

## Supplemental Materials

### A&M Consolidated High School – Information Technology

Section A – Letters of Support

Section B – Family Promise Grant

Section C – SkillsUSA Models of Excellence

Section D – Community Service

Section E - Washington Leadership Training Institute

Section F – International Wireless Communications Conference

Section G – Summer Leadership Camp

Section H – Presidential Volunteer Service Award

## Section A – Letters of Support

Please find the following letters of support from:

TEEX

Hewlett Packard

ResponderX

Blinn College

November 9, 2017

Bart Taylor, M.Ed.  
Information Technology Teacher  
A&M Consolidated High School  
1801 Harvey Mitchell Parkway South  
College Station, 77840



To Whom It May Concern:

As the Program Director of the Knowledge Engineering Center of the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), and member of the A&M Consolidated High School CTE advisory committee, I am writing this letter of support for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs at the A&M Consolidated High School.

The A&M Consolidated High School CTE programs are exceeding the objectives in the state plan which ensure an effective Career and Technical Education program. This program continues to provide a level of excellence for each public school student enrolled to master the basic skills and knowledge necessary for the role of a wage earner and gain entry-level employment in a high-skill, high-wage job and career.

As the parent of two students who have benefitted from this program, I have seen students grow to achieve excellence in skills and leadership that earn top honors in district, state and national competitions. This program provides academic rigor and self-motivation to go beyond the minimum requirements that seem to be lacking in so many other programs.

I highly recommend the A&M Consolidated High School CTE program and believe the implementation of this program will provide our local youth to become active in the workforce with skills needed for high-wage careers in communities throughout our country.

Respectfully,

**John M. Romero**

Digitally signed by John M. Romero  
DN: cn=John M. Romero, o=TEEX, ou=Knowledge Engineering  
Center, email=john.romero@teex.tamu.edu, c=US  
Date: 2016.12.15 18:41:34 -06'00'

John M. Romero  
Program Director  
Knowledge Engineering Center  
Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service



Mary Kate Howard  
11445 Compaq Center Dr. W  
Houston, TX, 77070  
November, 17, 2017

To whom it may concern:

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the Information Technology program at A&M Consolidated High School. As an employee of Hewlett-Packard as well as a former student of the Information Technology program, I am amazed by and thankful for the level of excellence achieved by this program and its students.

The Information Technology program at A&M Consolidated High School continues to excel at developing the skills of incoming IT Professionals while maintaining relevance to the changing industry. Through this program, students can develop and apply relevant job skills as well as obtain certifications pertinent to their field of interest. Many students, like myself, can benefit from these skills and certifications to obtain employment out of high school while having the foundation to start their career development earlier than others in the same industry.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of the Information Technology program at A&M Consolidated High School. This programs success at developing future IT Professionals and enabling its students for the future attests to its excellence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Kate Howard".

**Mary Kate Howard**  
Infrastructure Services Service Manager  
Hewlett-Packard  
Phone: 281-927-8360  
[mkhoward@hp.com](mailto:mkhoward@hp.com)

9 November 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter today to express my support for the Information Technology Program at A&M Consolidated High School and Instructors Bart Taylor and Patrick Powell. As both an alumni of the program (2008) and current mentor to several students past and present since my graduation, I cannot express enough my admiration for this program and the opportunities it affords students. In my opinion the AMCHS program is second to none in the quality and variety of information and skills presented. I have quietly observed in awe since my graduation as the program has consistently improved and expanded year after year. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Powell actively seek out and adapt the input and feedback from local community leaders, past and present students, and Information Technology professionals in order to maintain a cutting edge program. I have been fortunate to reap the benefits of this program since my graduation, using the certifications and experience I earned as a student to launchpad a successful career in Information Technology. In addition, I have hired several students out of the program and have found them to be some of the highest quality young professionals I have ever had the delight of working with. I am proud to call myself a supporter and graduate of this program and am incredibly excited to see what the future holds for Mr. Taylor, Mr. Powell, and their students.

Respectfully,



David Andrew "AJ" Jarrett  
President, ResponderX, Inc.  
Vice President, Central Texas ISSA  
Cybersecurity Instructor, Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service



A&M Consolidate High School Information Technology Program  
Friday 16 December 2016

The AMCHS IT program has been an ongoing source of high quality, entry level students into this college's IT program since 2008, under the strong leadership of Bart Taylor. This program sets high standards, and its students and teachers routinely exceed them, as demonstrated by the many graduates with CompTIA A+ and Network+ certifications, and the numerous regional and national SkillsUSA awards they have won over the years. Would that every school district had a program as well lead, staffed, funded, and operated as this one.

Robert C Nelson II  
Information Technology Coordinator  
**Blinn College** | 2423 Blinn Blvd., Bryan TX 77802  
P.O. Box 6030 Bryan, TX 77805-6030  
Office: E232 | **979-209-7430**  
[rnelson@blinn.edu](mailto:rnelson@blinn.edu) | <http://cit.blinn.edu>

## Section B – Family Promise Grant

The following are documents from our IT program winning a \$25,000 grant from Lowe's. The actual grant that students helped to co-author is attached.

The grant was designed to allow the SkillsUSA Information Technology chapter students the privilege to support a local organization called Family Promise. SkillsUSA students will help to establish, and connect a new facility that has been donated to this organization. Family Promise is a local response to the national homeless crisis where they work to help homeless families build new lives. Family Promise supports homeless families by housing them in different church congregations, changing church locations every week; however this past year, Family Promise has been awarded a building from our sister city of Bryan, TX to allow Family Promise to renovate a new facility and no longer have to rely on churches for housing. The goal of our SkillsUSA chapter will be to utilize our skills and support the new Family Promise facility by installing and creating their entire networking and security infrastructure. Students will build computers, run networking and security cables, configure routers, configure wifi, configure content filtering, setup printer services, configure security cameras, establish a networking domain, and assemble furniture and more. The goal will be to create and configure the entire network for the Family Promise building in order for the organization to be connected to the internet, to allow for the volunteers to have a working office space, and most importantly to allow for computing needs for homeless families to search and apply for jobs, work on resumes and for the children to work on school work. The grant project is poised to make a huge impact on the Bryan-College Station community and teach everyone involved about the power of devoting one's talents and skills to the benefit and welfare of their community.



*For Immediate Release*

**November 9, 2017**

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**Local School Contact:**  
Bart Taylor  
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**Lowe's Contact:**  
Megan Lewis  
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**SkillsUSA Contact:**  
Jane DeShong Short  
703-737-0612  
[jshort@skillsusa.org](mailto:jshort@skillsusa.org)

**SKILLSUSA CHAPTER AT A&M CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVES  
LOWE'S GRANT FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE**

*Lowe's and SkillsUSA to advance career and technical education  
through community improvement projects*

**Leesburg, Va.** — Lowe's and SkillsUSA have awarded a \$25,000 grant to the SkillsUSA Chapter at A&M Consolidated High School for Family Promise support grant.

The grant was designed to allow the SkillsUSA Information Technology chapter students the privilege to support a local organization called Family Promise. SkillsUSA students will help to establish, and connect a new facility that has been donated to this organization. Family Promise is a local response to the national homeless crisis where they work to help homeless families build new lives. Family Promise supports homeless families by housing them in different church congregations, changing church locations every week; however this past year, Family Promise has been awarded a building from our sister city of Bryan, TX to allow Family Promise to renovate a new facility and no longer have to rely on churches for housing. The goal of our SkillsUSA chapter will be to utilize our skills and support the new Family Promise facility by installing and creating their entire networking and security infrastructure. Students will build computers, run networking and security cables, configure routers, configure wifi, configure content filtering, setup printer services, configure security cameras, establish a networking domain, and assemble furniture and more. The goal will be to create and configure the entire network for the Family Promise building in order for the organization to be connected to the internet, to allow for the volunteers to have a working office space, and most importantly to allow for computing needs for homeless families to search and apply for jobs, work on resumes and for the children to work on school work. The grant project is poised to make a huge impact on the Bryan-College Station community and teach everyone involved about the power of devoting one's talents and skills to the benefit and welfare of their community.

The SkillsUSA chapter was one of 31 programs nationwide to receive a Lowe's grant in amounts ranging from \$2,000 to \$25,000. The local school grants are designed to strengthen local communities as they provide enhanced learning opportunities for students. To apply for a grant, students completed a written application to detail their project, tell why it is important, how it will be conducted and the outcomes and benefits. Finalists were selected based on their proposal and supporting plans. These projects will improve schools and local communities while reinforcing the students' career and technical educational experience through the practical use of their skills.

“Our partnership with SkillsUSA is important to helping address the growing demand for skilled workers in the U.S.,” said James Frison, director of community relations at Lowe's. “Lowe's support of the SkillsUSA community service grants program provides students with hands-on experience using their skills to make a difference and helps prepare them for future careers in skilled trades.”

### **About SkillsUSA**

SkillsUSA is a vital solution to the growing U.S. skills gap. This nonprofit partnership of students, instructors and industry ensures America has the skilled workforce it needs to stay competitive. Founded in 1965 and endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education, the association serves more than 335,000 member students and instructors each year in middle schools, high schools and colleges. This diverse talent pipeline covers 130 trade, technical and skilled service occupations, the majority STEM-related. More than 600 corporations, trade associations, businesses and labor unions actively support SkillsUSA at the national level. SkillsUSA programs are integrated into career and technical education through a framework of personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics. Local, state and national championships, designed and judged by industry, set relevant standards for career and technical education and provide needed recognition to its students. SkillsUSA also offers technical skill assessments and other workplace credentials. For more information, go to: [www.SkillsUSA.org](http://www.SkillsUSA.org).

### **About Lowe's in the Community**

Lowe's, a FORTUNE® 50 home improvement company, has a 60-year legacy of supporting the communities it serves through programs that focus on K-12 public education and community improvement projects. In the past decade, Lowe's and the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation together have contributed nearly \$300 million to these efforts, and for more than two decades Lowe's Heroes volunteers have donated their time to make our communities better places to live. For the latest news, visit [Newsroom.Lowes.com](http://Newsroom.Lowes.com) or follow [@LowesMedia](https://twitter.com/LowesMedia) on Twitter.

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*For Immediate Release*  
**Nov 9, 2017**

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SkillsUSA Contact:  
Jane Short or Karen Kitzel  
703-777-8810  
[jshort@skillsusa.org](mailto:jshort@skillsusa.org) or [kkitzel@skillsusa.org](mailto:kkitzel@skillsusa.org)

**Lowe's Gives Grants to Support Local SkillsUSA Chapters in  
Applying Learnings to Community Projects**  
*Grants to Enhance Learning Opportunities and Impact Communities Nationwide*

**Leesburg, Va.** — This year, 31 SkillsUSA chapters will receive grants from Lowe's to enhance schools and communities while building the skills of students learning trades. Lowe's, the largest corporate donor in SkillsUSA history, has provided a total of \$1.5 million this year, bringing Lowe's and the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation's total contributions to SkillsUSA to more than \$15 million since 2006.

The school grants strengthen local communities while providing enhanced learning opportunities for students and fostering relationships between local Lowe's stores and SkillsUSA chapters.

