



Contacts: Maureen Rich  
Public Relations  
Lowe's Companies, Inc.  
704-758-2298  
[Maureen.a.rich@lowes.com](mailto:Maureen.a.rich@lowes.com)

Tom Holdsworth  
703-737-0607  
Jane DeShong Short  
703-737-0612  
SkillsUSA

### **Twenty SkillsUSA Schools Receive \$10,000 Education Grants from Lowe's**

LEESBURG, Va. (May 22, 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. Twenty SkillsUSA schools have been selected by Lowe's Companies to receive the first SkillsUSA/Lowe's \$10,000 education grants for innovative projects or program enhancements at their institutions. The grants are designed to further the SkillsUSA program at local schools, provide awareness of technical careers and training opportunities, and highlight the good work that SkillsUSA is doing.

Lowe's will next be awarding grants in the amount of \$10,000 to SkillsUSA chapters for innovative community service projects. 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 education," said Larry D. Stone, chairman of Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation. "By supporting local schools like these, we believe we are not only investing in community projects that are important to our customers and employees, but we're 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."

The schools who have received the education grants are listed below and a list of their projects is detailed online at <http://www.skillsusa.org/educators/lowes.shtml>.

## Twenty Schools Receive Lowe's Education Grants

Page Two

Arkansas:	North Little Rock High School West, Little Rock
Connecticut:	Platt Technical High School, Milford
Delaware:	St. Georges Technical High School, Middletown
Kansas:	Kansas City Area Technical School, Kansas City
New York:	Orleans Niagara BOCES, Medina
Missouri:	Franklin Technology Center, Joplin
Maryland:	Frederick County Career and Technology Center, Frederick
Massachusetts:	Upper Cape Regional Technical School, Bourne
Michigan:	Saginaw Career Complex, Saginaw
Nebraska:	Platteview High School, Springfield
New Jersey:	Burlington County Institute of Technology, Westampton
Ohio:	Timken High School, Canton
Oregon:	Glendale High School, Glendale
Pennsylvania:	Forbes Road Career and Technical Center, Monroeville
Pennsylvania:	Warren County Career Center, Warren
Tennessee:	Hardin County High School, Savannah
Tennessee:	Southwest Career and Technology Center, Memphis
Texas:	Stony Point High School, Round Rock
Virginia:	Chantilly Academy, Fairfax
Virginia:	Washington County Technical School in Abingdon

### **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](http://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 2005 the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation awarded \$13 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 2005 sales of \$43.2 billion and has more than 1,350 stores in 49 states. For more information, visit [www.Lowes.com/community](http://www.Lowes.com/community)

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