



*State Association*

**SkillsUSA Michigan**

*School*

**Owosso High School**

*Training Program*

**Advanced Engineering**

*Advisor*

**Carrie Warning**

*Primary Framework Skills*

**Professionalism, Communication**

### ***CTE Belief Statement***

I believe SkillsUSA, and career and technical education (CTE), prepares individuals for a successful career path. CTE is implemented beyond the classroom and prepares individuals for their career pathway.

### ***My Framework Story***

You know that feeling when you're so scared you can't move? I remember it vividly when I first started my SkillsUSA journey as a high school freshman. At that point, I really had no idea what I wanted to do with my life, and I decided to join the engineering program at my school, thinking I'd give it a shot and see if it was something I might enjoy. It was there that I found SkillsUSA. Though I was more comfortable sticking to myself than reaching out to others, I attended the regional conference and competed. I placed low in the competition and that experience made me realize how much I was holding myself back by not connecting with others. After that I practiced my public speaking and communication skills and decided to run for and was elected to state office. Now, I'm proud to say that I'm part of the SkillsUSA national officer team. It's been an amazing journey, and I've learned so much about myself along the way. Stepping out of your comfort zone can be scary, but it can also lead to incredible opportunities. Embracing challenges is a key part of growth. Just because you stumble, or face setbacks doesn't mean you shouldn't keep moving forward. In fact, those experiences can shape you into a stronger, more resilient person.





*State Association*  
**SkillsUSA Ohio**

*School*  
**Penta Career Center**

*Training Program*  
**Culinary Arts**

*Advisor*  
**Janea Makowski**

*Primary Framework Skill*  
**Multicultural Sensitivity and Awareness**

### ***CTE Belief Statement***

Career and technical education (CTE) is a vital pathway for students to identify and develop their passions. This educational approach facilitates learning through interactive environments that offer real-world experiences and opportunities to connect with industry professionals. CTE equips students with essential skills for the future workforce and fosters the development of their genuine interests and aspirations.

### ***My Framework Story***

Picture this: A first-year culinary student entering a volunteer-run cafe on her first day. Overwhelmed and intimidated by seeing a diverse line of people waiting for food and training, she realizes she has never been trained in multicultural sensitivity and awareness. This student was me a year ago, and since then, I've developed my skills in this area. On my first shift, I had the opportunity to interact with and train volunteers, learn their stories and their reasons for being there. These interactions helped me understand and respect others and understand the significance of multicultural sensitivity and awareness in the workplace. In the future, I will apply these skills in my culinary career, whether in restaurants, catering, or food education. By fostering an inclusive environment that values diverse backgrounds, I aim to create a welcoming atmosphere for colleagues and customers alike, enhancing the dining experience for everyone.





*State Association*

**SkillsUSA Tennessee**

*School*

**College of Applied Technology -  
Knoxville**

*Training Program*

**Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning,  
and Refrigeration (HVAC/R)**

*Advisor*

**Nellie Blanton**

*Primary Framework Skills*

**Communication and  
Technology Literacy**

### ***CTE Belief Statement***

Career and technical education (CTE) is what keeps our country alive. Though we face the challenges brought forth by the skills gap, thousands of motivated individuals across the country pour their passion and willpower into skills vital to everyday life. By reinforcing technical, professional, and personal skills, CTE helps develop students into field leaders.

### ***My Framework Story***

Nothing makes college life more manageable than getting your tuition paid for! As a veteran, I earned this through my service to the country, but I also wanted to help others relieve some of their financial burden. Researching what I could do to help my fellow students, I discovered SkillsUSA's online scholarship portal. This gave me a great idea! I could utilize presentation software to guide students through the application process and get as many students as possible to apply for these scholarships. After much work, a ton of polish, and a solid presentation, I assisted 82 students through the application process. A few weeks later, many were awarded scholarship money to assist with their tuition. By learning how to use software to present relevant information, I accomplished my goal to help others get the help they needed for their career and technical education.





