



SkillsUSA Students Leave a Resounding Mark at the 2024 National Leadership and Skills Conference.

Career and technical education students from Tennessee College/Postsecondary (C/PS) institutions demonstrated prestigious knowledge and skill at the annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC), held annually in Atlanta, taking place on June 24-28, 2024. The conference included leadership development, community service opportunities, and skills competition offerings. Students consistently demonstrated expertise and professionalism while participating in various leadership and competitive experiences.

Leadership

Tennessee's SkillsUSA State Officers Matthew Nelson from Chattanooga State Community College, Scott Mull from TCAT Knoxville, and Lollie Brown from TCAT Henry/Carroll attended SkillsUSA Leverage training. The pre-conference offering was held June 22-24, 2024, and is designed to build and develop leadership skills based on the seventeen essential elements of the [SkillsUSA Framework](#). Tennessee's C/PS Vice President, Scott Mull, accomplished being elected a SkillsUSA National Officer. He campaigned throughout the week for delegates to vote and have him represent them at the national level, as he also will work diligently at representing Tennessee's college system and our state.

Additional member training opportunities included the SkillsUSA Academy of Excellence and SkillsUSA University. All attendees of these professional development opportunities received a certificate to be added to their professional development portfolio. SkillsUSA improves the quality of the nation's future skilled workforce through the development of [SkillsUSA Framework](#) skills, which include personal, workplace, and technical skills grounded in academics. The organization's vision is to produce the most highly skilled workforce in the world, providing every member with the opportunity for career success.

One cannot attend NLSC without participating in the culture of pin trading. Students network and interact with each other, advisors, and industry partners as they seek to compete in their pin collections. This activity is one of the most engaging at the event. With 17,000 attendees, some pins become rare and heavily sought after. Pin Design Gold medalist Lollie Brown designed Tennessee's C/PS Pink Cadillac Pin, and this pin was one of those sought after pins. The delegation brought over 2,000 pins, all gone on the first day before lunch. TCAT Henry/Carroll's Lollie Brown stated that she wanted to design a pin for the division that would get students out of their shells and create massive interaction. Executive Director Chelle Travis also had a unique pin, so students might feel comfortable speaking with her. The pin trading serves as an excellent conversation and networking starter. Not only does it help you break the ice at the event, but the act of pin trading can lead to long-term connections with

members across the nation. Tennessee C/PS division also introduced a new US Military Veteran Pin this year, given to veterans of the six military branches. The Tennessee C/PS officer team created the pin and is working to add it to the SkillsUSA National Uniform. Scott Mull, a US Army veteran, stated that he had so many meaningful interactions with veterans across the nation. Veterans were able to easily identify and network with fellow veterans as they began wearing their pins.

Community Service Opportunity

On the last day of the conference, SkillsUSA members were invited to participate in the “[Complete the Cycle](#)” community service project. In just three hours, they assembled 80 kids' bicycles, which they then presented to the Boy's and Girl's Club of Metro Atlanta. SkillsUSA strives to develop members with a heart for service as part of their leadership development and to give back to the communities they serve. This component is also included in the individual chapter's [Program of Work](#) through its Models of Excellence Program, recognizing top colleges nationwide. Two colleges represented Tennessee as [National Models of Excellence](#) candidates. These colleges were chosen for their chapter's efforts in technical skill development. Chattanooga State Community College and TCAT Pulaski serve as excellent models for utilizing SkillsUSA's resources and offerings to expand student opportunities.

Contests

During the national event, SkillsUSA CTE students from Tennessee worked against the clock, proving their expertise in occupations such as electronics, computer-aided drafting, precision machining, medical assisting, and culinary arts. SkillsUSA runs all contests with the help of industry, trade associations, and labor organizations, testing competencies set by industry. In addition, leadership contestants demonstrated their skills, which included contests such as extemporaneous speaking, job interviews, and conducting meetings using parliamentary procedures. The annual championships event is for middle school, high school, and college-level students who are members of SkillsUSA. The

national skilled trades championships, SkillsUSA is America's proud champion of the skilled trades; a student-led organization that is building the future skilled workforce with graduates who are career ready, day one.

The annual SkillsUSA conference showcased career and technical education, where career and technical education students from across the Nation and territories competed in hands-on competitions. SkillsUSA Tennessee C/PS competitors representing 26 colleges sent 255 members. Of those, 132 of them were students who competed in 83 of the 110 different trade, technical, and leadership competitions offered. The results: Tennessee being awarded 57 medals (7 bronze, 21 silver, and 29 gold). Also, Tennessee placed in the top 4 in 41 of the 83 contests they competed in. This means that in 83 contests against states and territories from across the nation, Tennessee placed in the top 4 in nearly half of those competitions, showcasing the exceptional quality of CTE education provided by Tennessee colleges. Also, speaking of the delegation as a whole, Tennessee earned the award of largest college/post-secondary delegation increase and largest college delegation in the nation with over 14,400 members across the state.