"Lowe's is one of our finest partners, providing millions of dollars that go directly to enriching local and state SkillsUSA programs," said Timothy Lawrence, executive director of SkillsUSA. "Schools often struggle to fund new equipment and updated classrooms or school campus enhancements — there are so many demands on their budgets. Communities face the same challenge. As a skills gap solution and verified talent pipeline, SkillsUSA is working to graduate more than 100,000 students each year who are career-ready. These Lowe's grants enable career and technical education students to hone their knowledge and apply their skills in real-world scenarios while giving back. With the help of Lowe's, we can truly make a lasting impact in these communities."

"Our partnership with SkillsUSA is important to helping address the growing demand for skilled workers in the United States," said James Frison, director of community relations at Lowe's. "Lowe's support of the SkillsUSA community service grants program provides students with hands-on experience using their skills to make a difference and helps prepare them for future careers in skilled trades."

This fall, grants will be awarded in amounts ranging from \$2,000 to \$25,000. Grant winners are selected based on their project, community engagement and overall strategy. This fall's grants include:

**A&M Consolidated High School, College Station, Texas** — \$25,000: SkillsUSA students will support Family Promise, a local homeless shelter, by installing and creating networking and security infrastructure in the building. Students will build computers and create and configure the entire network to allow the volunteers to have a working office space. Homeless families will be able to search for and apply for jobs, work on resumes and, for the children, do schoolwork.

**Academies of the Antelope Valley, Lancaster, Calif.** — \$21,000: Students will benefit by adding new virtual reality systems to assist with leadership training, expand technical skill training and increase participation in SkillsUSA. The grant will also allow for a partnership with a local nonprofit organization to increase awareness in their distracted driving campaign by using driving simulators.

**Advanced Technology Center, Virginia Beach, Va.** — \$25,000: The grant will be used to create a community garden and a farmers' market. The farmers' market will sell fresh produce, rain barrels and compost bins to families to allow the community to have more affordable access to organic vegetables.

**Bartow County College and Career Academy, Cartersville, Ga.** — \$9,614: The students will build an agility obstacle course to test the local and state SkillsUSA Georgia Championships students in the Public Safety Tactical event.

**CATEC/Charlottesville – Albemarle, Charlottesville, Va.** — \$25,000: The grant will be used to help fund the conversion of a retired school bus into a food truck, which will be run by the culinary arts students. Students will also host a “fill the bus” food drive benefiting the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.

**Chambers County Career Technical Center, Lafayette, Ala.** — \$25,000: Students will convert a currently unused hangar section of the Shawmut Airport into an outreach park for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). They will use the existing cement pad to build a covered pavilion area, create a space dedicated to remote-control car racing and add a landscaped area for observers.

**Corry Career and Technical Center, Corry, Pa.** — \$2,265: The grant will be used to repair a sidewalk in the outside play area of the school's preschool and purchase sheds to store the outdoor play equipment. After completion, the project will have an impact on 75-100 a year.

**Don Bosco Technical Institute, Rosemead, Calif.** — \$9,904: Students will purchase two new table saws. An estimated 500 students will benefit annually from having them.

**Foshay Learning Center, Los Angeles** — \$25,000: The grant will be used to model, manufacture and test portable ramps to be used at district school sites.

**Francis Tuttle Technology Center, Reno, Okla.** — \$25,000: Students will use the grant to purchase school supplies, underwear and socks, coats and toys 480 fifth-graders who are in need. There will be three distributions: at the beginning of the school year, during the holiday season and during spring break.

**Green County Area Technology Center, Greensburg, Ky.** — \$19,406.85: The SkillsUSA chapter will use the grant to build a portable track to race both gas and electric remote-control cars. The track and cars will be taken to local schools and surrounding counties to market the opportunities that exist through technical education.

**Jefferson County High School, Louisville, Ga.** — \$25,000: The SkillsUSA chapter and construction class students will construct two dugouts, hitting facilities and replace fencing for the school softball field.

**John F. Kennedy Magnet High School, Granada Hills, Calif.** — \$25,000: Students will create an art gallery on the north side of the campus. It will showcase student career and technical education as well as elementary and middle school work.

**Kansas City Kansas Community College, Kansas City, Kan.** — \$25,000: Students will build a tiny home for a homeless veteran. The home will include a bed, a table, a small kitchen, and a bathroom. The home will be placed in Veterans Village, a veteran's planned community.

**Knox County Career Center, Mount Vernon, Ohio** — \$23,000: Students will renovate the Ray Richardson Children's Garden, first dedicated in 1999.

**Murray County High School, Chatsworth, Ga.** — \$4,000: The grant will be used to replace the existing flooring system in the Seaboard Coast Line railroad caboose which has been donated to the Whitfield/Murray Historical Society in Chatsworth.

**Norwalk High School, Norwalk, Conn.** — \$24,800: The grant will be used for creating a larger mobile kitchen. Students will use the grant to purchase a trailer, canopy system, multiple kitchen appliances and food to prepare and cook.

**Page Middle School, Gloucester, Va.** — \$2,256.57: The grant will be used to purchase a greenhouse to be used by the seventh-grade life science classes so students can plant seeds in January for the already existing raised garden beds.

**Palestine High School, Palestine, Texas** — \$25,000: Students will build 16 different mini-marketplace structures to share job market possibilities and the SkillsUSA Framework with younger students.

**Rockbridge County High School, Lexington, Va.** — \$25,000: Students from the building trades, electronics and HVAC programs will benefit by gaining experience in building a Habitat for Humanity house.

**Sandy Creek High School, Tyrone, Ga.** — \$22,500: The grant will be used to fund the creation of an outdoor sensory garden. The garden will be specifically designed to benefit the education and cognitive development of students in the special education program.

**Schuylkill Technology Centers, Mar Lin, Pa.** — \$8,160: Students will renovate and improve the Hillside Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Specific improvements include window replacements, steel chain-link fence and gate replacement, and repairs to the outdoor yard area to alleviate water drainage problems.

**Statesboro High School, Statesboro, Ga.** — \$5,948.38: Students in the construction program and the SkillsUSA chapter will purchase the materials to complete an outdoor classroom being built in a duck habitat and outdoor learning area on campus.

**STEM Magnet Academy of Pointe Coupee, Baton Rouge, La.** — \$5,989.50: The grant will be used to purchase biomedical and crime scene investigation equipment for the STEM lab so students can learn with the latest advances in technology.

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology Nashville Campus, Nashville, Tenn.** — \$25,000: The grant will be used to purchase materials and supplies to renovate the bathroom/shower area and the kitchen at the new location of The Little Pantry That Could, a nonprofit that provides food, showers and other resources to people in need in Nashville.

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology, Memphis** — \$19,500: The SkillsUSA chapter will use the grant to aid the Hagar Center, a homeless shelter for teenage mothers and their babies. The center will be refurbished by making minor repairs and painting, and the grant will provide miscellaneous items for babies and purchase new appliances for the center.

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology, Murfreesboro** — \$25,000: The grant will be used to remodel and update the cosmetology classroom. The new classroom will allow for more people in the community to take advantage of affordable cosmetology services, and it will make education more meaningful impact for students in the program.

**University of New Mexico Gallup Campus, Gallup, N.M.** — \$6,020: Students will renovate the meeting space for the local Veterans Helping Veterans organization, provide landscaping services after a new flagpole is installed at the future site of the state Veterans Cemetery, and conduct veteran interviews and generate a tribute booklet to be presented back to the organization.

**Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, Vancouver, Wash.** — \$2,000: The grant will be used to improve Open House Ministries family shelter, which provides shelter and safety to vulnerable families. The students will create a small community garden where residents can grow their own food, furnish a room and supply other materials like school items and clothing that recipients take with them when they leave the shelter.

**Victory Collegiate High School, Brooklyn, N.Y.** — \$13,700: The grant will be used to create a food garden in the courtyard space of the high school. The fruits and vegetables can be used by the school and distributed throughout the community through a weekly farmer's market.

**Whitewater Career Center, Connersville, Ind.** — \$23,000: The grant will be used to purchase a portable laser engraving/cutter, ten Mac laptops, two tables and materials for building models. Students and prospective students will benefit by having mobile equipment at community events to offer children an experience in career and technical education.

### **About SkillsUSA**

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###

SkillsUSA Lowe's Fall 2017  
Community Service Grant

A&M Consolidated High School  
Chapter 3561

***A Tiger Promise for Family Promise***





**SkillsUSA Lowe's Fall 2017**  
**Community Service Grant Application**

Section 1—CONTACT INFORMATION

School Name: **A&M Consolidated High School**

Street Address: **1801 Harvey Mitchell Pkwy**

City, State, and ZIP: **College Station, TX 77840**

County: **Brazos**

Training Program(s): **Information Technology**

Advisor Name: **Bart Taylor**

Advisor E-mail Address: **btaylor@csisd.org**

Advisor School Phone Number: **979-764-5500**

Advisor Cell Phone Number (required): **979-492-8872**

Administrator's Name: **Gwen Elder**

Student Chairperson: **Spencer Williamson**

Please complete the following as it applies to your school:

Number of SkillsUSA members for the 2016-17 school year: **117**

Percentage of students in your school eligible for free or reduced lunches: **37.3%**

Percentage of students in your school that are Pell Grant recipients: **none reported this year.**

## Section 2—PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In answering the questions, consider the following when completing your application. These are just examples to help you in completing the application

1. Total grant dollars being requested. **\$25,000**
2. Describe in detail how your grant dollars will be used. Grant readers should be able to understand in the first two to three sentences how your grant dollars will be used. From there, flush out your project with more details.

### *A Tiger Promise for Family Promise.*

The A&M Consolidated High School's SkillsUSA chapter is hoping to support a local organization called Family Promise with a Lowe's grant that would allow for the SkillsUSA students to help establish, and connect a new facility that has been donated to this organization. Family Promise is a local response to the national homeless crisis where they work to help homeless families build new lives. Family Promise supports homeless families by housing them in different church congregations, changing church locations every week; however this past year, Family Promise has been awarded a building from our sister city of Bryan, TX to allow Family Promise to renovate a new facility and no longer have to rely on churches for housing. The goal of our SkillsUSA chapter will be to utilize our skills and support the new Family Promise facility by installing and creating their entire networking and security infrastructure. Students will build computers, run networking and security cables, configure routers, configure wifi, configure content filtering, setup printer services, configure security cameras, establish a networking domain, and assemble furniture and more. The goal will be to create and configure the entire network for the Family Promise building in order for the organization to be connected to the internet, to allow for the volunteers to have a working office space, and most importantly to allow for computing needs for homeless families to search and apply for jobs, work on resumes and for the children to work on school work.

The Lowe's grant would be used for purchasing all of the equipment, tools and wiring needed to allow for SkillsUSA students to create the new Family Promise infrastructure. The equipment would include parts needed to build office computers, network servers, routers, wireless routers, network storage and more. Grant money will also be needed to connect the facility to a local internet service provider, as well as run the necessary cabling needed to connect the ISP to the building. In addition, computer carousels will be created for the homeless families as a place for the families to work online. All of the network will be connected to a printer service, and everything will be under a content filter that the SkillsUSA students will configure. Students will also install all equipment necessary to create a high definition video surveillance system, and install a door key system to allow for families to have privacy to their rooms while staying with Family Promise.

