Register Now for the “Connect to My Future” Conference, May 5-6!

The first-ever SkillsUSA Connect to My Future Career Conference is May 5-6. This new virtual conference will create an authentic, career-focused experience between students and industry partners that fosters meaningful and long-lasting connections relevant to students’ future careers. For students, this is a live encounter with industry professionals to learn more about in-demand careers, build upon occupational identities, and make direct connections to internships, military, or full-time employment. Three distinct student program tracks — each hosted virtually by our national organization — will be offered for members in middle school, high school, and college/postsecondary programs. Learn more at ctmf.skillsusa.org! This week, we’d like to feature the Aspire track for high school students!

The Aspire track of the Connect to My Future conference on May 5 is a half-day professional event where high school students will examine career priorities, interact with business and industry professionals, distinguish between different career options within a field of interest and create a personal action plan to achieve their future career goals. More information about Aspire can be accessed at ctmf.skillsusa.org. Register for any of the three tracks of the Connect to My Future Conference at: ctmf.skillsusa.org!

Plan Now for SkillsUSA National Signing Day on May 4!

On Tuesday, May 4, SkillsUSA National Signing Day will celebrate high school seniors and
college/postsecondary students who have chosen to pursue a career as a professional in the skilled trades. Local SkillsUSA chapters are encouraged to host a signing day event by inviting business partners, school administrators, teachers, elected officials, SkillsUSA alumni, family and friends to honor students signing “letters of intent” for a job offer, apprenticeship or advanced technical training. An electronic toolkit of resources is available to advisors at SkillsUSA CONNECT to assist them with planning their local chapter event. The toolkit includes items such as an event logo, an event invitation template, social media posts, a sample press release, thank you notes and an event planning checklist. To learn more, login to your account at SkillsUSA CONNECT or https://www.skillsusa.org/events-training/national-signing-day/. Please register here before April 16th.

The Home Depot Foundation’s “Path to Pro” Scholarship Now Accepting Applications

In honor of SkillsUSA’s National Signing Day 2021, The Home Depot Foundation is thrilled to announce a scholarship opportunity for eligible high school seniors. As part of its Path to Pro commitment, focused on training for the skilled trades and career readiness, this program will enable six students participating in National Signing Day to further their education in the trades. This effort is a part of The Home Depot Foundation’s larger commitment to fill the nation’s skilled labor gap. Active SkillsUSA members who live in Region 2 (Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia) and are high school seniors planning to continue their education in the building/construction trades are eligible to apply before the March 31 deadline. Six scholarships of up to $5,000 each are available. You can find more information about the scholarship and application at https://www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/scholarships-financial-aid/.
The Bob Westphal Memorial Scholarship is Now Open for Applications!

The Bob Westphal Memorial Scholarship — presented in partnership with North American Oil & Gas Pipelines (published by Benjamin Media Inc.), Continuum Capital, and SkillsUSA— will offer merit-based scholarships to high school or college/postsecondary students continuing their education to pursue a career in energy construction (oil and gas pipelines, gas distribution, solar, and wind). Scholarships will be awarded annually over five years to provide tuition support. The first year of the program is the 2021-2022 school year. The award will be based on:

1. The merit of the content answering the following question in a 400- to 500-word essay: “Why do you want to pursue a career in the energy construction industry, and what is the energy construction industry’s role in preserving America’s energy independence?”
2. Proficiency of skills demonstrated throughout the application, resume, and recommendation letter.

Scholarship funds will be disbursed to awardees upon presentation of a tuition invoice from their postsecondary education institution. Applications must be submitted via the online form to the national office of SkillsUSA for review and determination by midnight, June 1. Scholarship recipients will be notified by July 1. Scholarship dollar amount and number of awards is to be determined. View information about the Bob Westphal Memorial Scholarship and apply at: https://www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/scholarships-financial-aid/.

Apply Now to Receive Recognition and $500 for Your Chapter Mentoring Program

When a SkillsUSA chapter mentors an elementary or middle school classroom, younger students gain exposure to future career options and older students experience a meaningful opportunity to practice Framework skills. The Student2Student mentoring program, sponsored by SkillsUSA, connects young people to personal growth and development, as well as economic opportunities, by supporting chapter mentoring
programs!Student2Student recognizes SkillsUSA chapters that are involved in a mentoring program in their communities. To apply for chapter recognition, submit your mentoring project plan, description and project outcomes. The winning chapter will be recognized at the National Leadership and Skills Conference and will receive a plaque and $500 check for the chapter to use to expand next year’s mentoring project. All entries must be submitted by April 1. Winners will be announced in May.

For more information, contact Tyler Chaffin at tchaffin@skillsusa.org or visit: www.skillsusa.org/programs/mentoring-student2student/.