The top three student winners received gold, silver, and bronze medallions. Many also received prizes such as tools of their trade and scholarships to further their careers and education. It is not uncommon to receive job offers at the event. For example, the Commercial Roofing contest industry partners hosted a rooftop dinner to meet with competitors and discuss future opportunities they can offer to the student competitors. TCAT Henry Carroll student Hunter Hamilton stated it was such an amazing opportunity to get to meet Georgia Pacific President David Neal and have a one-on-one conversation with him. Many of these events happen throughout the conference, allowing students to network with leading industry executives in their chosen fields.

The Skills Point Certification Program recognizes outstanding national contestants who participated in SkillsUSA NLSC. These certificates are awarded based on expertise and industry-defined competencies compiled into the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards. Skills Point Certificates represents the pinnacle of achievement in demonstrating proficiency and workplace readiness in a champions occupational specialty. Industry leaders who define competencies for each contest determine a “cut score” that indicates excellence for students in technical or leadership events. Contestants who meet or exceed the scoring threshold will earn Skills Points Certificates. This year, we had 52 champions who received Skills Points Certificates.

Caroline O’Neal
Noah Burns
Gabrielle Miller
Dow Cox
Jennifer Farmer
Jadon Devito
Alanna Murphy
Isaac Bean
Bruce Hairston
Hamilton Baker
Harrison Huber
Gabe Dunn
William Young
Wesley Allin
Juan Lucas Tercero
Nadia Jones
Alissya Popoca
Shelby Defore
Caden Wright
John Jordan
Halyson Wood
Benjamin Hines
Benton Fowler
William G. Hunter
Joseph Griffith
Craig Heaton

Trevor Massengale
Lollie Brown
Bethany Jackson
Michael Cains
James Banks
Brian Matthews
Nicholas Ballinger
Thomas Fitzpatrick
Camden Kupres
Joseph Hinkle
Dalton Leonard
Roasha Odom
Christopher Young
Joshua Kesler
Adrian Hernandez Garcia
Leann Thomas
Kathleen Lugo
Leilani Ochoa
Marcus Millbrook
Joleian Williams
Savannah Qualman
Christopher Varney
Brandon Aranda
Annabelle Dewees
Karla Guerra
Markus Zhuk

Medal Results by College:

- Computer Programming – Dow Cox - Silver – Northeast State Community College
- Technical Drafting – Trevor Eller – Silver – Northeast State Community College
- 3D Visualization & Animation – Team of Jadon Devito & Alanna Murphy – Silver – Pellissippi State CC
- Digital Cinema Production – Team of Hamilton Baker & Harrison Huber – Bronze – Pellissippi State CC
- Internet of Things (IOT) Smart Home – Gabe Dunn – Gold – Pellissippi State CC
- Masonry – Phillip Singleton – Silver – Resource Valley Construction Training
- Web Design & Development – Team of Caden Scott & Sam Tooley – Southern Adventist University
- CNC 3-Axis Milling Programmer – William Young – Gold – TCAT Athens
- Community Service – Team of Tia Bowers, D’Andre Johnson, & Kam Johnson – Gold – TCAT Chatt
- Employment Application – Alissya Popoca – Gold – TCAT Chatt
- Job Interview – Shelby Defore – Silver – TCAT Chatt
- Opening & Closing – Team of Daeja Beckom, Breanna Foster, Breanna Holloway, Sara Kirk, Emmalea Linebarger, Matthew Nelson, & Amanda Sovago-Royal – Gold – TCAT Chatt
- Nurse Assisting – Benton Fowler – Gold – TCAT Crossville
- Advertising Design – Brody Scott – Bronze – TCAT Crump
- Career Pathways – Industrial and Engineering Technology – Team of Joseph Griffith, Craig Heaton, & Trevor Massengale – Gold – TCAT Harriman
- Health Knowledge Bowl – Team of Paige Hinkle, James Latimer, Reva Prusynski, & Jessica Rager-Hardwick – Silver - TCAT Hartsville
- Occupational Health and Safety – Multiple – Team of Angelito Gonzalez, Osvaldo Utrera-San Juan, & Logan White – Gold – TCAT Hartsville
- Commercial Roofing – Hunter Hamilton – Bronze – TCAT Henry/Carrol
- Pin Design – Lollie Brown – Gold – TCAT Henry/Carrol
- Electronics Technology – Ashlyn Carroll – Bronze – TCAT Hohenwald
- Plumbing – James Banks – Gold – TCAT Jackson
- Residential and Commercial Appliance Technology – Brian Matthews – TCAT Jackson
- Collision Damage Appraisal – Tanner Norris – Silver – TCAT Knoxville
- Career Pathways – Health Science – Team of Robert Artis, Lontriona Ferguson, & Alexis Stevenson – Silver – TCAT Memphis
- Career Pathways – Human Services – Team of Charles Davis, Edward Sanford Jr., & Zedrick Woods – Gold – TCAT Memphis
- Aviation Maintenance Technology – Camden Kupres – Silver – TCAT Morristown