Our SkillsUSA chapter already has a working relationship with our local Lowes, and we have partnered on projects in the past. We will rely on this partnership for support in this project, as well as other local businesses that could offer mentorship and guidance.

### Section 3—PROJECT BUDGET

List all anticipated expenditures for your project with a dollar amount for each budget category. These budget line items should total the amount of the grant request. Costs may not be estimated at the time of application, however a more accurate and detailed budget will help you to score higher in the application process.

1. Requested grant amount: **\$25,000**
2. What is the projected total cost of the project: **\$23,900**

Description of Expenditure	Amount	Source for Purchasing
Desktop Computer Parts for 8 Computers	\$6,000	Local Best Buy
Server Computer Parts	\$1200	Local Best Buy
6 Chromebooks	\$1200	Local Best Buy
Printers, 1 office, 1 Family	\$700	Local Office Depot
Cisco Router	\$400	Local Office Depot
Wifi Access Points x2	\$400	Local Office Depot
Content Filter and Firewall	\$400	Local Office Depot
Network Switch	\$300	Local Office Depot
Network Attached Storage	\$800	Local Office Depot
Security System	\$1400	Local Lowes Store
Network Cable	\$1200	Local Lowes Store
Network Connectors	\$600	Local Lowes Store
Network Cabling Tools	\$1000	Local Lowes Store
Extra Security Camera Cables	\$200	Local Lowes Store
Surge Suppressors	\$200	Local Lowes Store
UPS Back Up Power	\$300	Local Office Depot
Hardhats	\$300	Local Lowes Store
Storage Shelving	\$800	Local Lowes Store
Computer Desks	\$1500	Local Office Depot
Printer Tables	\$400	Local Office Depot
Chromebook storage shelving	\$200	Local Office Depot
Paper Supply	\$200	Local Office Depot
Connections to ISP	\$1200	Local FiberTwon

Security Door Key System	\$1000	Local Office Depot
Food/Water during volunteer work times	\$1000	Most likely Pizza!
Event Shirts	\$1000	Local CC Creations
	TOTAL	\$23,900

## Section 4—PROJECT PROCESS AND IMPACT

**1. Describe the process used in identifying the community service project selected and what needs are identified and addressed that has led to your project idea and the “why” behind the proposed grant request. Include all participation in the process**

Spencer Williamson is our current chapter President for the 2017-2018 school year. I have had the pleasure of knowing Spencer since he was a toddler, since his parents are both teachers at our high school. In addition, we all attend the same church here in College Station. It was at our church where Spencer and I grew together in service, so I was very excited to finally have him as a student, and more importantly to get his knowledge, skills and leadership involved in SkillsUSA.

It was at our church where Spencer and I became familiar with the Family Promise organization, since we are one of the eight churches that rotate hosting families. We have both volunteered in service to Family Promise, either by cleaning the church or cooking the hosted families a warm meal. In addition, I have invited Family Promise to speak at our schools in order for everyone to gain knowledge of the organization, and to better understand the crisis of homelessness that affects our town. It was at our church where we also learned about the great news that Family Promise was being supported from the sister cities, College Station and Bryan, TX, and were offered an old elementary school to use as their new housing facility. When Spencer and I heard about the news, we simply knew that we had to offer our services and skills from our SkillsUSA chapter.

We set up a meeting for the chapter officers to meet with the local director, Dr. Phebe Simmons, and to visit the new facility that is being renovated. As we met with Dr. Simmons, we walked through the new building. She showed us how old classrooms were being transformed into family rooms and living quarters. She showed us where they were staging a mini storage facility to collect gently used furniture in order to give to these families once they get established with new housing and work. She showed us the new playground and outdoor sitting and eating areas, and named all of the local companies that have pitched in to help. However, she did not show us how they were going to connect to the internet, or service the facility with the networking needs to run the office side of the organization. They had no office workspace, no desks or any support in this area. She did not know how they were going to handle security, or even host a place for the families to apply for jobs online, or to work on resumes, or even computers for the children to do homework. When we realized this need, and how it matched our skillset in Information Technology, we knew that we were meant to help Family Promise. We knew that we had to find a way to apply our skills to help Family Promise create a computer network and security infrastructure that will allow them, and their hosted families a chance to be more successful in building new lives.

**2. Define the primary group that will benefit from the project and describe how the outcome of the project will provide a life changing experience for the student and community.**

In a time period where the cost of living is skyrocketing it is often uncommon to see families uprooted from homes and forced to live on the streets. In response to these unfortunate circumstances Family Promise was born, they are a volunteer-based nonprofit that supports families by providing shelter, meals and support services. This grant will directly benefit family promise by providing much needed technical gear and support to help families find jobs and affordable housing. The grant will also help the children in these families by providing the tools necessary to work on school work and connect with friends through social media. Indirectly this grant will help many members from A&M Consolidated High School (AMCHS) SkillsUSA Chapter 3651 gain exposure to real world scenarios such as understanding why some students may come to school with no lunch. This will provide much needed character building for AMCHS students that live in an environment that does not allow exposure to the types of living conditions and struggles of some of their less privileged peers. This will also benefit the Bryan-College Station community by providing an effort to solve the homelessness problems.

**3. Estimate the overall number of people that will be impacted by the grant implementation. Detail how this estimate was calculated.**

Family promise has been servicing homeless families in the Bryan-College Station area since 2006. On average they service anywhere from 15 to 30 families a year, ranging from 90 to 100 individuals. Family Promise of Bryan-College Station was incorporated on October 16, 2006, and began recruiting faith-based organizations to join in a network to support homeless children and their families. Family Promise of Bryan-College Station obtained tax exempt status as a 501(c)3 organization on May 14, 2007, and began raising funds with plans to begin serving homeless children and their families as soon as the affiliate requirements were met. Affiliate status was reached in the spring of 2008 and a working board of directors was seated in April.

In addition, Family Promise relies on volunteers from local churches to host and cook food for these families. Anywhere from 5 to 10 church members volunteer weekly. They provide breakfast, sack lunches and dinner every day. Some offering tutoring, companionship or activities for the families in the evening. Other church members offer service in transportation.

Finally, our local SkillsUSA chapter has on average of 100-120 student members. If we estimate the number of participants from the other CTSOs recruited for this grant, in addition to the volunteers from our local Lowes and other local companies, we would hope from anywhere to 150 – 175 volunteers for this service project.

**4. What direct and/or indirect impact will this project have on the SkillsUSA students and teachers who participate in the planning and implementation of the project?**

The Family Promise Network Design project will be a lifechanging experience for all SkillsUSA students and teachers involved, yielding strong direct and indirect impacts that members will carry on for years and use to continue improving the world around them. Direct impacts of the project for involved SkillsUSA members are the development of essential skills of the SkillsUSA Framework, which will prepare students to “become world-class workers, leaders, and responsible American citizens”, in the ideal of SkillsUSA’s mission, and give educators a role and further practice in developing their students to assume leadership and service. Key essential elements that will develop as a direct result of this project are: integrity, work ethic, and adaptability (personal skills); multicultural sensitivity and awareness, teamwork, and planning/organizing/management (workplace skills); and service orientation and job-specific skills (technical skills).

Personal skills will be directly developed through the abstract and logistical elements of the project. Students will apply integrity in their devotion to the project, and the handling of such a large sum of money. They will also build work ethic and adaptability in facing the intensity, duration, and inevitable obstacles which accompany a large technical project, and emerge stronger individuals not only prepared for the world of work, but personal projects and issues they will tackle in their own lives. Workplace skills, which are notoriously sorely lacking in contemporary workplaces, will be developed and fine-tuned to a great detail in students due to the nature of this project. Multicultural sensitivity and awareness is a major skill to be gained from this project, and one that is unique for its difficulty in teaching or creating an immersive-learning experience; this project will serve as an immersion to learn this unique and important skill. As students encounter the beneficiaries of our project, who will lead very different lives from them, they will become more aware and sensitive to the plight of homelessness as they work to understand them. Furthermore, a planned outreach project to a homeless situation will immerse members into the plight of homelessness so that they are further resolved to comprehend the issue, and become citizens who truly understand, and work to correct the effects of these issues. Furthermore, it goes without saying that the size of this project requires teamwork and planning, organizing and management. Students will learn to delegate and manage themselves, while teachers facilitate the process. Students will also be the primary determinants of different needs, schedules, and the logistical technical processes this project requires. Finally, this project uses a high degree of specialized technical skills, which students will apply and contextualize from their career and technical education classes. Students will be able to apply what they learn in a real situation, accenting their education and refining their job-specific skills. They will also learn one of the cornerstones of SkillsUSA: service orientation, and using one’s specialized technical skills in service to society. In summation, the direct impacts of building skills for this project, and the indirect impacts it can yield in the personal developments of involved members, make this project a life-changing, intensive learning experience to plan and implement.

**5. Describe the students' role in the grant application process, implementation of the project and potential outreach opportunities.**

Students have, and will continue, to play a major role in the development of the Family Promise Network Design project, from conception to completion. Our chapter identified a need in our community, and sought to address it using the skills we have developed in our career and technical education classes. After discussion, we decided the project was ultimately viable. In the grant application process, Executive Chapter members (president, vice presidents) have taken initiative in crafting the grant application and overseeing elements of the proposed project through a structured process of brainstorming and planning. The Chapter President, alongside the chapter advisor, visited the facility that would be the beneficiary of the network redesign and met with the program's officials to understand the needs of the program, as well as to gather data for efficient planning (such as dimensions, physical layout to design topology, etc.). The Chapter Senior and Junior Vice President took charge on establishing a potential outreach opportunity, and did research on a homeless simulation for chapter members to partake in prior to or during the completion of the project for a deep understanding of the struggles of homelessness, and to develop an emotional connection to the project. The Chapter Officers on a whole are in charge of delegating upcoming tasks, organizing a schedule for project completion, and establishing needs of the project. Students will also be in charge of media outreach and publicization, using skills geared towards social media marketing to make the community aware of the impact our chapter, SkillsUSA, and career and technical education is making on our community and the world, by contacting and/or utilizing a variety of outlets of publicity. In regards to the success and execution of the project up to this point and after (hopefully) winning the grant, students play a central role to this project and take on many different responsibilities.

**6. Describe how the grant dollars will provide an outreach opportunity for the students involved. Be specific on any outreach projects that will be completed during the year.**

The grant allow for Chapter 3651 members to become involved in the Bryan-College Station (BCS) area. However this grant does not just allow students to become involved the BCS area, it also helps to connect these students to a national network of poverty relief initiatives. Our chapter wants to further our members understanding of poverty in the BCS area and providing an opportunity in which they can understand more about poverty's effects and realities. Understanding the day to day reality of poverty is important for everyone not just our members; but by giving our students the ability to go through a simulation on poverty we help to open the discussion of potential change for within our community which plans to extend beyond a single grant. Through student participation in Mission Waco's poverty simulations student will be able to understand how poverty and homelessness affects those living in the conditions and help to motivate them to combat homelessness in the BCS area. Our chapter believes by allowing for students to participate in a poverty simulation in Waco Texas it will help a new generation of social activist to fight poverty.

