



SkillsUSA California Advisors-

Welcome to the SkillsUSA California 2019-2020 school year! Membership registration opened on August 7, 2019 so that all schools would have the opportunity to register their student members early and take full advantage of the Career Essentials curriculum in 2019-2020. Here is what is covered in this email:

- New Website
- Staffing and Organizational Changes
- Fees/Costs

**New SkillsUSA California website** [www.skillsusaca.org](http://www.skillsusaca.org) (live in July, 2019) – We are in the process of continuously updating the SkillsUSA California website to improve communications and services to our members. Please share your feedback so that we can continue to improve our website for our members and site visitors:

- **Active Calendar** – showing all planned events and details - updated regularly
- **New Look and Improved Graphics** – simplified elements to make finding items easier and faster (a search feature is being added soon)
- **Active Links** – links to existing, updated and accurate information have been updated throughout the website to take the site visitor to the correct information
- **Regional Pages** – contains the contact information for the regional managers as well as information related to the Regions
- **Advisor Pages** – includes a Forum where you can share ideas and post information for fellow advisors in addition to other pertinent information
- **Contact Pages** – includes contact information for staff on who handles what issues and questions; the resources page is being developed to include additional items and topics requested from the SkillsUSA California practitioners

**Staffing and Organizational Changes for 2019-2020** – In our efforts to improve services for our growing membership, we have made several organizational changes for the 2019-2020 year:

- National Executive Director
  - **Chelle Travis, Executive Director** - after an extensive executive search, SkillsUSA is pleased to announce the hiring of Chelle Travis as the next SkillsUSA Executive Director. Ms. Travis will succeed Tim Lawrence, who has served as the Executive Director for the past 19 years, beginning in November





2019. Lawrence says of Travis, "She is a proven leader in our space who strongly believes in the mission of our work, and cares deeply about students, teachers and partners. She is a champion for career and technical education and a highly skilled workforce."

- State Leadership, Communications and Management Team
  - **Clay Mitchell, State Executive Director** [clay.mitchell@skillsusaca.org](mailto:clay.mitchell@skillsusaca.org) full-time assignment for operations, communications and management of the SkillsUSA California organization. This position will support the elements of Boards strategic plan for growth and improvement. Clay is a former CTE teacher, school administrator, education programs consultant for the past 19 years and has served as the SkillsUSA California State Director for the past 10 years.
  - **Tara Neilson, State Advisor** [tneilson@cde.ca.gov](mailto:tneilson@cde.ca.gov) part-time work assignment serving as contract monitor for the Department. Assists the organization to ensure state department contracting guidelines and policies are followed. Tara is a former CTE teacher and SkillsUSA advisor.
  - **Tanishia Jones, Executive Administrative Assistant** [admin@skillsusaca.org](mailto:admin@skillsusaca.org) is contracted full-time and has responsibility for accounts receivable and accounts payable for the organization in addition to data management for events and postings. Tanishia is a former personnel analyst with the State of California and has served SkillsUSA California in her current capacity for the past 3 years.
  - **Loretta Cabuyadao, Chapter and Membership Coordinator/Certified Career Essentials Teacher Trainer, Generation T Project Coordinator** [Loretta.cabuyadao@skillsusaca.org](mailto:Loretta.cabuyadao@skillsusaca.org) is contracted full-time and supports new chapter and membership development for the organization through the Lowe's Generation T project. Serves as a certified career essentials teacher trainer for the organization, too. Loretta is a former SkillsUSA student member (VICA in her days as a student), has served as the Alumni & Friends Coordinator for our state association, and is a successful small business owner/operator.
  - **Ashley Conger, Regional Manager (Regions 1 and 4)** [rmanager1@skillsusaca.org](mailto:rmanager1@skillsusaca.org) [rmanager4@skillsusaca.org](mailto:rmanager4@skillsusaca.org) is contracted full-time and supports the operations and serves as the point of contact for communications in the regions assigned. She serves on the conference coordinating committee and as a member of the State Conference operations team. Ashley is a former analyst from State service who recently retired to assist the SkillsUSA California organization in her new role.
  - **Antonio Garcia, Regional Manager (Regions 2, 5)** [rmanager2@skillsusaca.org](mailto:rmanager2@skillsusaca.org) [rmanager5@skillsusaca.org](mailto:rmanager5@skillsusaca.org) is contracted full-time





and supports the operations and serves as the point of contact for communications in the regions assigned. He serves on the conference coordinating committee and as a member of the State Conference operation team. Antonio is a former SkillsUSA California student and has experience in website development, graphic design, event management and communications.