- Engineering Technology Design – Team of Joseph Hinkle, Dalton Leonard, & Roasha Odom – Silver – TCAT Morristown
- Information Technology Service – Christopher Young – Gold – TCAT Morristown
- Internetworking – Joshua Kesler – Gold – TCAT Morristown
- Practical Nursing – Marcus Millbrook – Bronze – TCAT Northwest
- Welding Sculpture – Joleian Williams – Bronze – TCAT Oneida/Huntsville
- Medical Math – Savannah Qualmann – Silver – TCAT Pulaski
- Principals of Engineering – Technology – Gold – Volunteer State CC

Tennessee Delegation Meetings at NLSC

Monday evening kicked off the opening of Tennessee's Delegation meeting. Colleges were given important information about the conference and offered support and contact information while attending. Members were given conference t-shirts and polos, state pins, conference bags, black light-up hats, and blink sticks to enjoy their time in the State Farm Arena. Attendees were also surprised with a special treat as Mike Johnson brought "TROY" Doherty, an amazing music entertainer, to the stage to boost morale for the event.

The NLSC event ended Friday evening with SkillsUSA Tennessee C/PS's Celebration Banquet. The event was full of energy as the state director, Daphne Brown, along with Officer Coach Mike Johnson and the state officer team, announced the results of the conference. The advisor support was evident at this event as 80 advisors were acknowledged for their support of their students. Other special guests included college presidents and TBR staff, including Dr. Heidi Leming. The SkillsUSA Tennessee Outstanding Advisor of the Year, Nellie Blanton (TCAT Knoxville), was awarded a full set of state pins for her support of her student and his accomplishments, including being elected as a SkillsUSA National Officer and her service to the officer team. Alumni were also recognized for their support during the event, including Mike Johnson (SkillsUSA Officer Coach and assistant and TBR Employee), Dane Norman (TBR intern, Motlow Graduate, and MTSU student), Kristan Odom (SkillsUSA Partnership Coordinator on state and national levels, and Middle School Director), Jacob King (Nissan employee), and Darrell Chambers (Store Manager and MTSU student), who was awarded the second full set of state pins for his efforts during the conference maintaining headquarters and serving as an operations manager. Dane Norman received special recognition for his work with the voting delegates. Jacob King received Industry Partner recognition for Nissan's support of the Tennessee C/PS Division. Mike Johnson received special recognition for his hard work during the conference as essential in ensuring Tennessee C/PS was well represented by facilitating meetings (including campaign meetings, industry partner meetings, and state delegate meetings), organizing officer events, and assisting the state director.

More About SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is a nonprofit partnership of education and industry founded in 1965 to strengthen our nation's skilled workforce. Driven by employer demand, SkillsUSA helps students develop necessary personal and workplace skills along with technical skills grounded in academics. It leads to strong industry partners who support local, state, and national activities and conferences. Tennessee C/PS Division has one of these such partners in Nissan, with support beginning offered at the fall Tennessee Leadership and Training Institute by providing guest speakers and representatives that aid in the state officer election, being their largest doner for state conferences, and attending NLSC with representatives at all Tennessee C/PS events offering their support.

The SkillsUSA Framework empowers every student to succeed at work and in life, while helping to close the skills gap in which millions of positions go unfilled. Through SkillsUSA's championships program and curricula, employers have long ensured schools are teaching relevant technical skills, and with SkillsUSA's new credentialing process, they can now assess how ready potential employees are for the job. SkillsUSA has members nationwide in high schools, colleges and middle schools, covering over 130 trade, technical and skilled service occupations, and is recognized by the U.S. departments of Education and Labor as integral to career and technical education. We have served 13.9 million members since 1965. For more information:

www.skillsusatnps.org or www.skillsusa.org.