In addition to the poverty and homeless simulation that the SkillsUSA chapter students will participate in, we will continue our outreach efforts in our Electronics Recycling drive and Cyber Awareness initiative partnered with our local Lowes. This grant would allow for more student engagement in the chapter's outreach efforts by increasing participation and student interest. Also, we have never reached out to so many groups in our own school and surrounding areas. This grant will increase our local voice and impact that SkillsUSA and Lowes has on our local community.

## Section 5—PROJECT PARTNERS

### **1. If you will be working jointly with other local organizations, technical programs, school groups or SkillsUSA chapters, list them here and describe their part in the project.**

SkillsUSA is represented by our school in three distinct chapters: Information Technology, Audio/Video Production and Graphic Design and Animations. It is our plan to incorporate all SkillsUSA students in this project, as we can incorporate the skillsets from all areas. This is a large scale project, so we will need as much student participation as we can muster. We will also reach out to all Career and Technical Student Organizations in our school, such as FFA, BPA, HOSA and FCCLA, in hopes that they would also like to participate in this volunteer service opportunity and to learn about the effects of homelessness in our area. In addition, we will of course work directly with the Family Promise organization, our local College Station and Bryan Lowe's stores, our local newspaper The Eagle, our local radio KNDE 95, one of our local internet service providers FiberTown and all of the eight participating churches that currently host the Family Promise families.

Our local SkillsUSA chapter officers will run as project leaders. If we have participation from the other CTSOs, we will task them with helping on the project job site, and offer small classes on how to run cabling and how to crimp network cable. We will rely on Family Promise to help educate all participate on the purpose and history of their organization, and to stress the effects of homelessness in our area. We will hope that this project will have a deeper impact on all participants, and show more than just service, but an education the needs of our community. We will rely on our AV Production and Graphic Design students to design shirts, and create videos about the event so we can share on social media and with our local newspaper. We will ask our local Lowes if they would like to send employees to help with the project, and we will include them in all leadership and project planning. We will rely on companies such as FiberTown to offer support in mentoring, and guidance on the job, in order to assure that the student work is up to building code. Finally, we will reach out to the participating churches to see what support they can offer in the project, from providing mentorship, meals or even transportation of materials.

### **2. Identify any high-profile local, state or national individuals who will be invited to be a part of any media events held in conjunction with the proposed project.**

A publicity strategy which could further proliferate visibility in regards to our project, its success and its impacts are the invitation of high-profile individuals in different media events. We plan to host two media events in conjunction with the proposed project to achieve that goal. First, the homeless simulation. We will invite high-profile individuals to take part in the project with us, and use their visibility to draw attention to this program. This includes district and state officers from our state, members of our school's student government, local United Way Youth Leadership Cabinet members, school administrators, and city council members. We will take pictures, urge those who are involved to use social media channels as a publicity tool, and post on a blog. We will also host an unmasking event in which we display our efforts and results to the community, while hosting an event, complete with food and entertainment. Here, we will invite our city mayor, district and state officers from our state, SkillsUSA National Officers from our region, city council members, our state executive director, SkillsUSA National Executive Director, our local National Representative Bill Flores, and our state senators/representatives from our region. We will use the same publicity strategies as stated above, and invite local media outlets to cover the event.

## Section 6—LOWE'S STORE INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY

You do not have to have a Lowe's store nearby to qualify for a grant. However, successful applicants will involve Lowe's from the onset of the project. Their participation may be in a variety of forms, such as in the supplying of materials, planning stages, volunteer service on the project, etc. To find the nearest Lowe's store and identify their store #, visit the store locator at [www.Lowes.com](http://www.Lowes.com)

1. Distance to closest Lowe's store (check one):

5 miles or less

2. What is the individual identifying number of the nearest Lowe's store? **#3032**

3. Who is your local Lowe's contact person? **Scott Decker**

4. Describe the role Lowe's will play in any part of the project.

We currently have a partnership established with our local Lowes in College Station. We have hosted meetings and lunch socials in the past, and most recently we worked with our Lowes to help organize the October Safety Awareness day. We helped set up a mini fair in the Lowe's parking lot, and invited all of the local organizations to help the public increase awareness in all areas of safety. This included the fire department, police department, local vets for pet safety, and our chapter hosted a booth on internet safety and cybersecurity.

We would continue our partnership with our College Station Lowes and ask that we have a few volunteers to help be mentors for students, and to simply help participate in a great event to help Family Promise. We would also work with Lowes on celebration events and assure that we would partner for all local media events.

## Section 7—PROJECT TIMELINE AND SPECIFICATIONS

Please specify when you will use your grant by providing a month-by-month project timeline. (IE: planning meetings, ordering materials, construction, etc.) Also, include key events such as kick-off, celebration, media event, etc.

Project Timeline		
Month	Event	Who will participate
June	Apply for Grant	Chapter officers and instructors
July	Keep fingers crossed	Chapter officers, instructors and Family Promise
August	Project Planning – All purchases will be planned, and schedule of work days will be established. Duties and tasks will be developed and assigned per groups.	Chapter officers, instructors, Family Promise and local Lowes
September	Project Purchasing – All equipment and supplies will be purchased and stored for the project. Students will begin assembling computers, configuring routers, filters and domain servers. Students will consult with ISP to establish connection with the building to the internet. Video blogging, and shirts will be design. Photos and videos will be shared via social media.	Chapter officers, all chapter students, instructors, FiberTown
October	Project Installation – All participants will begin running cables and installing the network infrastructure. Once the network cabling is established, the networking equipment will be installed and the network will be in place. Desks and shelving will be installed, printers configured and all aspects of the network will be tested. The security system will be installed at the same time. Video blogging, photos and videos will be shared via social media.	Chapter officers, all chapter students, instructors, FiberTown, and local Lowes

November	Final Testing and Celebration – The students will conduct final network testing. We will also host a welcome event to showcase the new Family Promise facility, and invite all designated persons, in addition to the media to be present. We will host a BBQ to celebrate the new facility.	Chapter officers, all chapter students, instructors, FiberTown, Family Promise and local Lowes – All Participants and invited guests
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**Estimate total number of SkillsUSA participants (including students/teachers/administrators).**

The total number of participants will include SkillsUSA students and volunteers from all associated organizations and companies. We would estimate there to be from 150-175 persons involved in the overall project.

## Section 8—PUBLIC RELATIONS/SOCIAL MEDIA PLAN

The Lowe's grant provides a tremendous opportunity to raise overall awareness of SkillsUSA in your community and state, as well as at the national level. As you complete this section, be specific and list all media you plan to use. (IE: television, newspaper, photography, Web site, radio announcements, school newsletter, school TV station, word of mouth, community group meetings presentations, fliers, posters or banners.) Grants may not be used to pay for any advertising, but you can seek donated media assistance to support your grant.

### **1. Describe the details of your media plan to announce your winning grant as well as the implementation and celebration of your grant project completion.**

It is important to our chapter that we widely and effectively publicize and celebrate the impacts SkillsUSA, Lowe's, and career and technical education, in conjunction with this grant, will have on our community. We have three key media strategies to publicize the implementation and celebration of winning the grant and completing the grant project.

- **Real-Time Digital Log and Tracking:** We plan on using the digital platforms of Wordpress and YouTube to log and track our progress over several weeks, in written forms and in the form of video logs which not only document our progress in the visual sphere, but allows the use of the video medium to document our outreach/immersion experiences, the learning process, our experiences in building, and interviewing/seeing members involved. The Wordpress platform will be used in a similar way, as we not only document progress and data, but the sentiments of involved members and the community on the project's personal and external impacts.
- **Personal Social Media Platforms:** All involved members will use their personal social media platforms to celebrate the grant winning, document the project progression, and celebrate the project completion. Furthermore, the social media outlets of our community, such as the non-profit we are helping, our SkillsUSA District, our local Lowe's, our school and our SkillsUSA State organization will be in use to promote the grant winning and project completion. Furthermore, photo-based social media outlets such as Instagram will be used to post progress, take pictures with Lowe's staff and beneficiaries, and drum up excitement for events.
- **Local Media Outlets:** Our chapter members will contact local newspaper outlets (The Eagle), as well as local radio stations and online news websites to cover the story and promote an understanding of our chapter's contributions to the community in conjunction with Lowe's and SkillsUSA's philosophy. Our school newspaper will also be asked to cover the story to alert students and faculty of winning the grant and our project through their print publications, online news blog, and social media accounts. By being covered by local media outlets, we will extend the reach of our publicity campaign by thousands of people, and alert the community of the goodwill this grant, and our chapter's initiatives, inspired by SkillsUSA, are having.

## Section 9—STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR THE GRANT

**1. Provide 2-3 statements of support from the project beneficiaries, individuals in the community, students or school personnel (teachers, advisors, principal, superintendent) describing why the school, or students need the proposed grant dollars to support their project.**

*Please view the attached letters of support at the end of the grant.*

**2. Provide statements by 2-3 students detailing how their chapter chose their project and the roles students have played in the planning and application process.**

Statement of support: Delphine Djomo, chapter Vice President

“Hi. My name is Delphine Leoue Ngoko Djomo and I am writing this letter in strong support of my chapter’s Family Promise Network Design project. As the 2017-2018 Senior Vice President of Chapter 3561, designing and organizing this project with the help of my advisor, Bart Taylor, and other chapter officers has been a source of pride and joy, as I come to the realization of the epic contribution and impact we can have on our community. Having served as a state officer, and being a part of this organization for three years, I have become deeply knowledgeable of how to bring a project from conception to completion, and it is something I enjoy. Furthermore, my dedication to service orientation makes this project a passion and a goal that I hope we will be fortunate enough to accomplish. I have been at the helm of designing our social media outreach plans and outreach opportunities for members, as well as providing a perspective, as someone who was homeless in infancy. I am also in charge of organizing and delegating members for the planning committee. This project has a very deep connection to me, and I am excited to execute this project with a generous grant from Lowe’s. As a leader within my chapter, I hope to help further develop the virtues, sense of service, and perspectives of my fellow members”

Statement of support: Spencer Williamson, chapter President

“Initially my fellow officers and I were unclear about how to utilize this prospective grant to its full potential. In order to determine a proper course of action a meeting was called of Chapter 3651’s officers and sponsors. During our brainstorming session it was clear our chapter’s initiative would be fighting poverty which has plagued the Bryan-College Station area since its founding. As a member of a very socially active church I had previously been exposed to a multitude of mission trips, community bonding endeavors, and many other activities which sought to elevate those who were in horrible circumstances. Due to these experiences, when Mr. Taylor our chapter sponsor mentioned helping Family promise by writing this grant I immediately jumped aboard and made a motion to assist the local organization. Once we had our goal we decided it was best if the Vice-President, President, and Junior Vice-President would play a dominate role in applying for the grant. As the President of our chapter I felt it pertinent that we see the new Family Promise facility to gain a more personal understanding of how this organization fights poverty. After several days we were given the opportunity to visit the new facility. As we pulled up to the facility it was obvious that it was a work in progress, the interior rooms were unpainted and cold, and the floors were in need of some wax. Although the building was lacking in appearance what was noticeable was the efforts of the volunteers who were at the building; Young and Old, rich and poor, experienced workers and experienced all of them were working toward getting the building up and

running. That moment has continued to stick with our officer team and has provided continual motivation to help Family Promise. We are writing this grant not for our own benefit but for the hope that one day a family may be pulled off the street and through Family Promises help, find a home. I hope that you too will help families find a home.”



