

SkillsUSA: Champions at Work, Celebrate 50 years with 50,000

The SkillsUSA Alumni and Friends Association challenges alumni, active members and all friends of SkillsUSA to help us complete 50,000 hours of community service. The SkillsUSA 50K Challenge celebrates SkillsUSA's 50-year legacy of supporting healthy and vibrant communities through direct community service. As an organization, SkillsUSA's goal is to track and record 50,000 hours of service from Sept. 20, 2014, through June 26.

Service hours logged as part of the 50K Challenge can include volunteering at any nonprofit organization, school, community or faith-based organization. Service hours will be logged through the end of SkillsUSA's national conference. Participants can log hours individually or as a group.

Log on to: www.SkillsUSAService.org to register for the challenge, learn more, and to log your hours for the challenge.

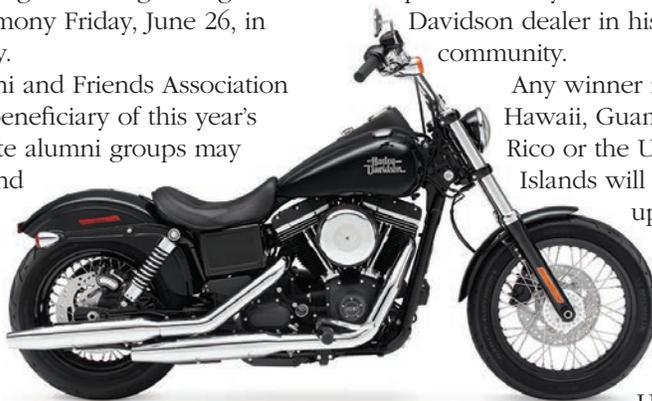


Photo: Lloyd Wolf

Vroom, Vroom, Vroom, Vroom

One lucky winner will take home a 2015 Harley-Davidson from the SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference, following a drawing during the awards ceremony Friday, June 26, in Louisville, Ky.

The Alumni and Friends Association will be the beneficiary of this year's drawing. State alumni groups may sell tickets and raise money for their own state group or support the national alumni association. Tickets are \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. For each ticket sold, the state alumni group selling the ticket will receive \$2. State association ticket sales must end on May 31. Ticket stubs, unsold tickets and sales checks (\$3 per ticket sold) need to be sent to Byekwaso Gilbert by June 1.



The winner does not need to be present for the drawing; however, he or she will be responsible for picking up the motorcycle at a local Harley-Davidson dealer in his or her community.

Any winner residing in Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands will need to pick up the bike at the nearest dealer located in the continental United States. This event is made possible thanks to Harley-Davidson Motor Co. Inc.

For more information, to order tickets or to sell tickets at your SkillsUSA state events, please contact Byekwaso Gilbert at 816-726-4255 or by email to bgilbert@skillsusa.org.

Keeping connections strong

Interested in building a professional network? Here are some tips to strengthen your connections:

1. Have and be a mentor.
2. Communicate regularly with those in your network.
3. Build and maintain relationships.
4. Use social media strategically by posting pictures of yourself at work in your trade.
5. Join professional trade-related groups.
6. Host events/socialize.
7. Frequently update your contacts list.
8. Volunteer in your community and trade area.
9. Stay connected to your technical program school and teacher.
10. Always be pleasant and friendly in every situation.

Regional Updates

Contact your Regional Alumni Coordinating Committee representatives with alumni news or information from your state. Use the email addresses below or access them through the alumni website: www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumni.shtml.

Region 1

Maria Bender, New Jersey • SkillsUSAregion1rep@gmail.com
With the help of 15 alumni, the Maine fall leadership conference was held in October. Both new and seasoned alumni shared stories and taught leadership sessions. Any alumnus interested in helping at the Maine State Conference in early March should contact Emily Hughes at: emilyhughes_2005@yahoo.com.

Region 2

Joey Baker, Florida • SkillsUSAregion2rep@gmail.com
Baker attended the Georgia and Florida fall leadership conferences. In Georgia, Baker taught a session on how to remain involved after graduation. In Florida, Baker trained new advisors on how to use alumni to lead their chapters and on how to encourage alumni membership. At both conferences, he presented the SkillsUSA 50K Challenge.