- **Tom Vessella, Regional Manager (Regions 3 and 6)**  
[rmanager3@skillsusaca.org](mailto:rmanager3@skillsusaca.org) [rmanager6@skillsusaca.org](mailto:rmanager6@skillsusaca.org) is contracted full-time and supports the operations and serves as the point of contact for communications in the regions assigned. He serves on the conference coordinating committee and as a member of the State Conference operations team. Tom is a retired contractor, high school teacher, community college professor and community college dean.
- **Debby VanSetten, Competitive Events Coordinator**  
[compcoordinator@skillsusaca.org](mailto:compcoordinator@skillsusaca.org) is contracted to support competitive events at the regional and state level in alignment with national standards. She serves on the conference coordinating team and is the point of contact for technical committee members, contest coordinators, and judges at the state level, and is a member of the State Conference operations team. Debby is a former teacher, program and instructional program and project developer.
- **David Tayco, State Officer Trainer** [strainer1@skillsusaca.org](mailto:strainer1@skillsusaca.org) is a part-time contractor with the organization responsible for co-leading the State Officer Team by providing leadership and training aligned to the SkillsUSA national officer standards. David is a current CTE instructor in Stockton USD and has 39 years of experience in SkillsUSA (and VICA) as a student member in addition to serving as a Chapter advisor and other leadership roles within the organization.
- **Rachael Navarrete, State Officer Trainer** [strainer2@skillsusaca.org](mailto:strainer2@skillsusaca.org) is a part-time contractor with the organization responsible for co-leading the State Officer Team by providing leadership and training aligned to the SkillsUSA national officer standards. Rachael is a current CTE instructor in Stockton USD and has served as a middle school and high school SkillsUSA California advisor.
- **Faustino Tarin, Alumni and Friends Coordinator**  
[Faustino.tarin@skillsusaca.org](mailto:Faustino.tarin@skillsusaca.org) is one of two lead volunteers responsible for leading and coordinating the Alumni and Friends members and services and serves on the SkillsUSA California Board of Directors. The Alumni and Friends organization is undergoing significant change at the national and state level with an emphasis to serve the local chapters and State





associations as well as meet the needs of their members. Faustino was a student member of SkillsUSA in Arizona, is currently employed at Disneyland, is a certified nurse assistant, and has a career goal of becoming a registered nurse.

- **Reimah Gaber, Alumni and Friends Coordinator**  
[reimah.gaber@skillsusaca.org](mailto:reimah.gaber@skillsusaca.org) is one of two lead volunteers responsible for leading and coordinating the Alumni and Friends members and services and serves on the SkillsUSA California Board of Directors. The Alumni and Friends organization is undergoing significant change at the national and state level with an emphasis to serve the local chapters and State associations as well as meet the needs of their members. Reimah was a SkillsUSA California student member and competitor and is currently attending University of the Pacific in Stockton in addition to her SkillsUSA California responsibilities.
- **Mike King, SkillsUSA California 2019-2020 High School Advisor of the Year** [mking@stocktonusd.net](mailto:mking@stocktonusd.net) was selected by the Board of Directors to serve as the high school advisor of the year for 2019-2020. Mike is a construction trades instructor and SkillsUSA California advisor at Franklin High School in Stockton. Mike also serves on the SkillsUSA California Board of Directors representing all high school teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
- **Erin Hodson, SkillsUSA California 2019-2020 Postsecondary Advisor of the Year** [erin\\_hodson@kernhigh.org](mailto:erin_hodson@kernhigh.org) was selected by the Board of Directors to serve as the postsecondary advisor of the year for 2019-2020. Erin Hodson is a business instructor and CTE Lead in Kern High Regional Occupational Center in Bakersfield. Erin also serves on the SkillsUSA California Board of Directors representing all high school teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.

**2019 SkillsUSA California Chapter Fees/Costs** – in our ongoing efforts to engage all CTE students in SkillsUSA and provide program services in the most cost-effective manner so that SkillsUSA California Chapters can achieve the ‘high-quality CTE’ status, we have developed the following fee structure:

- **Middle and High School Chapters** – We have worked with national staff to develop a statewide **Total Participation Plan** contract for our state association and chapters. The fees paid by chapters are used to offset instructional materials costs to the State association so that we can make these materials to all student members and advisors





as requested. As a result, these fees are an allowable expenditure for Carl D. Perkins and CTE grant funds:

- **Chapter Fee Formula** – All students enrolled in CTE program section(s) X \$10, added to number of teacher(s) of those sections X \$40 = the 2019 TPP Cost for the SkillsUSA Chapter.
- **College Postsecondary Chapters** – Since college postsecondary chapters do not function under campus affiliation agreements, the pricing is handled on a per-member basis. These fees are not an allowable Carl D. Perkins expenditure. These may be allowable strong workforce fund expenditures:
  - **Membership Fee Formula** – number of students wanting to participate in SkillsUSA California activities X \$40, added to number of teacher(s)/professors of those students X \$40 = SkillsUSA Chapter membership costs.
- **Regional Conference Registration Fees** - \$20 per registered contestant; \$10 per registered advisor, observer, chaperone. NOTE: Middle and High School Chapters are required to complete and achieve the Quality Chapter level of the Chapter Excellence Program PRIOR to the Conference Registration deadline (11/22) in order to be eligible for competitive events at the regional conference.
- **State and National Conference registration fees**

We look forward to another successful year for the SkillsUSA California organization in 2019-2020! Thank you for your continued support and involvement in SkillsUSA California – the nation's largest SkillsUSA state association for the past 4 years!

Clay  
Clay Mitchell, State Executive Director

SkillsUSA California

