



Let's Build Something Together™



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Ten SkillsUSA Schools Receive \$10,000 Community Service Grants from Lowe's

LEESBURG, Va. (June 6, 2007) – The Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation is helping to address the country's growing skilled worker shortage and "skills gap" by contributing a total of \$500,000 to SkillsUSA programs. Lowe's Companies selected 10 SkillsUSA schools to receive SkillsUSA/Lowe's \$10,000 community service grants for innovative community improvement projects within their communities. The grants are designed to further the SkillsUSA program in communities, provide awareness of technical careers and training opportunities, and highlight SkillsUSA's benefits to the community.

Lowe's also awarded grants in the amount of \$10,000 to SkillsUSA schools for innovative educational programs. Additional grant monies and in-kind material donations will support educational and training opportunities including CareerSafe occupational safety instruction and SkillsUSA's National Leadership and Skills Conference.

"These grants represent Lowe's commitment to communities," said Larry D. Stone, chairman of Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation. "By supporting local communities like these, we are investing in projects that are important to our customers and employees and also helping schools build a stronger foundation for the children who will be tomorrow's employees, homeowners and community leaders."

"The partnership of SkillsUSA and Lowe's will have an important impact on education and economic development," said Tim Lawrence, executive director of SkillsUSA. "SkillsUSA helps students develop their abilities in areas highlighted by employers. And, community service as service learning has documented benefits in students' education outcomes and community development. Our students and teachers are champions at work and these grants will allow them to build lots of things together. We thank Lowe's for helping our chapters and instructors to become even more effective."

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The schools receiving community service grants are listed below and a list of their projects is detailed online at <http://www.skillsusa.org/educators/lowessvc.shtml>.

Georgia:	Augusta Technical College
Idaho:	Blackfoot High School
New York:	Alfred State College
New York:	Potter Career and Technical Center
Ohio:	Millstream Career and Technology Center
Rhode Island:	Warwick Area Career and Technical Center
South Carolina:	Beaufort-Jasper Academy for Career Excellence
Texas:	A&M Consolidated High School
Virginia:	Edison Academy
Virginia:	Virginia Beach Technical Center

About SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization of students, teachers and industry, working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. SkillsUSA helps high school and college students enrolled in career and technical education programs to excel by teaching employability skills such as communication, problem solving and leadership in conjunction with their trade, technical and service occupations skills. The association's annual membership exceeds 285,000 students and instructors in more than 3,700 schools and colleges in every state, three territories and the District of Columbia. For more information, visit www.SkillsUSA.org.

About Lowe's

Lowe's is a proud supporter of Habitat for Humanity International, American Red Cross, United Way of America, and the Home Safety Council, in addition to numerous non-profit organizations and programs that help communities across the country. In 2006, the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation awarded \$15 million to diverse organizations across the United States. Lowe's also encourages volunteerism through the Lowe's Heroes program, a company-wide employee volunteer initiative. Lowe's is a FORTUNE® 50 company with fiscal year 2006 sales of \$46.9 billion and has more than 1,400 stores in 49 states. For more information, visit Lowe.com/community.

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