*State Association*

**SkillsUSA Louisiana**

*School*

**Northshore Technical Community College**

*Training Program*

**Care and Development of Young Children**

*Advisor*

**Arlendra Montegue**

*Primary Framework Skills*

**Adaptability and Flexibility,  
Decision-Making**

### ***CTE Belief Statement***

Career and technical education (CTE) empowers you to thrive in an ever-changing workforce. By offering hands-on learning, real-world skills, and practical experiences, CTE gives you the tools to explore diverse career paths and ignites your potential. CTE helps to develop critical thinking, innovation and the confidence to lead, ensuring students are prepared to excel personally and professionally.

### ***My Framework Story***

At the National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC), I was racing against the clock during the Early Childhood Education competition. Immersed in creating my lesson plan, I felt confident — until I overheard the technical committee chair mention a twist that threw me off balance: the teaching materials would be split between two rooms. Panic set in as I scrambled to revise my plan with only 15 minutes left. I simplified, adjusted, and adapted quickly, determined to make it work. In those final moments, my heart pounded, but I focused on staying calm and problem-solving. When the chair called time, I handed in my plan, unsure what to expect. Later, I learned I had won the gold medal. Still, the real victory was the lesson I took with me: adaptability and quick decision-making are crucial in early childhood education, where challenges are constant. This experience taught me to stay flexible, trust myself, and respond confidently to whatever comes my way.





*State Association*

**SkillsUSA Arizona**

*School*

**Payson High School**

*Training Program*

**Construction Technology**

*Advisor*

**Chris Harold**

*Primary Framework Skill*

**Adaptability and Flexibility**

### ***CTE Belief Statement***

Career and technical education (CTE) plays a huge role in helping students identify their future career paths. By providing hands-on learning experiences tailored to specific fields, CTE enables students to explore a variety of professions and gain skills relevant to their chosen industries. This prepares students more effectively for their future careers, equipping them with the knowledge and competencies needed to excel in the workforce. Through CTE, students are better positioned to make informed decisions about their professional futures and to enter the workforce with a strong foundation of skills and experience.

### ***My Framework Story***

Being thrown into a last-minute leadership position can be extremely difficult, right? Early in my sophomore year, I was asked to speak to our middle school students once a month to tell them about my CTE class and SkillsUSA. I had no idea what I would say, but I was happy to help my advisor, so I accepted his offer. When it was time to talk to them, I panicked. What if they weren't interested? What if they had a question I couldn't answer? What if they didn't like me? What if I messed up? Although I was nervous, I knew I couldn't let my advisor down. It was a rocky start. I introduced myself but then forgot what I planned to say. At first, I was worried, but I remembered what my advisor said, "Nobody knows what you want to say but you." So, I took a deep breath and thought about it, and I could finish my speech while keeping my peers engaged. I was able to overcome and adapt to my circumstances. This taught me how to be a better leader. Young eyes are always watching and looking up to older students. Being a good influence and an example for upcoming generations allows us to grow as leaders. I challenge you to be the leader that young eyes are watching, not just today, but every day. Be someone your peers can look to and follow.





*State Association*

**SkillsUSA Massachusetts**

*School*

**Blackstone Valley Regional  
Vocational Technical High School**

*Training Program*

**Biotechnology**

*Advisor*

**Rebecca Corda**

*Primary Framework Skills*

**Leadership and Self-Motivation**

### ***CTE Belief Statement***

Career and technical education (CTE) fosters a sense of community, instilling students with the skills they need to be successful in their future pathways. It provides crucial workplace fundamentals that industry partners look for, which sets our members ahead in the search for a career.

### ***My Framework Story***

You're entirely alone, but people surround you. What do you do now? That is exactly what I asked myself as I walked into the trade center just minutes before the opening session of my state conference. As a state officer candidate, I had the opportunity to participate in the opening session and meet the other candidates. They all seemed to have better qualifications than I did; they were chapter officers, had credentials, and had awards I hadn't ever heard of. Yet, I didn't allow this to phase me because I knew that despite my introductory SkillsUSA knowledge, I had the dedication and confidence to give my all. Through an overwhelming amount of self-motivation, I worked hard each day of the conference and I'm proud to say that I was elected as a state officer. Encouraging myself each day is what pushed me to put myself out there and ignore my initial intimidation. Always approach challenges with an "I can do it!" mindset because you must believe in yourself before others can believe in you. Remember, self-belief is the key to success.





