

A SkillsUSA Alumni

ND SkillsUSA

North Dakota State SkillsUSA Director Retires



After everything he's done, a long time friend of North Dakota SkillsUSA says goodbye. Arnie Zent, Director of North Dakota SkillsUSA, has formally resigned from the Department of Career and Technical Education. Mr. Zent joined the Department in 1986 where he provided leadership to SkillsUSA chapters throughout North Dakota. His dedication to developing student leaders was clearly evident. Arnie's technical assistance and encouragement resulted in numerous national and international champions from across our state. His greatest accomplishment and honor was in serving on the SkillsUSA Board of Directors. He served for two terms, making many friends with the national staff, industry representatives and advisors from across the country.

Arnie has a way of being remembered. His humor and friendly approach is his trademark. Believe me, there are many stories people can tell, because he was not above pulling a prank or two on his friends. Arnie will be missed but most of all he will be remembered. Congratulations and best wishes.

Inside this issue:

Lauren Meets Brain Tumor Foundation Fundraising Goal	2
Post Secondary Report	2
National Safety Initiative	3
Secondary Report	3
Upcoming Events	4

Governor Signs Proclamation

Governor John Hoeven signed a proclamation declaring February 8-24, 2004, as SkillsUSA Week. Secondary and Post-Secondary Officers met with Governor Hoeven to discuss SkillsUSA Week. He visited at length with officers asking them what educational and career goals they had set for themselves and what school they were attending. He was impressed with their choices and encouraged them to consider seeking jobs in North Dakota. Each officer received a group picture with the Governor's signature.



Governor Hoeven with Secondary and Post-Secondary Officers

Special points of interest:

- After everything he's done a long time friend says goodbye. New safety program with the National Center for Construction Education and Research.
- 12 year old girl raises \$10,000 by herself! Where does our success come from?

Lauren Meets Brain Tumor Foundation Fundraising Goal

By Don Roloff

Two years ago Lauren Weigel, an energetic ten year old, began to have headaches and on occasion became disoriented. Her parents had her examined by their family physician and were told that the diagnosis needed further attention. Lauren was referred to a specialist and was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. That news was overwhelming for the family and for Lauren. They were referred to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation for assistance and support. Part of the commitment of patients is to raise money for research for the Foundation, and Lauren became very involved.

Remember that I had mentioned that Lauren was an energetic ten-year-old? Knowing that she has a difficult disability did not deter her from setting a goal of becoming the lead fundraiser for the Foundation. Her goal was presented to the North Dakota Post-Secondary SkillsUSA Officers with a request for assistance. The officers committed to a raffle during the Buggies-N-Blues car show in Mandan in June 2001. Their efforts helped Lauren come close to being the national winner. She took second that year in the nation.

This year was a different story. Again, Lauren headed out with determination to break the \$10,000.00 threshold. She is noted for singing unique jingles about helping kids with brain tumors and has developed a wonderful reputation. Everyone wants to hear her new jingles.

She was involved in the Minnesota Ride for Kids, sponsored by the Foundation. The 440 motorcyclists who participated in the Ride for Kids were treated to a beautiful ride past many lakes and rivers, and ended the day with another beautiful sight– a new Minnesota Ride for Kids fundraising record! The motorcyclists raised \$79,363.00 to support the Foundation's mission of finding the cause and cure of childhood brain tumors. The crowd went wild when they learned that Lauren Weigel, age 12, was the Top Individual Fundraiser, contributing \$10,000 to the cause.

Lauren captured our hearts with her enthusiasm and commitment. Post-Secondary SkillsUSA Officers made a new friend with their fundraising project and learned a real lesson in life.

As a post note to this article, Lauren was reevaluated. It was determined that she had become a candidate for removal of the brain tumor through surgery. Lauren went through the surgery understanding that it could effect her for life in a very debilitating way or be successful and begin recovery for a normal life. She took the risk and the operation was totally successful. Her fundraising goal was achieved after the operation. Congratulations to Lauren on being the Top Fundraiser. We wish her well on her recovery...and her next venture.

Lauren Weigel, age 12, contributed \$10,000 to finding the cause and a cure for the Brain Tumor Foundation!