1806 Wilde Oak Circle  
Bryan, TX 77802

979-268-4309 office

[familypromisebcs@gmail.com](mailto:familypromisebcs@gmail.com)  
[www.familypromisebcs.org](http://www.familypromisebcs.org)

June 8, 2017

TO: Whom it May Concern:

FROM: Phebe Simmons, Ed.D., Director

Re: SkillsUSA Grant

I am happy to submit this letter of support for our local SkillsUSA students at A&M Consolidated High School, College Station, Texas. My name is Phebe Simmons and I serve as Director of *Family Promise of Bryan-College Station*. Family Promise is an area wide faith based, non-profit ministry that supports families with children by providing shelter, meals and support services as they work towards self-sufficiency. We provide safe environments where children can remain with their parents (90 day average) while families work toward achieving sustainable independence.

Family Promise has provided food and shelter 110 families (257 children, 138 adults) since opening in October 2008. Family Promise was developed as a community response to the growing numbers of homeless families with children under the age of 18 in Bryan-College Station. We carry out our mission through housing, feeding, educating and being a support system for families with children experiencing homelessness.

Currently, Family Promise is in a Day Center from 8-5 and churches take over the evening meals and housing. We have been blessed with an opportunity to cut out the traveling to and fro and remain in one facility for the 24 hour day. Churches and other organizations will be able to take a week and volunteer to provide food and overnight hosts. (Overnight hosts are part of the Family Promise program to follow the controls, 10:00 pm lights out, 6:00 am up for school/jobs, and to help make sure guests needs will be met. It is on a rare occasion when a child or parent is sick in the night and must get to an emergency room. With overnight hosts on duty, this is doable as families often enter the program without a vehicle.)

Children stay with the parent through difficult times instead of being taken by CPS or dropped off at relatives. Keeping families intact is important and their safety and security is a top priority.

Our program has an 80% success rate of keeping these children from being homeless. Our caseworker, counsels/monitors our families for a two-year period. When families feel they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment, they are intrinsically motivated to work towards self-sufficiency. Parents and children are able to build (or rebuild) a foundation for success while in the program, allowing them to graduate as well-adjusted families and productive members of the community.

Family Promise of Bryan College Station is moving into a new facility, Hope Crossing, former Carver Elementary School, in Bryan, Texas. Three classrooms will be converted to temporary bedrooms for families. One classroom is the office of the director. One classroom will become dining and living room for guests.

A key component in renovating Hope Crossing will be an electronics package for the facility. The biggest item is a security system. Cameras around all sides will provide security for the families and overnight hosts.

The other electronic needs include at least five (5) keypad locks for the rooms to ensure privacy for our guests. We will need a keypad for the director's office as sensitive information is kept under double lock. The combinations can be changed on a regular basis after families graduate from the program.

Also, new computers for job hunting and homework as well as office equipment are important needs (requesting four laptop computers and one tower system). We also need a black and white printer/copier/fax for the common area and a color printer/copier/ fax for the office.

In closing, I would like to say that students in SkillsUSA will learn firsthand about giving back to the community. Many, for the first time, will discover that the average age of a homeless person is nine years old and that we have over 1,000 homeless children in our community. Students will begin to make connections as to why organizations like Family Promise is needed in our community. It is not uncommon for at least one of the students to find that one of their very own classmates are guests of Family Promise. I would like to believe that the students will leave with a sense of accomplishment, knowing that they played a key role in providing a safe, secure environment for current and future families through the skills, knowledge and work provided by their very own hands. Many lives will be touched and made better by the hands of the SkillsUSA students.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this project.

**Building community, strengthening lives.**



June 7, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Our congregation has been involved with Bryan-College Station's Family Promise ministry as a host church for the last ten years. Throughout that time, I have served the pastorate of Friends Congregational Church, becoming involved with the advancement of Family Promise's mission to provide hospitality to families struggling with homelessness while providing them with resources to get back on their feet.

The SkillsUSA TX District 7 chapter needs the Lowe's Community Grant money to support a project that will allow students to build a computer network infrastructure for a new building to better serve our families in need. Using this grant money to build computers, install network wiring, create a small business office network, set a content filter, and create work areas for the families and workers hosted at this new Family Promise facility, SkillsUSA TX District 7 students will empower homeless families to become self-sustaining.

This, in turn, will have a positive impact on our community by increasing educational resources for homeless youth who are attending schools that require access to computers, providing online resources to adults seeking employment opportunities, and reducing the stigma associated with homelessness for volunteers who would use these resources to assist our Family Promise guests with tutoring, budget management, and other tools promoting self-sustainability.

The SkillsUSA TX District 7 students will learn about the realities of homelessness in a community with a city ordinance that does not allow for people who are currently homeless to congregate in most public places. If their labor is funded by this grant, the SkillsUSA TX District 7 students will take away their own sense of empowerment with the realization that something this simple can make a profound difference in the lives of homeless families and our wider community.

In short, I am confident that this grant will lead to more than this one project at the hands of the innovative SkillsUSA TX District 7 students. I strongly encourage that they be awarded this crucial grant that will go a long way in building up our Brazos Valley community.

With Hope,



*A&M Consolidated High School*  
College Station Independent School District



1801 Harvey Mitchell Parkway South  
College Station, TX 77840  
979-764-5500 FAX 979-693-0212

June 8, 2017

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter of support for the SkillsUSA organization at A&M Consolidated High School on behalf of Family Promise. Family Promise serves many families and children in our community by providing them shelter, meals, and resources to be self-reliance.

As the principal, our students would gain valuable experience budgeting, planning, allocating resources, and applying their skills in a real-world setting. Additionally, the grant would allow our students to fulfill the mission of SkillsUSA—"to empower its members to become world-class workers, leaders, and responsible American citizens." Thus, I whole-heartily support this opportunity for our students to be a beacon of light in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gwen Elder".

Gwen Elder

## Section C – SkillsUSA Models of Excellence

The Information Technology SkillsUSA chapter at A&M Consolidated High School was recently named among the top 24 SkillsUSA chapters nationally as a “Model of Excellence” recipient. This national program recognizes the exceptional integration and application of personal, workplace and technical skills in SkillsUSA chapter activities. This is one of the highest awards bestowed on chapters by SkillsUSA, which is among the largest student organizations for career and technical education. This is the third year in a row that the IT chapter has been awarded this honor.

The IT chapter has been a finalist for this award for the past three years with being the national winner for the past two years in Workplace and Technical Skills.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SkillsUSA Contact**

Name and title: Bart Taylor

Phone: 979-492-8872

Email: btaylor@csisd.org

**A&M CONSOLIDATED SKILLSUSA NAMED NATIONAL MODEL OF EXCELLENCE**

*Honored as an Outstanding SkillsUSA Program*

**(College Station, TX: May 2017)** — The Information Technology SkillsUSA chapter at A&M Consolidated High School was recently named among the top 24 SkillsUSA chapters nationally as a “Model of Excellence” recipient. This national program recognizes the exceptional integration and application of personal, workplace and technical skills in SkillsUSA chapter activities. This is one of the highest awards bestowed on chapters by SkillsUSA, which is among the largest student organizations for career and technical education. This is the third year in a row that the IT chapter has been awarded this honor.

“The Models of Excellence program represents the very best in chapter achievement and community involvement,” said Timothy W. Lawrence, executive director of SkillsUSA. “The A&M Consolidated High School chapter defines excellence across the board, serving as a model for other chapters to emulate in strengthening their local programs. These students represent our future workforce and reflect the future of their communities. What a tremendous honor that validates this outstanding SkillsUSA program.”

The 24 Models of Excellence chapters will participate in the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville, Ky., June 19-23. Activities include finalist interviews, an awards dinner at the Kentucky Derby Museum, and recognition at an awards ceremony in front of more than 12,000 students, instructors and business leaders.

“This is the third year Lowe’s has supported this program, and we are honored to be part of it,” said Troy J. Dally, Lowe’s senior vice president, general merchandising manager, seasonal and services. “These students are an amazing group. They possess the skills that every employer seeks, including leadership, initiative, communication, teamwork and problem solving. Their teachers and advisors take the education of these students to the next level by elevating it from classroom instruction to successful application and fulfillment.”

The Models of Excellence program promotes the intentional learning of personal, workplace and technical skills outlined in the SkillsUSA Framework for student

development. Specific characteristics defined within each skill area help ensure tangible benchmarks for student achievement and chapter programming. Achievement is measured by the effectiveness of student efforts in implementing essential workplace skills including personal responsibility, integrity, work ethic and organization in chapter activities. The hands-on approach of this program actualizes the SkillsUSA mission of empowering members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens.

For more information, or to schedule an interview with a chapter member or the chapter advisor, please contact **Bart Taylor, [btaylor@csisd.org](mailto:btaylor@csisd.org)**.

### **About SkillsUSA**

SkillsUSA is a vital solution to the growing U.S. skills gap. This nonprofit partnership of students, instructors and industry ensures America has the skilled workforce it needs to stay competitive. Founded in 1965 and endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education, the association serves more than 335,000 member students and instructors each year in middle schools, high schools and colleges. This diverse talent pipeline covers 130 trade, technical and skilled service occupations, the majority STEM-related. More than 600 corporations, trade associations, businesses and labor unions actively support SkillsUSA at the national level. SkillsUSA programs are integrated into career and technical education through a framework of personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics. Local, state and national championships, designed and judged by industry, set relevant standards for career and technical education and provide needed recognition to its students. SkillsUSA also offers technical skill assessments and other workplace credentials. For more information, go to: [www.SkillsUSA.org](http://www.SkillsUSA.org).

### **About Lowe's in the Community**

Lowe's, a FORTUNE® 50 home improvement company, has a 60-year legacy of supporting the communities it serves through programs that focus on K-12 public education and community improvement projects. In the past decade, Lowe's and the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation together have contributed nearly \$300 million to these efforts, and for more than two decades Lowe's Heroes volunteers have donated their time to make our communities better places to live. For the latest news, visit [Newsroom.Lowes.com](http://Newsroom.Lowes.com) or follow [@LowesMedia](https://twitter.com/LowesMedia) on Twitter.

## SKILLSUSA IT CHAPTER NAMED NATIONAL MODELS OF EXCELLENCE

*The Information Technology SkillsUSA chapter at A&M Consolidated High School was recently named among the top 24 SkillsUSA chapters nationally as a "Model of Excellence" recipient. This national program recognizes the exceptional integration and application of personal, workplace and technical skills in SkillsUSA chapter activities. This is one of the highest awards bestowed on chapters by SkillsUSA, which is among the largest student organizations for career and technical education. This is the third year in a row that the IT chapter has been awarded this honor.*

### A&M CONSOLIDATED SKILLSUSA NAMED NATIONAL MODEL OF EXCELLENCE

*Honored as an Outstanding SkillsUSA Program*

**(College Station, TX: May 2017)** — The Information Technology SkillsUSA chapter at A&M Consolidated High School was recently named among the top 24 SkillsUSA chapters nationally as a "Model of Excellence" recipient. This national program recognizes the exceptional integration and application of personal, workplace and technical skills in SkillsUSA chapter activities. This is one of the highest awards bestowed on chapters by SkillsUSA, which is among the largest student organizations for career and technical education. This is the third year in a row that the IT chapter has been awarded this honor.