*State Association*

**SkillsUSA New Mexico**

*School*

**Hobbs High School Career and  
Technical Education Center**

*Training Program*

**Welding Fabrication**

*Advisor*

**Juan-Carlos Medina**

*Primary Framework Skill*

**Adaptability and Flexibility**

### ***CTE Belief Statement***

I believe career and technical education (CTE) is a vast tapestry of opportunity where each person's individual story and experience adds to the tapestry. Through workplace experiences that allow students to learn through real world hands-on training that goes beyond just the theory, CTE teaches students like me that going to a university or college isn't the end all be all to success. CTE also gives the opportunity for students who aren't as academically inclined to reach and accomplish their dreams.

### ***My Framework Story***

"Guys, this thing is a total disaster!" The panicked shout cut through the workshop, and for a moment, it felt like everything was about to fall apart. We'd spent weeks perfecting our metal sculpture, with every weld flawless and every joint in place. But here we were, just hours before the competition, staring at a warped mess that threw our entire design out of whack. Tension hit like a hammer, but instead of letting it break us, I took a breath and told the team, "Alright, new plan — let's get creative." We scrapped our original design and threw together improvised fixes, working on the fly to salvage what we could. It wasn't what we'd imagined, but it somehow came together. Now, we didn't walk away with first place like we'd hoped, but we realized the real win wasn't the perfect execution — it was our ability to adapt when everything went off script.





*State Association*  
**SkillsUSA Texas**

*School*  
**Grand Prairie Collegiate  
Institute**

*Training Program*  
**Biomedical Sciences**

*Advisor*  
**Rodney Kasper**

*Primary Framework Skill*  
**Adaptability and Flexibility**

### ***CTE Belief Statement***

I believe career and technical education is an essential learning tool for students, equipping them with the practical skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the workforce. It not only prepares individuals for meaningful careers but also fosters opportunities to give back through mentorship and service. The rewarding experience of helping others develop their talents and achieve their goals reflects the true spirit of CTE. By creating a culture of support and collaboration, we empower the next generation to thrive and make a positive impact in their communities.

### ***My Framework Story***

The clock was ticking, the rain was pouring, and I was about to miss a crucial meeting that could shape the future of career and technical education in Texas. Last year at WLT, I found myself in a situation that would push me to my limits and teach me a lesson I'd never forget. As we prepared for our congressional visit, my state officers and I had a solid plan. I was confident I would stick with a fellow officer from my district. But moments before our meeting, I discovered we were in different groups. Panic set in as I realized I had no idea how to reconnect with my district officers with less than 30 minutes to go. In a frantic attempt to locate them, we used Life 360, only to face a glitch that sent us ten minutes in the wrong direction. Then, the skies opened, and rain began to pour as we rushed up the hills vigorously trying to make our way back. In that moment, I realized that staying flexible was crucial. Instead of panicking, we decided to ask for directions, demonstrating that adaptability in leadership can turn obstacles into opportunities. We finally arrived just in time for our meeting with the Texas legislature, successfully advocating for SkillsUSA and CTE. This experience taught me the invaluable skill of adaptability and flexibility — how essential it is to stay resilient and composed when faced with unexpected challenges.





*State Association*

**SkillsUSA Oklahoma**

*School*

**Canadian Valley Technology Center –  
Chickasha Campus**

*Training Program*

**Pre-Engineering**

*Advisor*

**Jonathon Knapp**

*Primary Framework Skills*

**Planning, Organizing and  
Management and Self-Motivation**

### ***CTE Belief Statement***

I believe that career and technical education (CTE) gives students the power to take charge of their own future. CTE gives students the opportunity to get started on learning about their intended career path now. CTE prepares students for the world of work and gives them the power to continue moving forward on their path.

