



2023 Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTi) Report

SkillsUSA Tennessee College/Postsecondary proudly represented the Volunteer State at the **2023 Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTi)** in Washington, D.C., where **17 student leaders** participated in one of SkillsUSA's premier national leadership development experiences. The conference prepares students to become effective leaders, advocates for Career and Technical Education (CTE), and future members of Tennessee's skilled workforce.

Throughout the conference, students participated in advanced leadership training centered on the SkillsUSA Framework Essential Elements of **Professionalism, Communication, and Leadership**. Through interactive workshops, team-based learning experiences, and state planning sessions, participants strengthened their ability to communicate effectively, collaborate with others, and lead with integrity while networking with SkillsUSA members from across the country.

A cornerstone of the Washington Leadership Training Institute is advocacy. Tennessee students traveled to **Capitol Hill** to meet with members of Congress and congressional staff, sharing their personal Career and Technical Education (CTE) stories while advocating for continued investment in workforce development and SkillsUSA. These visits provided students with

firsthand experience in the legislative process and demonstrated the important role students play in shaping the future of technical education.

Students also participated in meaningful civic experiences throughout Washington, D.C., including educational tours of national monuments and museums and a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** in Arlington National Cemetery, honoring the service and sacrifice of America's military members. These experiences reinforced the importance of civic responsibility, patriotism, and servant leadership.

Tennessee students achieved exceptional results during the conference. **All 17 participants earned the prestigious National Statesman Pin**, recognizing excellence in leadership, civic awareness, SkillsUSA knowledge, and advocacy. In addition, Tennessee participants earned **three national certifications**, further demonstrating their commitment to professional growth and lifelong learning.

Beyond individual accomplishments, the conference strengthened collaboration among Tennessee's college/postsecondary chapters while preparing state officers and emerging student leaders for a successful year of service. Students returned home equipped with new leadership strategies, stronger advocacy skills, expanded professional networks, and a renewed commitment to serving their schools, communities, and the workforce.

The Washington Leadership Training Institute continues to be one of the most impactful leadership opportunities offered through SkillsUSA. By combining leadership development, civic engagement, workforce advocacy, and national collaboration, WLTI equips Tennessee students to become confident leaders who will positively influence their communities, champion Career and Technical Education, and help build the skilled workforce our state and nation depend on.

