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SkillsUSA Launches Work Force Ready System

SkillsUSA to offer industry-driven knowledge and skill assessments

Leesburg, VA - SkillsUSA announces today that beginning this spring, they will offer industry-driven knowledge and skill assessments in technical areas that correspond to many career cluster areas. These Skill Connect Assessments are part of the SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System.

“We're building our American work force by providing online technical assessments that may be used as a pre-test, end-of-program assessment, or as an entry portal to existing credentialing organizations, such as AWS (American Welding Society) or NCCER (National Center for Construction Education and Research),” says SkillsUSA Executive Director Tim Lawrence. “Skill Connect Assessments help students show they've got what it takes to begin rewarding careers while helping instructors prove the benefits of career and technical education programs. Additionally, local employers can have more confidence in understanding the competency of a skilled work force.”

This spring, eight of the 46 technical assessments will be available online with simulations and features that deliver a reliable assessment for CTE students. As more assessments are developed, they will be housed in an online system that provides technical assistance, student progress tracking and the opportunity for instructor feedback on the assessments.

“We built our assessments with guidance from independent research conducted in the spring of this year with CTE directors, state administrators and CTE instructors nationwide,” Lawrence said. “Educators gave us the big picture of CTE assessments, and we're working to address the needs they identified. For example, instructors should find that Skill Connect Assessments help them meet Perkins IV requirements for student achievement.”

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More information about the Skill Connect Assessments and the entire SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System, including online demonstrations, may be found at www.workforcereadysystem.org.

The SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System was developed as an extension of the SkillsUSA mission and supported by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The System recognizes students for excellence in occupational training; it assesses and documents the entry-level technical proficiency and cumulative experiences of candidates. The unique collaboration between employers and educators also improves instructional programs and provides teachers with a system that is easy to use. For more information about the SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System, visit www.workforcereadysystem.org.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. SkillsUSA serves more than 285,000 students and instructors annually and has served more than nine million members since its founding in 1965. The organization has 15,000 member classrooms in 54 states and territorial associations. More than 14,500 instructors and administrators are professional members of SkillsUSA.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930 “to help people help themselves through the practical application of knowledge and resources to improve their quality of life and that of future generations.” Its programming activities center around the common vision of a world in which each person has a sense of worth; accepts responsibility for self, family, community, and societal well-being; and has the capacity to be productive, and to help create nurturing families, responsive institutions, and healthy communities.

To achieve its greatest impact, the Foundation targets grants toward specific areas. These include health; food systems and rural development; youth and education; and philanthropy and voluntarism. Within these areas, attention is given to exploring learning opportunities in leadership; information and communication technology; capitalizing on diversity; and social and economic community development. Grants are concentrated in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the southern African countries Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe.

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