurants and farmers markets year round. Here, the State Officers were given the high honor of weeding the gardens. A task that's often over looked and seen as unimportant until it becomes a problem. For over two hours, pulling loads of weeds out and clearing the gardens. In that time, there was so much accomplished and there was so much fun being had that it did not even seem like work. On the way out, everyone made sure to say thank you and how appreciative they were for having the extra hands. That in itself made it all worth it. The smiles left on their faces were priceless.

Maybe next time you and your friends have a free weekend, find somewhere to volunteer at for



2014-2015 Michigan State Officers at the Giving Tree Farm

a few hours. It will be highly appreciated and it will be a great opportunity for you all as well to sense the great feeling of being a helping hand. The feeling of helping someone else and taking the focus off of yourself for a few hours can boost your mood and brighten your day.

 Find us on **Facebook**

**SkillsUSA  
Michigan is  
on Facebook  
and Twitter!**

You can find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/miskillsusa](http://www.facebook.com/miskillsusa).

A link to our Facebook page is also on the home page of our web site at [www.miskillsusa.org](http://www.miskillsusa.org).

Become a fan and follower!



**twitter** 

## State Fall Leadership & Professional Development Conference

The State Fall Leadership and Professional Development Conference on November 5, 2014 in Lansing is a great way to kick off your year and to motivate your school to have a great year with SkillsUSA Michigan. The conference is a combination of team building activities and breakout sessions presented by the State Officers on SkillsUSA with special professional development sessions specifically for advisors. The early registration fee is \$30.00 per participant (students and advisors) and includes registration materials, and lunch. Be sure to register today at [www.miskillsusa.org](http://www.miskillsusa.org)!

**Building up successful champions in the past, present and future workforce**



What **matters** to you?

A career!



**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Are you fascinated with technology? Information Technology (IT) has become an integral part of modern life. Among its most important functions are the efficient transmission of information and the storage and analysis of information. Get your degree in:

Computer Information Systems  
Annual salary range: \$38,870 to \$123,950\*

Computer Networking  
Annual salary range: \$60,180 to \$95,380\*

*For programs in business and information technology, contact the Associate Dean of Health, Business and Technology, at 231-348-6619.*



**HUMAN SERVICES/SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Do you like to work with children? Do you want to teach in an elementary school? Get started on your career in Early Childhood Education (ECE) at North Central. Early childhood education is the care and education of young children from birth to age 8.

Annual salary range: \$27,570 to \$50,230\*

*For more information, contact the Early Childhood Education Coordinator, JoAnna Kolodziej, at jkolodziej@ncmich.edu or 231-439-6224.*

Are you interested in law enforcement? Courts? Corrections? Controversial issues such as the death penalty? Do you want to study these subjects and pursue a career based on your interest? If so, you should select criminal justice as a major.

Annual salary range: \$39,550 to \$76,730\*

Although lawyers assume ultimate responsibility for legal work, they often delegate many of their tasks to paralegals. In fact, paralegals—also called legal assistants—are continuing to assume new responsibilities in legal offices and perform many of the same tasks as lawyers.

Annual salary range: \$42,390 to \$47,570\*

*For more information on the criminal justice and legal assistant programs, contact Catherine Castagne at 231-439-6379 or mcastagne1@ncmich.edu.*



**HEALTH SCIENCES/ALLIED HEALTH**

Or is health care where your heart is? North Central offers a wide variety of programs in the nursing and allied health field. The health care field is growing monumentally. Out of the 10 fastest-growing careers, health jobs account for seven.

Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics care for the sick or injured in emergency medical settings.

Median annual salary: \$31,270\*  
*Selective admission process.*

Phlebotomists practice blood-collection techniques that include venipunctures and skin punctures to provide samples for lab analysis.

Annual salary range: \$26,710 to \$38,950\*

Surgical technologists are an integral part of the team of medical practitioners providing surgical care to patients by facilitating the safe and effective conduct of surgical procedures, ensuring the operative procedure is conducted under conditions that maximize patient safety.