Region 3

Loree Moore, Illinois • SkillsUSAregion3rep@gmail.com
Illinois alumni members served as trainers for students and state officers at the fall state conference. West Virginia alumni are racking up community service hours for the 50k Challenge and looking to hold an alumni training session at their April state conference, where alumni volunteers can register for free.

Region 4

Terry Robinson, Oklahoma • SkillsUSAregion4rep@gmail.com
In October, SkillsUSA Oklahoma held a college/postsecondary event in Norman with 515 members in attendance. Later that month, Robinson with Darren Gibson, Paul King, Cody McPherson and Shane Morrison attended the Mid-America Conference in Columbus, Neb. More than 100 students and 40 advisors from eight states learned how to implement the Program of Work. In November, Oklahoma alumni held a reunion at Moore-Norman Technology Center. Displays depicted past activities and events. After the reunion, more than 100 attended the opening home game of the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Region 5

Coleen Read, Nevada • SkillsUSAregion5rep@gmail.com
At the Nevada fall leadership conference, students were encouraged to sign up for the 50k Challenge. In September, California held an alumni barbecue. In New Mexico, a new state coordinator is working to establish an alumni association.

Contact your SkillsUSA state directors to see when, where and how you can help with fall conferences.

Alumni Startup/Project Winners

Tennessee and Arizona were awarded the 2014-2015 Alumni Startup/Project Grants. These two states are bringing together alumni and building a foundation for future state events. Next year, the SkillsUSA Alumni and Friends Association hopes to award four grants.

Join us on Facebook and Twitter: SkillsUSA Alumni and Friends Association.



Photo: Craig Moore



Donnelly

From feeding the body, to feeding the soul

by Byekwaso Gilbert
Program Manager, SkillsUSA

From his days as a culinary arts student to his present position with the U.S. Department of State, Jacob Donnelly has been on a mission to make a difference in the world.

A graduate of Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School in Franklin, Mass., Donnelly served as the 1999-2000 SkillsUSA national high school treasurer.

He says SkillsUSA and Tri-County nurtured his interests, helped him understand the many career options available and instilled in him the importance of being an independent thinker with the ability to make decisions to meet his own goals.

After graduating from Tri-County, Donnelly attended Babson College in Babson Park, Mass., where he graduated in 2004 with a degree in business management. While at Babson, Donnelly started the college's Amnesty International chapter.

Donnelly then took a management consultant position with Accenture, a global consulting and technology firm in San Francisco. He left this high-paying job to co-found the Freedom Campaign, a nonprofit organization that raised awareness of human rights abuses in Burma.

He then went on to earn a master's degree in public administration/international development from Harvard Kennedy School of Government plus a master of business administration from the Harvard Business School. While at Harvard, he co-founded Farm Builders, a company helping farmers replant trees in Liberia, and worked for the president of Liberia.

In 2011, he joined the nonprofit board of IDinsight and began working for New Island Capital in San Francisco.

In 2014, Donnelly was appointed as a White House Fellow to serve at the U.S. Department of State. Founded in 1964 by Lyndon B. Johnson, the White House Fellows program is one of America's most prestigious programs for leadership and public service.

Donnelly has participated in the Tri-County's annual alumni panel. He believes the vocational, hands-on experience Tri-County offers helps students get ahead of their peers.

In September, Donnelly was keynote speaker at SkillsUSA's Washington Leadership Training Institute.

Pin down a winning design

SkillsUSA sponsors an alumni pin design competition open to all SkillsUSA registered alumni. The winner becomes the official alumni pin for the 2015 National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC), produced by the SkillsUSA Store and sold at the alumni booth during NLSC. One design will be selected.

All entries must be submitted to SkillsUSA. One entry per SkillsUSA alumni member is permitted. Questions? Contact: Byekwaso Gilbert, bgilbert@skillsusa.org. Visit: www.skillsusa.org/alumni-pin-design-competition-4/ for details.