### ***My Framework Story***

I remember the moment when my district CTSO coordinator walked into my Aerospace Engineering classroom and talked to us about the possibility of running for SkillsUSA Oklahoma state office. At that point, I had not been in the organization long enough to consider it, but it lit a spark in me that I carried throughout that year and the next. When the 2024-2025 applications rolled out, I was the first person to express my interest. I quickly learned, however, that there was much more to getting elected than just writing my name on a piece of paper. When I saw the list of required materials, I was shocked to see the length of the application and the amount of preparation I would need for the interview. I was initially discouraged, but then I thought about the girl sat in my very seat one year ago with a dream that from that moment forward, I would take tasks one step at a time and if I wanted to give up, I would remind myself about the possibilities ahead of me and press forward. My application passed and I did well in the interview process. After my "Meet the Candidates" session, I sat in the crowd with the red and blue lights shining down surrounded by my classmates and competitors and my name was announced. The essential element of self-motivation will continue to serve me through my term as a national officer and for the rest of my life.





*State Association*

**SkillsUSA California**

*School*

**Reedly College**

*Training Program*

**Education**

*Advisor*

**Mark Bray**

*Primary Framework Skill*

**Integrity**

### ***CTE Belief Statement***

I believe that career and technical education is the spark that students need to achieve greater levels of success. This is the knowledge and skills that can help students become the next leaders in the world of work. I believe that the students of today can become the experienced workers of tomorrow.

### ***My Framework Story***

Picture this, A young student who has no idea what they're going to do with themselves. This student competes regionally and gets silver in a 3D Animation competition and moves onto state competitions and goes to state conference. This young and eager student, unsure of their path but hungry for a purpose found its purpose at their first-ever state conference. This student was me. SkillsUSA instilled in me the unwavering belief that no dream is too audacious and that every skill has the power to shape lives. This became my mantra, to achieve my dreams no matter how audacious it might seem. It was my integrity that allowed me to move forward and hold myself accountable. Day-by-day I tried to do what was right even when no one was looking. There were random moments in my life where I even opened a door for my State Director without knowing who he was. I stand here as proof that SkillsUSA is more than just an educational organization. It is a catalyst for personal and collective growth, a platform that empowers individuals to make a difference in their own lives and the lives of others. SkillsUSA has given me the tools to not only pursue a career in education but to become a beacon of inspiration for students who need it the most. It's given me the integrity necessary to hold strong to my beliefs. Through this organization, I have learned the importance of mentorship, empathy, and the profound impact that educators can have on shaping the lives of students.





*State Association*  
**SkillsUSA Utah**

*School*  
**Boise State University**

*Training Program*  
**Occupational Health and Safety**

*Advisor*  
**Jack Polifka**

*Primary Framework Skill*  
**Professionalism**

### ***CTE Belief Statement***

I believe that SkillsUSA and career and technical education provide students with hands-on learning and opportunities to explore and discover their passion within the industry. These programs not only build technical expertise but also foster critical skills such as teamwork, communication, and leadership, preparing students for success in the workforce. By participating in these programs, students gain real-world experience that enhances their confidence and equips them with the tools they need to thrive in their chosen careers.

### ***My Framework Story***

In my junior year of high school, I joined SkillsUSA and faced a major challenge: my first job interview competition at the state level. Nervous and overwhelmed, I placed last, but the judges provided valuable feedback, helping me improve my resume and interview skills. Though tempted to give up, their encouragement motivated me to keep going. After practicing with my advisor for several months, I gained the confidence to interview for a position at a local machine shop. This time, I was able to present myself more professionally, and the interviewer praised me for one of the best interviews they'd ever conducted. Despite lacking formal work experience, I was hired as the company's youngest employee. This experience taught me that with dedication, feedback, and practice, setbacks can lead to success.





*State Association*

**SkillsUSA South Carolina**

*School*

**The Center for Advanced  
Technical Studies**

*Training Program*

**Law Enforcement Services**

*Advisor*

**Joseph Chapman**

*Primary Framework Skills*

**Communication and Self-  
Motivation**

### ***CTE Belief Statement***

I believe career and technical education is the gateway for students to achieve their goals and pursue their dreams. The hands-on learning CTE produces allows students to test out different career paths, while gaining experience and propelling their futures forward. Not only does CTE learning provide professional growth, but it also greatly expands each students' personal skills, making confident and career ready individuals.

