



Leesburg, Va. -- A delegation of 69 students and instructors from Tennessee met with their elected officials in Washington, D.C., on September 23, 2024, to talk about how SkillsUSA and their career and technical education (CTE) programs have prepared them to be college-- and career-ready.

The four-day SkillsUSA Washington Leadership Training Institute conference [September 21-24, 2024] provided students an opportunity to grow in their professionalism, communication, and leadership skills, which they apply during their visits to Congress. Delegations talked to elected officials or their staff members about their education paths and CTE training programs, the value of career and technical education and the benefits of their SkillsUSA participation. They explained how today's workplace requires employees with career readiness skills, and that SkillsUSA develops these skills in students of all ages and backgrounds.

The conference focused on advanced communications skills including development of a SkillsUSA Framework story to share during their visits with elected officials. This year's conference included training for students and advisors on personal and workplace skills; a tour of Washington, D.C., monuments and museums; and a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

SkillsUSA is one of the nation's largest individual membership organizations for career and technical students and its programs are integrated into the CTE curriculum. According to the U.S. Department of Education, the average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 94% compared to an average national

freshman graduation rate of 85%. CTE also helps create a trained pipeline of future workers to support a strong American economy and global competitiveness.

Students achieved three certifications during WLTl and obtained the highest award SkillsUSA bestows: The National Statesmen Pin. Certifications included the Framework Certification, CTE Knowledge Certification, and Communication with Authenticity and Integrity in informal settings.

Following is a list of those receiving their National Statesmen Pin:

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Sergio    | Campos          |
| Shannon   | Zuniga          |
| James     | Haubrich        |
| Brian     | Matthews        |
| Christy   | Young           |
| Adrian    | Witherspoo<br>n |
| Austin    | Howell          |
| Janet     | Watson          |
| Mike      | Mercer          |
| Samuel    | Watkins         |
| Adrian    | Thomas          |
| Marquez   | Moss            |
| Ethan     | Manis           |
| Alex      | Fowlkes         |
| Bradley   | Tracy           |
| Marlisha  | Ross            |
| Alexus    | Cooper          |
| Tunnica   | Jenkins         |
| Nathan    | Brown           |
| Tiffany   | McCutcheon      |
| Jayne     | Roysden         |
| Michael   | Johnson         |
| Gabe      | Dunn            |
| Shequetta | Linzy           |
| Sharon    | Couch           |
| Tanner    | Ashlock         |
| Daphne    | Brown           |
| Cynthia   | Rutledge        |
| Daniel    | Arnett          |
| Logan     | Jones           |
| Shecoria  | Dowell          |
| Grant     | Hammer          |
| Lollie    | Brown           |
| Ian       | Metcalf         |

|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| Kenny     | Keith      |
| Christian | Anderson   |
| Scott     | Mull       |
| Darren    | Aldred     |
| Jimmy     | Goodrick   |
| Darrel    | Roland     |
| Scott     | Hicks      |
| Austin    | Cotter     |
| Charles   | Ferrell    |
| Andrew    | Aydelott   |
| Shanna    | Franklin   |
| Chase     | Somerville |
| Kallie    | McCrary    |
| Natasha   | Cherry     |
| Teresa    | Cantrell   |
| Landon    | Isabel     |

Colleges attending include:

Chattanooga State Community College

Cleveland State Community College

Jackson State Community College

Nashville State Community College

Northeast State Community College

Pellissippi State Community College

TCAT Crump

TCAT Dickson

TCAT Harriman

TCAT Henry/Carroll

TCAT Jackson

TCAT Knoxville

TCAT McMinnville

TCAT Memphis

TCAT Morristown

TCAT Murfreesboro

TCAT Nashville

TCAT Northwest

TCAT Oneida/Huntsville

TCAT Pulaski

TCAT Shelbyville

Volunteer State Community College

About SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is the #1 workforce development organization for students, empowering them to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders, and responsible community members. SkillsUSA represents more than 413,000 career and technical education students and teachers in middle schools, high schools, and college/postsecondary institutions nationwide. Those members represent 130 in-demand occupational areas, from 3-D animation to welding. A vital solution to the skills gap, SkillsUSA has served nearly 15 million members since its founding in 1965. Learn more at [skillsusa.org](https://skillsusa.org) and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn.