Annual salary range: \$27,256 to \$53,221\*  
*Selective admission program.*

A certified nurse aide, or CNA, helps patients or clients with health care needs under the supervision of a Registered Nurse (RN) or a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).

Annual salary range: \$20,100 to \$24,890\*

Medical assistants are likely the first and last faces you'll see during any medical appointment, either in your doctor's office or at a larger medical organization. With employment growth of 29 percent between 2012 and 2022, medical assistants are among the top health care jobs in the list of the Best Jobs of 2014.

Annual salary range: \$24,940 to \$41,750\*  
*Selective admission program.*

Medical billers are vital to the business success of the health care industry. Their careful work submitting claims to insurance companies keeps business running smoothly for physicians, hospitals, third-party billing companies and even the federal and state governments.

Median annual salary: \$34,970\*

*For programs in business and information technology, contact the Associate Dean of Health, Business and Technology, at 231-348-6619.*

Or how about nursing? Nursing is an emotionally fulfilling and rewarding career. Few professions give you as many choices of where to work, areas to specialize in or degrees to use.

The median national salary (as of 2012) is \$66,220\*

*This is a competitive program and admission is based on a competitive ranking of applicants. Questions should be directed to Admissions at 231-348-6626 or the Nursing and Allied Health Department at 231-348-6696.*



**TRUCK DRIVING**

Looking for the freedom of the open road? North Central Michigan College offers training for a high-skill, high-wage program in Truck Driving. According to recent estimates, three out of every four tons of freight in the United States are moved by truck and demand for drivers is expected to remain consistently high.

Starting salaries range from \$36,000 to \$50,000 per year.\*

*To get started, apply today to North Central Michigan College at www.ncmich.edu. For assistance, call North Central's Gaylord office at 989-705-3775.*

**The Fab Lab**

Your training in digital fabrication will take you beyond the classroom and into the College's state-of-the-art Mobile Digital Fabrication Lab – the Fab Lab – that's right, MOBILE! We will come to you and provide innovative training for high school and college students. North Central Michigan College offers courses in CAD (Computer Aided Design), CNC lathe and mill and CAM (Computer Aided Manufacturing) software. With these skills as your foundation you can learn to make anything and go anywhere.

*Courses can be taken in Petoskey in the Fab Lab, or the Fab Lab can come to your school. For more information, contact Kevin Glines at kglines@ncmich.edu or 231-439-6262.*



\*According to the Occupational Information Network (O\*NET) sponsored by the US Department of Labor.

Call 231-348-6605 to make an appointment with an advisor.

Get started today!  
**APPLY NOW!**

**North Central**  
MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
*It's what matters!*  
Petoskey, Gaylord and Cheboygan  
www.ncmich.edu • 888-298-6605



# Compete to Succeed

**Jazlyn Acosta**  
State Parliamentarian

Have you ever said to yourself, “Wow, my work deserves an award? “Well, if you have or you are interested in competing but are not sure yet, keep reading! SkillsUSA holds competitions for over 75 programs in Michigan alone including Cosmetology, Electronics Technology, Welding, Automotive, Culinary Arts, and so much more. But first, let me tell you some background information about Michigan being in Skills. Michigan has almost 4,700 members and 101 chapters! Nationwide there are 351,833 members and 13,000 chapters! And the numbers keep going up. For the nationals in June 2014, Michigan took home eleven gold medals. That was a new record for our state, how amazing is that? If you are thinking about competing you should talk to your SkillsUSA advisor or counselor at your career center to get you started. Competing can be a great start to your career and you will have some experience in being under pressure.

The levels of competitions are Locals, Regionals, States, and Nationals and maybe even WorldSkills. When competing, you have a chance of not only learning other strategies of doing a procedure but also possibly teaching someone your way of doing things. You too could be part of the magic! Receiving a gold medal at States or even Nationals, and showing off your skills for everyone to see. When competing there are many benefits, for example scholarships, internships, job offers, and meeting new people. These are opportunities that you maybe would not be able to have on your own. You also get to travel, each level of competition has a different location in the state, and the 2015 nationals will be held in Louisville, KY. Whether you are from a small town, or even a big city there is a competition just for you. It is pretty cool to be putting your

sweat and the occasional tear to show everyone that we are the future of our country. By competing among others and demonstrating that we have what it takes to make this nation move forward.