### ***My Framework Story***

Three days off school sounds nice, doesn't it? Looking for a break from school was my exact thought when I signed up for my states' SkillsUSA fall leadership conference. When I arrived, I hardly knew anyone and as a shy kid I was terrified of meeting new people. That evening everyone was socializing, playing group games and having a great time, except for me. I quickly found myself scared, overstimulated, tucked into a corner, not participating or even talking to anyone. My so-called vacation turned into a nightmare, and I just wanted to go home. That was until a state officer came over to me and asked me what was wrong. She encouraged me to step outside my comfort zone and go and participate. With her compelling words I did just that and ended up having a great time! Over the following days I felt like I had someone in my corner rooting for me. This was crucial as at the end of the trip I had an interview to complete. I was absolutely petrified as I had never done an interview, but I persevered. The interview ended up going extremely well, and I even received compliments on my answers and communication skills. I was shocked at how much I had grown just in a couple days, going from a girl cowering in a corner, to acing something I had never thought possible. Now as a national officer, I get to encourage people to step outside of their comfort zones just like the state officer before me, because you never know what amazing thing is waiting for you on the other side.





*State Association*

**SkillsUSA Missouri**

*School*

**Metropolitan Community College**

*Training Program*

**Criminal Justice/Police Science**

*Advisor*

**Jerry Hermon**

*Primary Framework Skills*

**Self-Motivation and Teamwork**

### ***CTE Belief Statement***

Career and technical education (CTE) is a window of opportunities. CTE gives students real-world work experience, the opportunity to explore different career paths, and the opportunity to start working on their futures early on. Students who are in CTE want to be there because they are ready to grow their knowledge in their chosen program. Because of CTE, students are ready to finish school with career-ready success."

### ***My Framework Story***

June 23 in Atlanta at the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference, I was sitting with my Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) team and instructor while we waited on the edge of our seats for our contest to be called. The next thing you know we were on stage receiving a bronze medal. How did we get there? Here is our story: It was the last month of school, and my instructor let me know that I was needed as the third member of the CSI team going to nationals. Turns out, the other members were in the morning class, and I was an afternoon student, so we didn't have a chance to work together until a month before the national competition. Then, we met at the career center and worked through mock crime scenes and practiced our technical skills and we saw our strengths and weaknesses and bonded. Then came show time. This was our time to show off our technical skills but most importantly our teamwork skills. We found out we were the second to last team to compete. So, we waited, sitting with each other, tired, nervous, stressed and a little grumpy. But when we were called, we walked into the competition, and it felt like second nature. June 23, a day I will never forget and will forever be grateful for. The day my instructor jumped out of his seat and screamed "Missouri!" Our team just placed 3rd in the country in Crime Scene Investigation. Our team's communication, dedication and determination earned us the bronze medal.





*State Association*

**SkillsUSA Nebraska**

*School*

**Papillion La-Vista South  
High School**

*Training Program*

**Welding Fabrication**

*Advisor*

**Roger Campbell**

*Primary Framework Skill*

**Teamwork**

### ***CTE Belief Statement***

I believe that career technical education (CTE) is the perfect foundation for developing knowledge and skills. CTE provides an invaluable opportunity to develop hard skills and improve soft skills. It allows students to explore their passions and gain clarity to pursue a fulfilling career. I believe that CTE builds a better future for us all.

### ***My Framework Story***

Imagine this: Your chapter worked hard all year and carefully hit every objective for its chapter excellence program. Unreal amounts of planning, time and energy went into preparing for this. This year, we were finally going to reach level three. The deadline is approaching, so two days before it's due, you schedule the CEP committee to present before our weekly chapter meeting. The day came, and... radio silence, the committee admitted they had nothing completed, and we had no application for our hard work. The overwhelming sense of dread that overcame me was indescribable. We had to try to get something in to salvage our ranking. Another chapter member and I agreed to meet after practice and begin work on the application. That night, we worked together, getting no sleep and we were able to piece together an application we could say we were proud of. That morning, we had an emergency meeting with our chapter officer team and advisors to review the application before it was submitted. My advisor told me it was one of the best he'd seen. My teammate and I felt overwhelming pride in our work, which only doubled once we were awarded level three gold at state! Ultimately, I learned the importance of having good teammates and teamwork skills.