"The Models of Excellence program represents the very best in chapter achievement and community involvement," said Timothy W. Lawrence, executive director of SkillsUSA. "The A&M Consolidated High School chapter defines excellence across the board, serving as a model for other chapters to emulate in strengthening their local programs. These students represent our future workforce and reflect the future of their communities. What a tremendous honor that validates this outstanding SkillsUSA program."

The 24 Models of Excellence chapters will participate in the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville, Ky., June 19-23. Activities include finalist interviews, an awards dinner at the Kentucky Derby Museum, and recognition at an awards ceremony in front of more than 12,000 students, instructors and business leaders.

"This is the third year Lowe's has supported this program, and we are honored to be part of it," said Troy J. Dally, Lowe's senior vice president, general merchandising manager, seasonal and



services. "These students are an amazing group. They possess the skills that every employer seeks, including leadership, initiative, communication, teamwork and problem solving. Their teachers and advisors take the education of these students to the next level by elevating it from classroom instruction to successful application and fulfillment."

The Models of Excellence program promotes the intentional learning of personal, workplace and technical skills outlined in the SkillsUSA Framework for student development. Specific characteristics defined within each skill area help ensure tangible benchmarks for student achievement and chapter programming. Achievement is measured by the effectiveness of student efforts in implementing essential workplace skills including personal responsibility, integrity, work ethic and organization in chapter activities. The hands-on approach of this program actualizes the SkillsUSA mission of empowering members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens.

For more information, or to schedule an interview with a chapter member or the chapter advisor, please contact **Bart Taylor**, [btaylor@csisd.org](mailto:btaylor@csisd.org).

### About SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is a vital solution to the growing U.S. skills gap. This nonprofit partnership of students, instructors and industry ensures America has the skilled workforce it needs to stay competitive. Founded in 1965 and endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education, the association serves more than 335,000 member students and instructors each year in middle schools, high schools and colleges. This diverse talent pipeline covers 130 trade, technical and skilled service occupations, the majority STEM-related. More than 600 corporations, trade associations, businesses and labor unions actively support SkillsUSA at the national level. SkillsUSA programs are integrated into career and technical education through a framework of personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics. Local, state and national championships, designed and judged by industry, set relevant standards for career and technical education and provide needed recognition to its students. SkillsUSA also offers technical skill assessments and other workplace credentials. For more information, go to: [www.SkillsUSA.org](http://www.SkillsUSA.org).

### About Lowe's in the Community

Lowe's, a FORTUNE® 50 home improvement company, has a 60-year legacy of supporting the communities it serves through programs that focus on K-12 public education and community improvement projects. In the past decade, Lowe's and the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation together have contributed nearly \$300 million to these efforts, and for more than two decades Lowe's Heroes volunteers have donated their time to make our communities better places to live. For the latest news, visit [Newsroom.Lowes.com](http://Newsroom.Lowes.com) or follow [@LowesMedia](https://twitter.com/LowesMedia) on Twitter.





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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SkillsUSA Contact**

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Email: btaylor@csisd.org

**A&M CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL NAMED  
SKILLSUSA “MODEL OF EXCELLENCE” NATIONAL WINNER**

**College Station, TX: 7/17/2016** –The SkillsUSA chapter at A&M Consolidated High School was recently awarded first place in the “technical skills” category as a SkillsUSA Models of Excellence (MOE) recipient. This is the second year for A&M Consolidated to earn Models of Excellence recognition, and the first year to be a national winner. Models of Excellence is part of the SkillsUSA Chapter Excellence Program (CEP), sponsored by **Lowe’s Companies, Inc.** to promote the application of personal, workplace and technical skills in local chapter activities. The SkillsUSA chapter from A&M Consolidated was one of 24 national finalists to compete for top honors during the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, June 20-24, 2016. Chapter finalists will each receive a grant up to \$4,000 from Lowe’s to support SkillsUSA programming.

“The members of A&M Consolidated have accomplished a major achievement,” said Troy Dally, Lowe’s senior vice president of customer experience. “Lowe’s is honored to sponsor CEP because it inspires students to do amazing work in their communities and supports development of workplace and technical skills in demand by the industry.”

According to Timothy W. Lawrence, executive director of SkillsUSA, “We are grateful to Lowe’s for supporting the advancement of SkillsUSA Framework skills in defining chapter excellence across the board. The SkillsUSA Framework is the core of our organization. The A&M Consolidated chapter serves as a model for other chapters to emulate in strengthening local programs.” He continued, “Students influenced by quality chapters represent future community leaders, paramount to SkillsUSA’s goal of providing 100,000 workforce-ready students each year. We applaud A&M Consolidated members for their initiative, and thank their advisors and teachers for their extraordinary commitment to changing student lives.”

The A&M Consolidated chapter was recognized for their stellar organization and implementation of a “Game Wars” video gaming tournament. Members applied their knowledge in systems networking, live stream technology, cybersecurity, and customer service to host two Friday night gaming tournaments for more than 350 participants, including college gaming teams. The chapter focused on the SkillsUSA Framework skills of computer and technology literacy, job specific skills, and professional development to manage this highly technical and multi-faceted endeavor. For the event to be successful, members assumed multiple leadership roles for tasks such as coordinating sponsorship and publicity, facility logistics, website administration, registration procedures, network set-up and stability, and identity protection for participants. The event augmented classroom learning and delivered valuable experience in using high-demand IT skills. The chapter donated all proceeds, over \$2,000, to other school clubs. Chapter members Ross Romero and Alexis Girouard represented the chapter during the week-long conference in Louisville.

“This activity was much more than hosting a really successful video gaming tournament,” said A&M Consolidated SkillsUSA advisor, Bart Taylor. “This was about our SkillsUSA members implementing all the technical, back-end skills that are in high demand for a growing gaming industry. Not only did it bring our community together and attract gamers from as far away as Houston, but it was a great example of students taking 100 percent ownership of a businesslike activity and running with it.” Taylor added, “We appreciate Lowe’s and their support of CEP because it challenges me as a teacher to stay innovative and find new ways to push my students. By using the SkillsUSA Framework as our guide, we’re able to make the link between skills and leadership for every student in our program.”

The SkillsUSA Framework defines specific characteristics within each skill area – personal, workplace and technical – to help ensure tangible benchmarks for student achievement and chapter programming. CEP achievement is measured by the effectiveness of student efforts in implementing essential workplace skills including personal responsibility, integrity, work ethic and organization in chapter activities. The hands-on approach of this program actualizes the SkillsUSA mission of empowering members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens.

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## Students sponsor tech, internet access for B-CS homeless

By AIMEE BREAUX  
aimee.breaux@theeagle.com

A group of College Station students have plans to provide what they hope can help get local families out of poverty — access to the internet.

A new homeless shelter for families run by Bryan-College Station Family Promise, a nonprofit that provides resources to homeless people in the area, will get a technological face lift this school year, courtesy of an A&M Consolidated High School information technology

class and some grant money. Students in the class were given \$25,000 from Lowe's as part of a grant program put on by SkillsUSA, a nonprofit organization that serves career and technical education.

With the money, the high schoolers will build computers — which they note comes with the added benefit of saving on labor costs — and work with an IT company to build a security system for a new Family Promise. The offer from

See TECH, Page A9

## TECH: Computer literacy essential, student says

Continued from A7

the class comes as Family Promise is preparing to open a new temporary shelter to meet the growing number of homeless children — Phebe Simons, program director, said the number of homeless children in Bryan has gone from 300 in 2008 to 1,000 in 2016.

Bart Taylor, the A&M Consolidated information technology teacher who spearheaded the grant, says his class' involvement is equally about training students and giving back to the community.

For senior Delphine Leoue Ngoko Djomo, the idea behind the project is

that not having access to the internet is debilitating both for students temporarily staying in a Family Promise shelter who need to do homework and for adults looking for jobs.

"I think there is this misconception that people who are homeless or in poverty don't deserve to have this technology or access to high-tech gear," she said. "But in this day and age, it's incredibly important to have access to this — that's where most jobs are located. You have to apply online."

Beyond applying for a job, Djomo says the increasing demand for more technically skilled workers means those who do

not have basic technology literacy and access to now basic equipment such as computers are left behind.

"That's the problem that a lot of homeless people are facing. They do not have the technology to succeed," she said. "Then it becomes a recurring cycle. Poverty is just going to continue if you don't have technology to get you out of that situation."

Her classmate, Spencer Williamson sees the whole project as a sort of win-win.

"I think more valuable than the technology and the skills we're giving [Family Promise] to set up their network is the that we are able to instill in students a sense of duty to

their community," he said. "I feel like that's lacking."

Djomo says she similarly sees the project as a way to share the skills picked up in the classroom with the community.

Building computers from scratch — which Djomo describes as "day one" of computer science — will shave off some of the cost and have an educational payoff. But for Djomo, the practice is a little more personal.

"We're all very excited about building the parts so we can feel as if we directly contributed," she said. "It's one thing to buy computers, but it's another thing to make it ourselves and give it to Family Promise."



Special to The Eagle

The SkillsUSA chapter at A&M Consolidated High School was awarded first place in the workplace skills category. Chapter adviser Bart Taylor and members Kelly Krenke and Delphine Leoue Ngoko Djomo represented the chapter.

## Consol students win national honor

By AIMEE BREAUX  
aimee.breaux@theeagle.com

With free T-shirts and extensive research, College Station high schoolers tried to arm the community with a crash course in cyber security this year.

"Nobody ever thinks they are the ones who

are going to be hacked — that they are going to be the victims of this," says A&M Consolidated senior Delphine Leoue Ngoko Djomo. "So, they don't necessarily try so hard to seal their identity. But it's very easy to steal your identity and because our online

lives are linked to such important things — like our personal records and our financial systems, we become very vulnerable." Djomo and her classmates beat out thousands of students for the top spot in this year's SkillsUSA Model of Excellence

competition for their efforts to make College Station residents a little less vulnerable to cyber attacks. It's the second consecutive year the team has won the award, passing up more than 18,000 chapters in SkillsUSA, a nonprofit organization that hosts competitions targeted at encouraging students to learn skills that meet workforce needs.

The award itself is meant to recognize the chapter with the best community-based projects showcasing students practicing what teachers lecture. Led by their sponsor, information technology teacher Bart Taylor, AMCHS students earned the award for their cybersecurity outreach initiative.

As part of the initiative, the students set up a booth at a local Lowe's for a day to pass out T-shirts and give tips for keeping online accounts secure. They also had a three-hour seminar at their high school on cyber security.

For Djomo, an officer for her campus' SkillsUSA team, the project was a chance to live out a philosophy of hers — namely that "knowledge isn't something that should be kept to yourself."

## STUDENTS: Education rewarded

Continued from A7

people have come out very vigilant, very determined to change their password," she said. "Knowledge is power. If you have the power to protect yourself, you are going to be less vulnerable — which is the best thing we can hope for."

Taylor said it has been a transformative process to watch his students take on leadership roles and really get into planning a project they think will help the community at large. He adds that the team began working on next school year's project before the school year was over.