SkillsUSA TN C/PS 2025 Schedule

AUGUST 2024

1 | Member Registration Opens

1 | [Registration Opens: SkillsUSA - Washington Leadership Training Institute \(WLTi\) 2 p.m. EST Saturday- 8 a.m. EST Wednesday Congressional Visits Tuesday](#)

21 | [Registration Closes: SkillsUSA - Washington Leadership Training Institute \(WLTi\) 2 p.m. EST Saturday- 8 a.m. EST Wednesday Congressional Visits Tuesday](#)

SEPTEMBER 2024

11 | SkillsUSA Chapter Jumpstart Training West Region-Learn and improve all things SkillsUSA, Local Chapter, Chapter of Excellence, etc.

12 | SkillsUSA Chapter Jumpstart Training Middle Region-Learn and improve all things SkillsUSA, Local Chapter, Chapter of Excellence, etc.

13 | SkillsUSA Chapter Jumpstart Training East Region-Learn and improve all things SkillsUSA, Local Chapter, Chapter of Excellence, etc.

21-25 | [SkillsUSA - Washington Leadership Training Institute \(WLTi\) 2 p.m. EST Saturday- 8 a.m. EST Wednesday Congressional Visits Tuesday](#)

26 | [Registration Opens for the SkillsUSA & SGPC - Tennessee Leadership Training Institute \(TLTI\) & TCAT SEM Fall Check-In Th 11:00 a.m to Friday CST-2:00 p.m.](#)

26 | [Application Opens for SkillsUSA State Officer Applications](#)

OCTOBER 2024

1 | [Application Deadline for SkillsUSA State Officer Applications](#)

9 | [Registration Closes for the SkillsUSA & SGPC - Tennessee Leadership Training Institute \(TLTI\) & TCAT SEM Fall Check-In Th 11:00 a.m to Friday CST-2:00 p.m.](#)

24-25 | [SkillsUSA & SGPC - Tennessee Leadership Training Institute \(TLTI\) & TCAT SEM Fall Check-In Th 11:00 a.m to Friday CST-2:00 p.m.](#)

NOVEMBER 2024

15 | [SkillsUSA Fall Membership Deadline Due](#)

DECEMBER 2024

1 | SkillsUSA Week T-Shirt Design Due to Nationals <https://bit.ly/SkillsUSAWeekTshirt>

6-7 | SkillsUSA State Officer Training Dec 6 5:30 p.m EST to Sat 2:00 p.m. EST

8 | SkillsUSA Week T-Shirt Design Winner Announced on SkillsUSA's social media platforms.

JANUARY 2025

13 | [Registration Opens SGPC & SkillsUSA Day on the Hill Activities 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Central](#)

17 | SkillsUSA Technical Chair Meeting Chattanooga 11:00 a.m. EST Officers assist

17-18 | SkillsUSA Executive Committee Meeting and State Officer Training

31 | [SkillsUSA Pin Design Contest Submission Due](#)

FEBRUARY 2025

1 | T-Shirt and Pin Design Due

3 | [Registration Opens SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference Sunday 5:00 p.m.-Wednesday 1:00 p.m.](#)

3 | [Registration Opens SkillsUSA Chapter of Excellence and Outstanding Advisor of the Year](#)

5-9 | [SkillsUSA Week held in conjunction with Regionals TBA](#) (Also High School Regionals)

13 | [Day on the Hill Registration Opens](#)

14 | [SkillsUSA T-Shirt Contest Design Due](#)

21-22 | SkillsUSA State Officer Training Fri 5:30 p.m. CST-Sat 2:00 p.m.

MARCH 2025

3 | [SkillsUSA Membership Deadline](#)

3 | [SkillsUSA State Conference Registration Deadline](#)

3 | [SkillsUSA Chapter of Excellence Deadline](#)

3 | [SkillsUSA Outstanding Advisor of the Year Due](#)

6 | SkillsUSA Hotel Registration Opens

6 | [Day on the Hill Registration Due \(2 per college in addition to any state officers\)](#)

11 | State Leadership and Skills Conference Housing Closes

16-17 | SkillsUSA Executive Committee Meeting and State Officer Training

17 | [SkillsUSA Middle School State Conference](#)

17 | State Leadership and Skills Conference Testing Opens

25 | SkillsUSA Executive Committee Meeting and State Officer Training

26 | Day on the Hill Nashville

28 | State Leadership and Skills Conference Testing Closes

APRIL 2025

13-16 | [SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference Sunday 5:00 p.m.-Wednesday 1:00 p.m.](#)

MAY 2025

6 | SkillsUSA National Signing Day

16-17 | SkillsUSA Executive Committee Meeting and State Officer Training

JUNE 2025

23-27 | SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference | Atlanta, GA

30 | SkillsUSA Reserve Membership Grant Due

Note: visit the High School Division's [website](#) for Dual Enrollment Student's Dates.