Here are some personal competition experiences from Luis Vinalay and Jemisah Ruffin; Luis was a model for his friend in the Job Skills Demo Competition. He said, “Charlie was to handcuff me, and so preparing for it was like, how am I supposed to move, when she handcuffs me, because I have to be precise as can be. When in the contest room, I was not allowed to speak unless Charlie asked a question that was part of her demonstration. But, if it was not part of her demonstration the model was not allowed to speak. We performed different handcuffing skills and Charlie went into more detail about why these were the best ways to handcuff. It was a short competition.” Charlie and Luis made it all the way to Nationals. I saw them practicing the night before their competition and they were just so focused and put everything into it because it is a big deal.

Jemisah’s competition was Community Service. She said, “Community Service was fun! Competing made me more involved in my center, trying new things and helping others. It let you experience new things, meet new people around the world. I first signed up because I thought it would be interesting but I found out it was much more work and took up a lot of time. However the payoff was worth it. When our team (Olivia Choice, Diamondnique Dixon and myself) competed we showed a PowerPoint of our project. We turned fleece material into blankets and donated them to the Ronald McDonald house.”

I am sure Jemisah and her team gave those blankets to children who really appreciated them.

I personally have not competed, but I do plan to compete in the upcoming year. I was a model for the Esthetics competition in 2013. It was an awesome experience, seeing everyone so into his or her work. Now that was just amazing! Sadly, we did not get to stay and watch but it made me want to compete and show off my skills in the 2014-2015 school year.

Fortunately, I had the opportunity to attend the 2014 National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City, MO. On the last day, our State Officer Coordinator, Ms. Rosa L. Williams, took us to see some of the competitions, the competitions took up the space of six football fields! Besides that there were extra buildings that the competitors had to travel to because all of the competitions could not fit in one building.

Shehryar Khar once said, “In the end we only regret the chances we didn’t take”. So do not be shy! Take a chance, go ahead, and show everyone what you can do! Chances like these might only come once in a lifetime and it will not be cool if you are sitting around somewhere a couple years from now thinking, “What if?”





**Levi Smitter**  
State Historian

## SkillsUSA and Virtual Reality

Economics and Business. You might not believe me, but I have some news about the economy of the future! Besides the contests, SkillsUSA is also about Entrepreneurship (which actually is a contest) and how SkillsUSA can help define your future. Virtual reality is part of that future! When you think of running your own business one day, you probably think of having brochures that show off the destination travelers want to journey. Or, a book that has examples of what the customer is buying, but what if the pictures aren't right or the book wears down and breaks; shouldn't there be another way to show the customer what they'll get? This can be done thanks to the innovation shown by a company bought by Facebook in March and a computer, I'm talking about the Oculus Rift Virtual Reality headset.

What is the Oculus Rift? Okay so if you're still reading then it's because you're wondering "What is it?" or "What does this really have to do with economics?" the answer is simple, 3D modeling is a form of product display. Anything that can be made in real life can be made on a computer to be later shown again and altered if need be. The Oculus Rift is a Virtual Reality Headset that covers your eyes and blocks out your peripheral vision so that all you see when you wear it is the screen inside. Inside the headset is a 7 inch LCD display screen with a resolution of 1280 x 800 pixels which divides into two 640 x 800 screens for both eyes. The sensor unit includes a gyroscope, an accelerometer, and a magnetometer which all combine to track

head motion of whoever is wearing the headset while playing. The creators released the second development kit that includes a positional tracking system that track head movements. "Wait, but didn't it do that before?" Yes, but now if you drop something in front of yourself, the camera will sense that and you'll bend down in the game as you bend down in real life.