Post-Secondary Report

By Lance Straabe

Butler Machinery supports SkillsUSA post-secondary leadership training. The 2003 post-secondary officer delegation was elected as a slate of officers. Individuals were identified for particular office only after the officer team successfully completed a leadership event. The Harold Schafer Leadership Center on the University of Mary campus provided a unique leadership experience. The Leadership Center overlooks the beautiful Missouri River providing a professional setting for learning.

The officers began with an orientation on the essentials of leadership and why they would need to determine how each individual could contrib-

ute to the officer team. A critical element of the training was the completion of a self-assessment exam. The self-assessment was a critical exercise to begin building consensus as to who would perform specific duties and who would hold each office. Once the leadership orientation was completed and everyone knew their role, the team began to strategize and establish a plan of action for the upcoming year.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Matt Butler and Don Pratt from Butler Machinery for their continued support in building North Dakota leaders in SkillsUSA.



Lance Straabe
SkillsUSA Post-Secondary President

National Safety Initiative

By Don Roloff

Safety concerns relating to injury and death of young workers has been on the minds of safety professionals across the country. The highest rate of incidents continues to be among employees between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five. Summer employment also continues to have a very high incident of accidents that are severe or cause death.

Trade and Industry, Technical and Health Education (TITH) of the North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education organized a national partnership to address these safety concerns. North Dakota Construction-related high school and college programs have adopted national industry training standards through the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). NCCER offers curriculum in thirty craft areas and promotes learning with a recognition program through the National Registry. Each craft area includes safety education within its instruction. The Core Curriculum is a prerequisite course for each of the craft areas and includes a safety module. North Dakota programs use the Core Curriculum in secondary and post-secondary education. The Core Curriculum is the basis for expanding safety training to meet OSHA standards relating to the OSHA Ten Hour.

A pilot project has been developed that will improve the Safety Module from the Core to include all safety topics in the OSHA Ten Hour. A pilot training program for instructors has been organ-

ized to train instructors how to integrate the additional safety content into their programs. North Dakota has been selected as the training site. Training will be held on the campus of Bismarck State College June 8 and 9, 2004. The intent is to provide a standardized safety module to be taught to high school and college students to address safety topics established by OSHA in the Ten Hour. Students will be recognized for their achievement by receiving a NCCER wallet card identifying the completed modules of instruction and an OSHA logo on the card to signify having met the OSHA training.

Members of the partnership include representatives from the National Center for Construction Education and Research, Department of Career and Technical Education, Associated General Contractors of North Dakota, North Dakota State University, Bismarck State College, Sitting Bull Community College, North Dakota State College of Science, Minot High School, Bismarck Vocational Center and West Fargo High School. Support for the pilot project is provided by Federal OSHA, OSHA representatives from North Dakota and North Dakota and North Dakota Workforce Safety and Insurance.

The pilot will be assessed and upon completion of the project, the Core Curriculum Safety Module will be available to high school and college programs nationally.

“Industry is one place we get the support we need. Thank you.”

Secondary Report

By: Taron Church

Well, it is that time of the year again; the grass is turning green, the trees are budding, and the sun is warm and bright, and the next thing you know it will be time for the North Dakota SkillsUSA State Conference.

This year the State Conference will be held on the campus of the North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, May 2nd-4th.

The State Conference is a place where so much happens. Where does our success come from? Industry is one place that we get the support that we need. Companies like Butler Machinery make

it happen; companies that are always there to help us, not only during the State Conference but all year around. Along with the smaller companies that help us by sending their employees to judge at our State Conference, without them the conference could not go on. And last but not least our advisors, the people that give us the drive to go on and be our best. We thank you, whether we see you on stage with the lights shining bright or you work behind the scenes to make everything go right, we owe our success to you and thank you. We hope to see everybody in May.



Taron Church
SkillsUSA Secondary Reporter

ND *SkillsUSA*

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WE ARE ON THE WEB!

WWW.EDUTECH.NODAK.EDU/NDSKILLSUSA

Come Join Us!

SkillsUSA upcoming events

North Dakota 31st Annual State SkillsUSA Championships

North Dakota State College of Science

Wahpeton, ND

May 2nd-4th 2004

40th Annual National SkillsUSA Conference

Kansas City, MO

June 20th -June 26th 2004



Officers at National SkillsUSA