"They want to win, but that's not really the driving force behind it," he said. "This year more than any, I've seen kids step up and say, 'What are some things we can do? How can we make an impact on others.'"

Still, Djomo said it also feels "amazing" to be recognized for their work. "We put so much heart into everything we do, so to see that validated and valued by the selection committee is something we take to heart," she said, before adding the caveat that she and her teammates "don't take anything for granted" when it comes to extending their winning streak.

"Being able to come into class and do this honors information technology work and not only be able to use the knowledge to benefit ourselves, but to benefit the people around us and to make our community as a whole better motivates me," she said. She said AMCHS students were able to take a deeper dive with those who attended the seminar, but with the table at Lowe's, they tried to impart quick, basic concepts.

The key takeaways are as follows: if you have to choose length over complexity when it comes to passwords and use phrases that are easy to remember but modified. For example, swap out characters with numbers in expressions like "Mary had a little lamb."

She said most of the people students talked to were surprised by how easy it is to steal an identity, and then a little scared — she recalls one seminar attendee quipping "What kind of sleeping pills do you use at night? Because I'm not going to be able to sleep at night."

Ultimately, she said she felt people left their booth and seminar better prepared.

"One thing that I like is

competition for their efforts to make College Station residents a little less vulnerable to cyber attacks. It's the second consecutive year the team has won the award, passing up more than 18,000 chapters in SkillsUSA, a nonprofit organization that hosts competitions targeted at encouraging students to learn skills that meet workforce needs.

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### CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS INITIATIVE

COMMUNICATIONS, LEADERSHIP, PLANNING, ORGANIZING AND MANAGEMENT



#### A&M Consolidated High School, Texas

In a world where online threats and security breaches occur daily, public knowledge of cybersecurity is increasingly important. Members at A&M Consolidated High School, a 2016 Model of Excellence winner, tackled this topic head-on by leading a cybersecurity awareness initiative. The chapter took a two-pronged approach by seeking to further its own cybersecurity education while also providing outreach and cybersecurity presentations in the community. Students participated in the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Education Program online curriculum, completing lessons during IT class time. Taking what they learned, they planned and participated in two local outreach efforts, which included participation at a safety event at their local Lowe's store in October 2016 and a presentation hosted at their high school in February 2017. At the Lowe's event, students set up a display and answered security questions for hundreds of Lowe's customers. During the school event, students presented topics on keeping data safe, offered a workshop on effectively using Google services and provided in-house consultation.

Members honed communication skills throughout the process, developing interpersonal skills by working with various groups and marketing the program to the community. They capitalized on audiovisual, written and well-constructed oral communication. Student demonstrated leadership by taking initiative to augment their existing classroom. They led the entire IT program to proactively learn more about cybersecurity issues. They also developed a level of trust with the community, building positive relationships and setting common goals. Extensive planning, organizing and management was required to organize and hold these events. Students took charge of all facets of the program, including planning and oversight, advertising and presenting. They worked in teams and sought the necessary resources to make the program come to fruition. In offering this valuable service, the chapter also gained notability for its award-winning IT program. A cyber win for



### GOLDEN TECH "BEAUTY AND BRAINS" TECHNOLOGY TRAINING AT KELLER SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

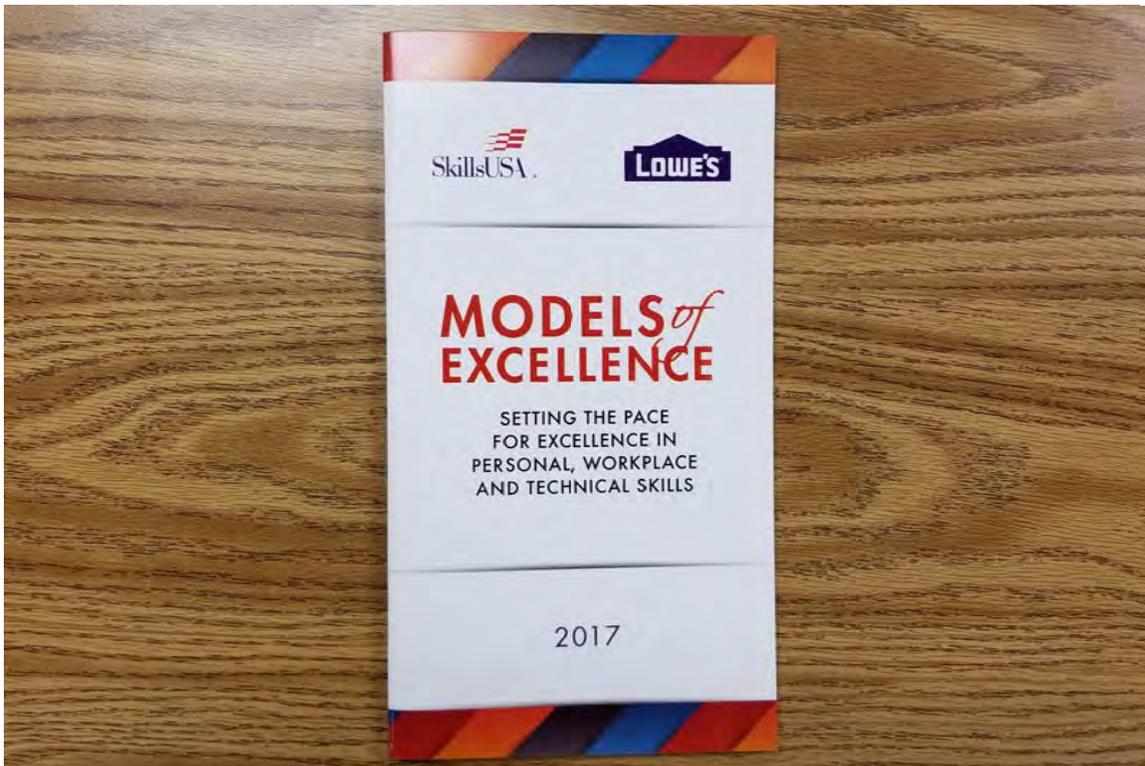
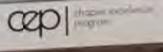
PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND WORKPLACE SKILLS, COMMUNICATIONS, LEADERSHIP, PLANNING, ORGANIZING AND MANAGEMENT



#### Keller Center for Advanced Learning, Texas

For senior citizens, the ever-changing technology scene can be especially intimidating with smartphones, apps, social media and the internet. SkillsUSA members in Keller, Texas, made technology more approachable for area seniors by creating a monthly technology training program. The SkillsUSA officer team worked alongside the chapter's community service committee to model the program after a similar one in another school district. They created multiple teams of 12 to 14 students, determined topics for the training and worked with the senior activity center to create a schedule. Seniors were able to sign up for assistance with smartphone functions, apps for healthcare and benefits, online tools for mental alertness, internet navigation and more. It's been a huge success. Since the program's inception, the chapter has conducted nine visits to the senior activity center, with expansion to other activity centers on the horizon.

Members practiced multicultural sensitivity and awareness by pairing students and senior citizens of shared cultural backgrounds to get the most out of visits. Also, many students worked with seniors from different cultural backgrounds, learning more about their traditions and values. Students practiced teamwork by establishing parameters for the program and working collaboratively with each other, seniors, activity center management and the team from the school district from which they modeled the program. Planning, organizing and management was seen in four members outlined and executed the details and promoted service learning through a positive social media campaign. In addition to seniors appreciating the ability to better connect with family members and take advantage of free services online, the multigenerational relationships being developed have been especially rewarding. Way to come for your elders!



# MODELS OF EXCELLENCE

SETTING THE PACE FOR EXCELLENCE IN PERSONAL, WORKPLACE AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

2017





### GAME WARS – VIDEO-GAMING TOURNAMENT

TECHNICAL AND TECHNICAL SKILLS TO IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



#### A&M Consolidated High School, Texas

If there was ever a good reason for teens to play video games, the SkillsUSA chapter at A&M Consolidated High School may have found it. A returning Models of Excellence chapter, A&M Consolidated members honed their technical skills, raised money and created a safe video-gaming environment by hosting Game Wars. Members used their knowledge in systems networking, live-stream technology, cybersecurity and customer service during two Friday-night tournaments (one in the fall and one in the spring) for more than 350 teens. Word of the event reached students as far away as Houston. The chapter's CTE funds cover most SkillsUSA expenses, so the chapter donated over \$2,000 in event earnings to other school clubs in need.

SkillsUSA members excelled in computer and technology literacy, job-specific skills and professional development to manage this highly technical endeavor. Since the event was entirely dependent on computers and gaming systems, members had to ensure the network was working properly and that computer systems were updated with the right gaming software. The chapter also had to take cybersecurity precautions to protect the identity of participants. Members in the most advanced courses took lead roles on major assignments and mentored other members throughout the activity. Specific jobs included teacher and facility logistics, website administration, advertising activities, awards and sponsorship coordination, event streaming, registration and game liaisons. The event sparked classroom learning and provided valuable experience in using skills demanded by information technology and cybersecurity companies. Now that's a video game experience parents can cheer about!



# MODELS of EXCELLENCE

*Dinner at the Derby*

PROGRAM  
2016

SETTING THE PACE FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
PERSONAL, WORKPLACE AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

Kentucky Derby Museum  
Louisville, Kentucky  
June 22, 2016

## Section D – Community Service

The following artifacts are from our IT recycling community service event and our IT Safety event we hosted with Lowe's.

The SkillsUSA IT chapter hosts an Electronics for the Environment Recycling event annually twice a year. They collect old VCRs, DVD players, stereos, computers and broken laptops and any old electronics. Electronics should NOT be sent to the landfills. They contain materials that are hazardous and need to be recycled properly.

The SkillsUSA IT team hosted a booth about Cyber Safety at the Lowe's community Safety Event.



## CERTIFICATE OF RECYCLING

Customer: A&M Consolidated HS

Job/PO: A&M Con 09192015

Recycling Date: 01/13 /2016

Net Weight 11,007

Description	QTY	Net Weight
Computers	149	2751
Laptops	32	120
Servers	6	456
Printers	38	1404
TV	36	2932
CRT	16	616
Misc		2336
UPS	12	392

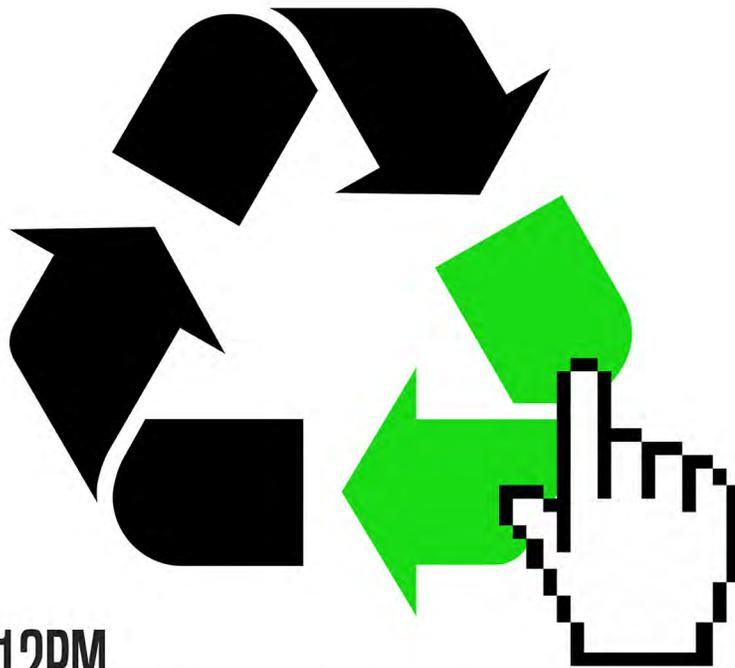
This document affirms that IT Recycling Group, Inc. acknowledges receipt of all the materials described hereto: all have been destroyed in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws by way of the most environmentally friendly means possible. IT Recycling Group also acknowledges all data storage components have been wiped and/or destroyed pursuant to environmental and waste management regulations.