What does this mean for the economy? This means amazing things for the economy; it means that you don't have to worry about things like not having a display model ready or not having a good destination video for client. When you work in construction you have blueprints for the workers to build off, but what about the client who's having the building built, they want to see how it'll look when it's done before they agree on having it built. When you work in travel you have promotional videos that show off the fun that can be had there. Wouldn't it be amazing if you could load up a pro-

gram and let clients walk through the streets of where ever they want to go? The client can book a trip that they can experience, more than a fifteen minute trial could offer. When you bake and a customer wants a cake done specifically a certain way, load a basic model onto a computer or a screen, give them the headset and let them see how it'll look and you can change what they want via a touch pad.

In short, the Oculus Rift can mean a new way of displaying a product. It can mean a better approach to medical training, customer relations and awareness. Put yourself into the mindset of your career choice and how Oculus Rift can make a difference. It can mean better product output and better customer satisfaction.



**Luis Vanalay**  
State Sergeant-At-Arms

## 50 Years of America's Future

Hey YOU! Yes YOU! Have you ever wanted to be part of a group where you can put your skills to the test? If not, then change your thinking, because you can have the amazing opportunity to be part of SkillsUSA! What is SkillsUSA you ask? Well SkillsUSA is a national non-profit student run organization that serves more than 350,000 members annually. The members of SkillsUSA are preparing for careers in technical, service, and health occupations.

You too can become a member using your skills in Culinary, Cosmetology, Auto Mechanics, Graphic Communications, Leadership skills and much more. You will have the opportunity to hone your skills at either the local, region, state or national level competitions depending on each member's personal achievements. There are almost 4,700 members who enter SkillsUSA every year from Michigan. Over 350,000 who come from all over the United States and the 3 territories Guam, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands. It doesn't matter where the students come from, or what their career focus is, they all share a special bond. Each student

becomes stronger through common goals, morals and values, with the drive to become the best they can be. Strangers become instant friends and peer pressure becomes peer support. Everyone is more than just friends, we are all a family.

SkillsUSA is not only about technical skills, it provides the leadership and employability skills that applies to all areas of life. Teamwork, goal-setting, and public speaking are highlights of the many skills that employers are searching for. These leadership skills will be useful for the rest of the individual's life. As a member of SkillsUSA, you will experience that success means more than individual accomplishments.

Community service lies in the heart of the SkillsUSA mission. Bringing back the skills and ex-

periences each member has to their community is something that every student is proud of. When students realize that they can and do make a difference they find a sense of self-worth that will stay with them forever. SkillsUSA has served more than ten million members since 1965. Fifty years of lives changed, goals achieved, community development, dreams born and fulfilled. Joining SkillsUSA is a step toward a future as a productive citizen, but it is not an easy journey, there will be challenges, obstacles to overcome, and new environments to adapt too. But the SkillsUSA family is always there for each other.

So what are you waiting for? Join today! Too often we hear about what is wrong with America's youth, SkillsUSA is a shining example of what is right.

**AMERICA'S FUTURE®**



**Rosa L. Williams**  
State Officer Coordinator

## A Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with a Single Step

The 2014-2015 SkillsUSA National theme is: SkillsUSA: 50 years of Champion at Work. SkillsUSA is a student national organizational that teaches teamwork and leadership.

Becoming a member of SkillsUSA is the first step in your success. Being a member of SkillsUSA is a process, a journey if you will, to prepare you for your goals in life. Whether your journey for SkillsUSA is competing at the local, regional, state or national level, it requires the first step.

SkillsUSA is a great organization for networking with your peers from other states. You will meet friends that you will never forget. SkillsUSA is the journey for you to take this year.

There is nothing like it. In the beginning the journey may seem long, it may seem overwhelming at first. However, how would you know what you can do unless you put your mind to it and take that first step. If you do that, you can make your journey possible. There will be obstacles in your way, but you have to persevere, keep it moving and make it happen.

