



## SkillsUSA Texas Newsletter January 2024

### Greetings to SkillsUSA Texas,

Welcome to the January issue of the SkillsUSA Texas newsletter, where we step into the New Year with renewed enthusiasm and focus! As 2024 unfolds, it brings fresh opportunities and the excitement of the upcoming district competitions. This month, we're all about setting goals, embracing new challenges, and preparing to service you and your students at the events ahead. Let's carry the momentum of a new beginning into every project and collaboration, fostering a spirit of teamwork and excellence. The State Office is excited to make this year a showcase of our dedication to serving our members, by starting strong with anticipation and preparation for our district competitions. We are here

to help and continue to grow Career and Technical Education.

Best regards,  
SkillsUSA Texas Strong!  
Crystal Latham-Alford, Executive Director

## SkillsUSA Week! Feb. 5-9

[Click here to see how to best participate and incorporate activities into your class.](#)

### NATIONAL OFFICE ADDRESS CHANGE

**Effective December 15, 2023**, the new address for the SkillsUSA National Office:  
**SkillsUSA Inc.**  
**673 Potomac Station Drive, PMB #809**  
**Leesburg, VA 20176**

**Tips:**

- Mail will be forwarded from the previous address starting December 15, 2023.
- Credit Card payments for membership can be made faster by calling Sandy Mueller at 703-737-0616
- New W-9s will be available on a link on the membership invoices.

### Membership Deadline

Must be a fully joined member by Feb 1st (or district registration deadline) to compete, be a model, or a substitute for contest. Membership must be PAID before state contest registration deadline. Check/CC received before deadline.

### State Officer's Corner

[Check out their newest article](#)

### State Conference Housing Update

We have streamlined the hotel reservation process and brought the hotel reservations in-house. By centralizing hotel reservations, SkillsUSA Texas aims to provide the following services:

- Streamlined Reservation Process for easier PO Processing
- Complimentary Breakfast for Competitors on Friday and Saturday at contest locations
- Continued Enhancements to Shuttle Bus Offering
- Event Planning Consistency across all SkillsUSA Texas Events (One Fee Model)
- Negotiation Power to keep Corpus Christi as the conference



location. Potential relocation could incur higher registration fees and hotel fees.

#### Hotel Policy and Steps-by-Step Instructions

## State Conference Hotel Rates

Room Type (1bed max 2 ppl, 2 bed max 4 ppl)	Room Charge \$155/\$188 2 Nt Min/pp	Plus Registration (per person)	Extra Nights (per person)
Single Room, one bed *	\$310	\$410	\$155
Double Room, two beds	\$188	\$288	\$94
Triple Room, two beds	\$126	\$226	\$63
Quad Room, two beds	\$94	\$194	\$47

## 2023-2024 Themes

- Chapter Display, Prepared Speech and Promotional Bulletin Board competitions is: "SkillsUSA: No Limits."
- Esthetics Fantasy Theme for 2024: Doll Face
- Barbering Theme for 2024: for the creative freestyle design is Ocean/Marine. The new contest Hair Weaving does NOT have a theme.
- Commercial Baking Job Exhibits, 3D Nail Art and Nail Art Competitions (not job exhibits) will use the theme "SUPER HEROES" for 2024. New Wedding Cake Design contest does not have a theme.

## State Pin and T-shirt Winners

SkillsUSA Texas would like to congratulate the winners of our inaugural design contest for our State Pins and T-shirts.

**Congratulations**

**Bryanna Farias and Ryland Angelique Suggs!**

## Applications Available

We are happy to let you know that the **Advisor of the Year and District Officer applications are now available** on the district webpage. Just to let you know, the deadline for submission is the final day of district competition registration. We would like all interested parties to review and submit the application as soon as possible. We have made the applications online to be as easy and seamless as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need help or have any questions.

## District Conference

Contest agenda, contest schedule (including how many students/teams per chapter can compete in each contest), registration closing date, PD testing dates, Resume, and JE photo upload directions are posted on each [district's page](#).

**Changes have been made to the contest submission process, professional development testing, and resume upload process. Please review this document to be prepared.**

### **Professional Development Test**

Contestants in an individual contest and in a team contest will need to take the Professional Development test twice; once for every contestant number they are assigned. Please note that only the score from the first attempt, timestamped within the designated testing window, will be accepted and considered for their contest score portion. Any test taken outside of this testing window will not be taken into account and will be disregarded.

## Texas Career & Technical Education Regional Engagement Opportunity

In January and February, representatives from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will host regional stakeholder events to provide guidance supporting implementation of the refreshed CTE programs of study and to collect input on proposed updates to the 2024 Perkins V State Plan.

Six in-person events will be held between January 15 and February 1, 2024:

- ESC 11 in Fort Worth, January 16, 2024
- ESC 15 in San Angelo, January 18, 2024
- ESC 7 in Kilgore, January 22, 2024
- ESC 17 in Lubbock, January 24, 2024
- ESC 20 in San Antonio, January 30, 2024
- ESC 3 in Victoria, February 1, 2024

A virtual event will be offered on January 26, 2024, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. for those unable to participate in person. To register to attend one of the sessions or for more information, please visit [TexasCareerTour.com](https://TexasCareerTour.com).

For additional questions, please contact the TEA CTE team at [cte@tea.texas.gov](mailto:cte@tea.texas.gov).

## Professional Development Opportunity



The School of Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management (HRTM) in the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at New Mexico State University (NMSU) has received funding from the United States Department of Agriculture to offer a free series of five online courses and an in-person immersive, four-day summer workshop in Las Cruces for high school culinary arts and hospitality instructors over a 1 ½ year time period.



**Welcome our new State Officer Trainer! Jennifer Flores!** She is a former SkillsUSA Texas member, where she attended Law Magnet in Dallas studying Criminal Justice Pathway. She is a former State and National Officer. She has been a Summer Leadership Trainer since 2019.

## Next Townhall Meeting

Thursday, February 1, 2024,  
at 5:30 PM Central  
[Register Here](#)

Please register in advance for this Zoom meeting. All CTE advisors are invited to join this conversation with the state office. Recordings of these meetings will be posted:  
<https://skillsusatx.org/news/>

### "S" Invoice Remit Address

This will only apply to "S" invoices. A copy of the updated W9 can be found on our website.

<https://skillsusatx.org/about/payments-and-invoicing/>

**SkillsUSA Texas**  
P.O. Box 65087  
Lubbock, TX 79464

### Past Due "S" Invoices

After August 1st, 2023 all invoices that are more than 90 days past due will incur a \$50 past due fee per invoice on a monthly basis until payment is received. A PO is not payment, only check or credit card (w 3% processing fee) will be posted as payment. Invoice reminders are sent to the email of person that created the invoice in registration.

Invoices that start with "M" are for annual membership dues and are payable to the National Office. The remittance address remains:

**SkillsUSA Inc.**  
**Attn: Membership Dept.**  
**673 Potomac Station Dr, PMB #809**  
**Leesburg, VA 20176**

If your records indicate an invoice has been paid, please verify if the check has been cashed. If you do not show the check was cashed, please verify the payment address and resubmit. If payment was sent to an address other than Lubbock we have not received the payment.

### SkillsUSA Texas Board of Directors

Your Texas Board of Directors Chair is [Ed Sanchez](#). Please reach out to him. He would love to hear from our membership!

#### Crystal Latham Alford

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