Authorization: Kay Ramon

Signature

Date: 1/13/2016

# ELECTRONICS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



9AM - 12PM

**NOVEMBER 12TH**

**BRING ALL OF YOUR OLD ELECTRONICS**

WE'LL **RECYCLE** THEM FOR YOU!



**FRONT ENTRANCE OF A&M CONSOLIDATED  
1801 HARVEY MITCHELL PKWY S, COLLEGE STATION, TX 77840**







# SAFETY EVENT

## OCTOBER 15TH

### 10AM TO 3PM

4451 HWY 6 S COLLEGE STATION

Family Friendly Activities  
Free Giveaways



Police and Fire Departments  
Featuring CSPD Kids Print  
And MORE!



# KIDS CLINIC BUILD AND GROW KICKOFF AT 10AM



# FREE ADMISSION









## Section E - Washington Leadership Training Institute

The following are pictures from our students participating in the Washington Leadership Training Institute. The Washington Leadership Training Institute is a “capstone” leadership and citizenship event to which students must earn their Statesmen award from their individual states for admission. The five-day Washington Leadership Training Institute is sponsored each year by SkillsUSA to provide students an opportunity to learn about Washington and the democratic process. WLTl concentrates on advanced communications skills, including sharing their personal stories with the media and elected officials.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 2, 2017

Contact: Bart Taylor, 979-492-8872, [btaylor@csisd.org](mailto:btaylor@csisd.org)

## **College Station High School Students Attend SkillsUSA's Washington Leadership Training Institute on Capitol Hill**

Four College Station ISD High School students, Tannah Brister (CSHS), Chloe Merkel (CSHS), John Adams (AMCHS) and Spencer Williamson (AMCHS), recently joined in a delegation of Texas career and technical education students and instructors to meet with Senate and House representatives to advocate for career and technology education and Perkins funding. In addition to Congressional visits and leadership training, both students earned their National SkillsUSA Statesman Award, the highest achievement for a SkillsUSA student.

Leesburg, Va. – A delegation of Career and Technical Education (CTE) students and instructors from Texas met with Christopher D. Taylor, staff member of Bill Flores, and Dylan MacInerney, assistant to Kevin Brady, on September 26, 2017. Congressional visits are an important part of SkillsUSA's Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTI). However, the attendees also had the opportunity to visit historic sites such as the Lincoln Memorial, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the Pentagon 9-11 Memorial. The delegation was also given the opportunity to explore Washington D.C. up close by visiting some of the most well-known monuments, memorials and Smithsonian museums.

The five-day Washington Leadership Training Institute is sponsored each year by SkillsUSA to provide students an opportunity to learn about Washington and the democratic process. This year's delegations discussed the value of their education; the value of public career and technical education to their respective states; the quality of their education and training, bridging the national skills gap; and the benefits of their participation in SkillsUSA. They explained that today's workplace requires people with leadership, teamwork, technical and communication skills to participant to begin closing the skills gap. SkillsUSA has been successful in developing both the technical and soft skills needed in students of all ages and backgrounds.

The Washington Leadership Training Institute is a "capstone" leadership and citizenship event to which students must earn their Statesmen award from their individual states for admission. WLTI concentrates on advanced communications skills, including sharing their personal stories with the media and elected officials. This year, 534 students and instructors from all over the nation attended the workforce development conference.

SkillsUSA is an integral part of public career and technical education (CTE). CTE is learning that works for America. According to the U.S. Department of Education, the average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 93% compared to an average national freshman graduation rate of 80% and 91 percent of high school graduates who earned 2-3 CTE credits enrolled in college. CTE is also about jobs -- good middle-class jobs -- that are essential for the American economy and global competitiveness. One-third will require an associate's degree or certificate and nearly all will require real-world skills that can be mastered through CTE and the SkillsUSA Framework.

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# # #











## Section F – International Wireless Communications Conference

The following are pictures from our IT students winning the IWCE scholarship. Over the past two years, we have had two winners, Kelly Krenek and Delphine Djomo.

Students interested in a technical career in the wireless communications field have a vast array of opportunities awaiting them. To learn more about the diverse careers, meet industry leaders and recruiters as well as see the latest technical products and services, several students recently submitted essays to qualify for a trip to attend ETA International's Education Forum at the International Wireless Communications Expo.

Contact:  
Michele Altman, CSS  
ETA International  
Phone: (800) 288-3824  
Fax: (765) 653-4287

5 Depot Street  
Greencastle, IN 46135  
www.eta-i.org

ETA<sup>®</sup> INTERNATIONAL



## PRESS RELEASE

### ETA Selects Scholarship Winner

*In a combined effort to encourage more young people to explore the many different careers available in the industry, ETA<sup>®</sup> International (ETA) and the International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE) recently awarded a student scholarship to attend ETA's Education Forum at IWCE.*

Greencastle, IN - February 15, 2016: Students interested in a technical career in the wireless communications field have a vast array of opportunities awaiting them. To learn more about the diverse careers, meet industry leaders and recruiters as well as see the latest technical products and services, several students recently submitted essays to qualify for a trip to attend ETA International's Education Forum at the International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE) March 21-25, 2016 in Las Vegas.

In an effort to brace for the 'silver tsunami' of retiring baby boomers in the wireless communications industry, ETA and IWCE selected a high school student for the first time. Congratulations go to Kelly Krenek from A&M Consolidated High School in College Station, TX.

Krenek's focus on information technology with a hands-on approach and well-rounded extracurricular activities made her a perfect wireless communications scholarship candidate.

"Wireless communication is a form of information technology science fiction given life by the dedication of innovators and developers across the country...these hardworking individuals and teams brought to life ideas and dreams those of centuries past could only dream of," Krenek said.

She has her sights set on becoming a systems engineer. Systems engineers have a plethora of different sub-careers, Krenek said. Systems engineers specialize in troubleshooting problems and maintaining equipment. They require understanding of complex systems and how components of those systems work together to become greater than each of their individual parts.

Education Forum at IWCE will be the perfect way for Krenek to connect with the movers and shakers in the electronics and wireless industries.

She said, "Because technology is continuously changing, it is important for system engineers engaged in information technology careers to keep up with the rapidly shifting nature of the careers and the IWCE conference is the perfect way to build and maintain my knowledge of current technological developments, which is vital to the career of a systems engineer."

Last year's winner was Christopher Olejniczak, CETsr of Lemont, IL. With a military background in radio systems, he is a DeVry University graduate who was fortunate to start his wireless career with veteran-owned United Radio Communications (URC).

Students submitted essays of 1,000 words or less, along with a recent resume and cover letter to ETA. To be eligible, the student must have at least a 2.5 grade point average and must be currently enrolled in a school, the military or other technical training program. This essay must describe the student's ideal career in wireless communications, how this scholarship could benefit their future personally and professionally, as well as why they should be considered for this scholarship.

The scholarship essay contest includes one short course package conference pass (\$549 value), one coach class plane ticket to Las Vegas, NV (value up to \$400), two nights hotel stay at IWCE's host hotel, access to IWCE's exhibit hall and dinner with ETA representatives.

ETA will once again host training from top industry experts at IWCE to obtain valuable hands-on training and ETA certification. Training will include Certified Electronics Technician, Distributed Antenna Systems, Fiber Optics Installer, Interference Hunting, Mobile Communications Electronics Installation and Line and Antenna Sweeping from such respected trainers as Dover Telecommunications Services, IWA Technical Services and Light Brigade

As more students, technicians and educators discover the ETA Education Forum at IWCE and the remarkable value it offers, the partners will continue to offer professional development opportunities at a reasonable price. To see the IWCE conference agenda, including ETA-hosted industry training and ETA certification exams, please visit [www.iwceexpo.com](http://www.iwceexpo.com).

About ETA - Since 1978, ETA has issued over 150,000 professional certifications. Widely recognized and frequently used in worker job selection, hiring processes, pay increases, and advancements, ETA certifications are often required as companies bid on contracts. ETA's certifications are personal and travel with the individual, regardless of employment or status change and measure competencies of persons, not products or vendors. All ETA certifications are accredited through the International Certification Accreditation Council (ICAC) and align with the ISO-17024 standard. [www.eta-i.org](http://www.eta-i.org)

About International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE) - Since 1977, the International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE) has been the authoritative annual event for communications technology professionals. IWCE features over 370 exhibitors showcasing the latest products and trends in the industry. Over 7,000 individuals attend from a diverse group of industry professionals including government/military, public safety, utility, transportation and business enterprise. IWCE 2016 will be held March 21-25, 2016 at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, NV. For more information, visit [www.iwceexpo.com](http://www.iwceexpo.com).

Download this press release at [www.eta-i.org/pr/ETA\\_Selects\\_Scholarship\\_Winner.pdf](http://www.eta-i.org/pr/ETA_Selects_Scholarship_Winner.pdf)

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## Section G – Summer Leadership Camp

Each summer the IT program sends students to the SkillsUSA Summer Leadership Conference to learn about teamwork and leadership.







## Section H – Presidential Volunteer Service Award

For the past 4 years, students from the IT program have earned their **President's Volunteer Service Award**. To receive the award, participants had to complete a minimum of 1000 hours of community service within a 12-month period. All hours were documented and verified by representatives at each agency they served. **The award was created by President's Council on Service and Civic Participation (the Council)** which was established in 2003 to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making in our communities and encourage more people to **serve. The Council created the President's Volunteer Service Award program as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. The program continues as an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).**



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Congratulations on receiving the President's Volunteer Service Award, and thank you for helping to address the most pressing needs in your community and our country.

In my Inaugural Address, I stated that we need a new era of responsibility—a recognition on the part of every American that we have duties to ourselves, our Nation, and the world. These are duties that we do not grudgingly accept, but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit than giving our all to a difficult task. Your volunteer service demonstrates the kind of commitment to your community that moves America a step closer to its great promise.

Our Nation faces the most challenging economic crisis in a lifetime. We will only renew America if we all work together. Individuals, the private sector, and government must combine efforts to make real and lasting change so that each person has the opportunity to fulfill his or her potential.

While government can open more opportunities for us to serve our communities, it is up to each of us to seize those opportunities. Thank you for your devotion to service and for doing all you can to shape a better tomorrow for our great Nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style.





*The President's Volunteer Service Award is presented to:*

**A&M CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL CHAPTER 3561  
GOLD**

*By the Corporation for National and Community Service in recognition and appreciation for their  
commitment to strengthen our nation and communities through volunteer service.*

**2016**

Awarded

Corporation for  
**NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY**

**POINTS**   
OF LIGHT