Don't procrastinate. It is time to make a bold move on your own. The technical skills and leadership training you will receive from SkillsUSA is life changing. It will guide you every step of the way and help you to prepare for the demands of life. SkillsUSA is also teaching you life skills. So get on it and get involved. It will be a journey but having the confidence, dedication and passion you will be able to succeed.

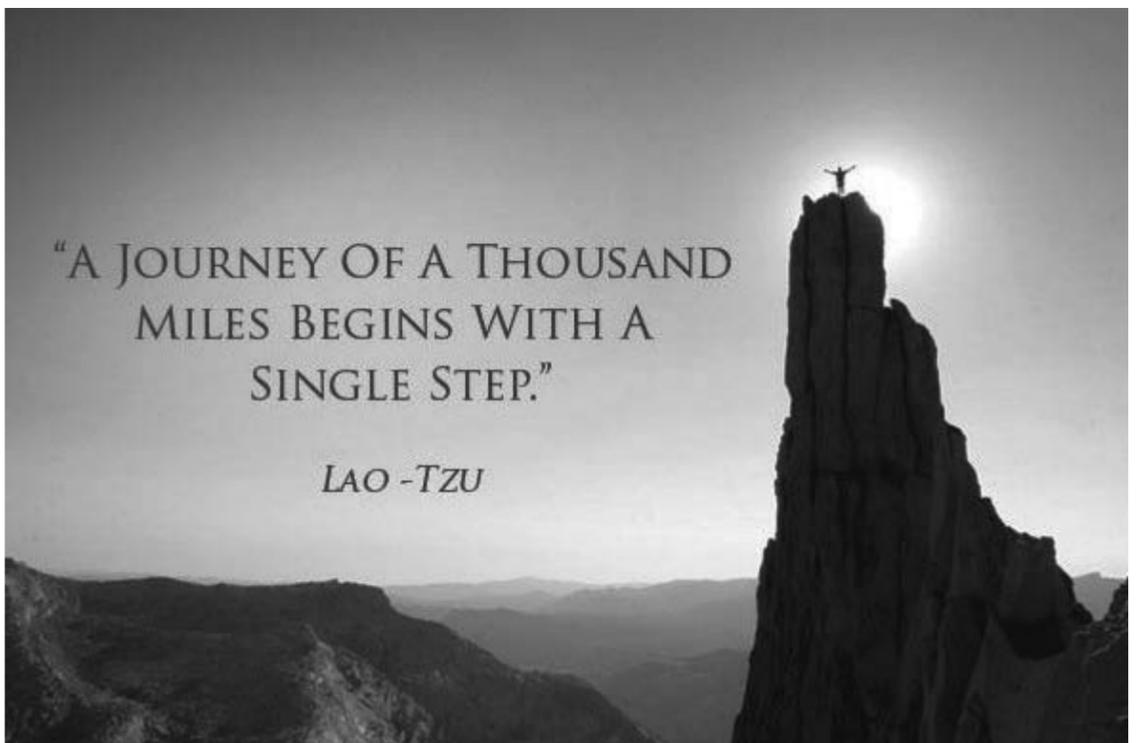
A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. SkillsUSA will develop personal skills needed to help you along the way with your journey. Act as a role model. There is so much to look forward to. Take the time to be a leader and show yourself and others that when you take that first step you will see a difference in your life. Don't be afraid to stand for what you believe in, even if it means standing alone. Be your own champion.

A few steps can mean a long term benefit. SkillsUSA measures its success by your accomplish-

ments. Be prepared to be in demand. All of the members of SkillsUSA are trained to be productive in the workforce.

The future lies in your hands. Get involved and make a plan. You are the future. You may place a high value on a particular area such as physical appearance but if your life experiences contradict how you feel about your inner self, you may have a problem with your self-esteem. Your self-esteem is always changing and developing. As a SkillsUSA member, your self-esteem will begin to evolve to make you stronger, more confident

Tim Lawrence, the SkillsUSA National Director, took his first step. He was a member of SkillsUSA in the Welding program at his vocational school. Mr. Lawrence became a SkillsUSA advisor, then a state director and is now the SkillsUSA National Director. Tammy Brown, the SkillsUSA Michigan State Director, was in the Advertising Design program at her high school when she found SkillsUSA. While in high school, she became the president of the SkillsUSA State Officer Team and then also joined SkillsUSA in college. She continued working with the Skill-



and better to succeed in life. Give yourself the opportunity to be a part of Champions at Work.

