

SkillsUSA; Youth have their eyes set on the prize

SkillsUSA improves the quality of America's skilled workforce through a structured program of citizenship, leadership employability and technical and professional skills training. SkillsUSA enhances the lives and careers of students, instructors, and industry representatives as they strive to be champions at work. SkillsUSA Champions at Work, work to connecting youth to career pathways and career success. Kwesi Foster, Operations, Communications and Administrative Specialist was fortunate enough to witness the many talented youth from across the state, who displayed their many talents, skills and trades. The youth demonstrated the progress and opportunities they have taken advantage of and seek to continue in the near future. The youth have their eyes set on the prize for their future career pathways and goals. Many of the youth participants in the state's SkillsUSA competition held in Marlborough came from vocational schools from across Massachusetts.

SkillsUSA included occupational support trades such as web design, technical computer applications, and principles of engineering technology, as well as job skill demonstration, leadership, confidence, achievable goals, and commitment. Possibilities of development, willingness, ambition and educational opportunities were also on display by our ambitious youth. Kwesi was a contestant judge for SKILLSUSA Massachusetts and was also fortunate enough to see demonstrations in food prep, facial demonstrations, faux techniques aging leather, creating a sketch for 3D design, how to use proper protective equipment, the operation of delay on electricity, a 3 way switch technique and halogen versus HID headlights presentation along with a CPR demonstration. Other demonstrations included measuring volume in a biotechnology laboratory, culinary arts, health assisting, carpentry, engineering, graphics, business education, biotechnology, early education & care, media, computer science, automotive technology, information technology and creative design.