You want to show initiative by learning all you can about SkillsUSA and your place in it. Be enthusiastic. There is an old saying "If you think enthusiastic, you will be enthusiastic." People who are enthusiastic have an inspiration for their work. If you are inspired and eager about SkillsUSA, you will cause your peers to get involved as well.

sUSA organization and is now the SkillsUSA Michigan State Director. How exciting is that! Where would Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Brown be if they had not taken that first step towards their journey as National and State Director?

So I urge you, I challenge you to inquire about SkillsUSA and take that first step and join SkillsUSA, because a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step

## Advisor of the Year

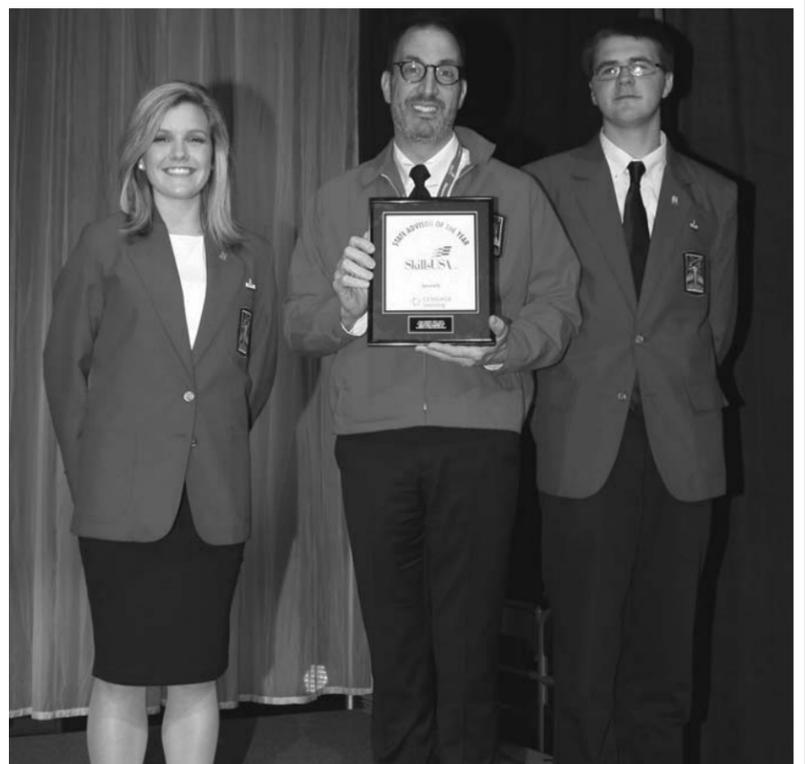
**Sam Musto**

**South and West Washtenaw Consortium**

Each year, SkillsUSA Michigan selects an outstanding advisor who goes above and beyond the call of duty. At the 2014 State Leadership and Skills Conference, Sam Musto from South and West Washtenaw Consortium was honored as the SkillsUSA Michigan Advisor of the Year for his dedication to his students, his chapter and to SkillsUSA.

Mr. Musto is a perfect example of the SkillsUSA purpose, exuding pride and passion in his work with his students. He is a great asset to his school, writing curriculum to meet the needs of the students and working with them way past the normal work day when necessary. He is always upbeat and positive, giving encouragement to his students every step of the way. Over the past 21 years, Mr. Musto has had numerous state and national winners in several different contests and his students in the Culinary Arts program at Saline High School and the South and West Washtenaw Consortium benefit from his experience.

Congratulations to Mr. Musto and thank you for your tireless dedication to SkillsUSA Michigan!



# SkillsUSA Michigan at the 2014 National Conference

SkillsUSA Michigan had great showing at the 2014 National Leadership and Skills Conference held on June 23-28, 2014 in Kansas City, Missouri. SkillsUSA Michigan was represented by 220 students, advisors, and guests from 35 High School and College/Postsecondary chapters.

SkillsUSA Michigan received a total of 17 medals, including 11 national champions. SkillsUSA Michigan also had 67 of the 132 contestants place in the top 10 in their contest in the country.

Over 6,000 students from every state and three territories competed in 100 contests in technical, skilled, health and service occupations at the SkillsUSA Championships. The SkillsUSA Championships are considered the largest single day of corporate volunteerism in America and valued at \$30 million in industry support of donated time, equipment, cash and material. All contests are run and judged by industry using industry standards for employment.

The national medalists from Michigan are below. Photos of all the medalists are available at <http://miskillsusa.org/>.

## Gold

### 3-D Visualization and Animation - College/Postsecondary

Michael Campbell and Tim Moser,  
Macomb Community College

### CNC Turning - College/ Postsecondary

John Reiter, Macomb Community  
College

### Commercial Baking - High School

Maria Buko, Saginaw Career  
Complex

### Computer Programming - High School

Kallyn Gowdy, Kent Career/Tech  
Center

### Cosmetology - High School

Lauryn Erickson, Mecosta Osceola  
Career Center

### Mechatronics - High School

Kurtis Rickelmann and Drew Gary,  
Pinckney High School

### Nail Care - College/Postsecondary

Brooklyn Lackney, Mecosta Osceola  
Career Center

### Precision Machining Technology - High School

Danny Williamson, Saint Clair TEC

### Technical Drafting - College/ Postsecondary

Matt Haan, Ferris State University

## Silver

### 3-D Visualization and Animation - High School

Logan Armstrong and Walter Horjus,  
Kent Career/Tech Center

### CNC Milling Technology - High School

Garret Brenton, Saint Clair TEC

### Diesel Equipment Technology - College/Postsecondary

Andrew Doane, Ferris State  
University

### Early Childhood Education - High School

Jena Eckerd, Bay Arenac ISD Career  
Center

## Bronze

### Commercial Baking - College/ Postsecondary

Alyssa Pelley, Art Institute of  
Michigan



**SkillsUSA**  
**Champions at Work**<sup>®</sup>



# Pure Michigan Jump Start

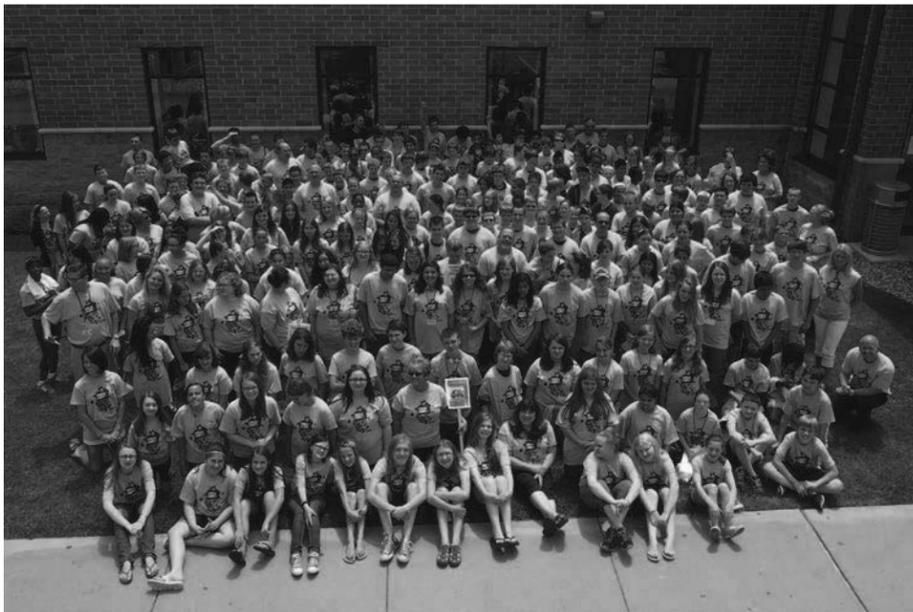
SkillsUSA Michigan and Career Jump Start have formed a new partnership to address the needs of high schools students in career and technical education (CTE) programs.

Career Jump Start was launched in response to concerns raised at Gov. Rick Snyder's Economic Summit in 2013. One of the most common issues raised was around the lack of knowledge that high school students have about high demand careers and training programs. While information about high demand careers that require a Bachelor's degree or higher will be available, Career Jump Start focuses on educating students about shorter term credentials, Associate degree and apprenticeships that are in high demand by employers. This initiative will provide one career liaison for each of the 10 "Prosperity Regions" who will be a resource for high school students, parents and community members in identifying high-demand careers and training and educational programs.

Career Liaisons will work with high school students, parents/guardians, and educators to inform them about jobs and training. The results of this program will be to increase enrollment in high demand training programs and reduce the skills gap in Michigan. The portal will improve connectivity between employers and K-12 opportunities. To learn more, email CareerLiaison@michigan.org or visit: <http://www.mitalent.org/career-jump-start/>

**Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/MiCareerJS>

**Bi-weekly Newsletter sign-up:** [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIEDC/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=MIEDC\\_](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIEDC/subscriber/new?topic_id=MIEDC_)



## Ever wonder how to get information about high demand careers and training available in your area?

It's vital to inspire and prepare young people for tomorrow's career opportunities. Career Jump Start offers assistance to high school students by connecting them with training programs that guide them toward high demand careers.

Career Liaisons focus on shorter term credentials such as Associate degrees, apprenticeships, and certifications. They also connect students with events, activities, workshops, and plant tours to give them the information they need to make an informed decision about their future.



**Career Jump Start focuses on high demand careers in**

**Manufacturing**

**Information Technology**

**Health Care**

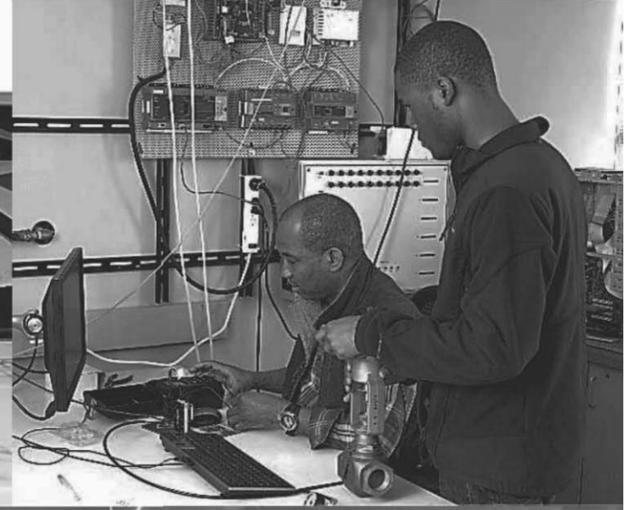
**Human Services & Education**

**Science, Technology, Engineering & Math**

**TO LEARN**

**MORE VISIT**

[www.mitalent.org/career-jump-start](http://www.mitalent.org/career-jump-start)



FERRIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
IMAGINE MORE

# COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

- With **31 diverse degree programs**, it is the **2<sup>nd</sup> largest** College of Engineering Technology in the U.S.
- Faculty have distinctive **industrial experience**.
- **Hands-on** learning in premier laboratory spaces that feature the latest technological advancements.
- **Participate** in an assortment of professionally affiliated organizations, societies and student competitions, such as **SkillsUSA** at the college level.
- Variety of **summer academic camps** offered.
- Students highly sought out by **business and industry** prior to graduation with starting **salaries well above average**.
- Visit [www.ferris.edu/admissions](http://www.ferris.edu/admissions) to learn more. 

