

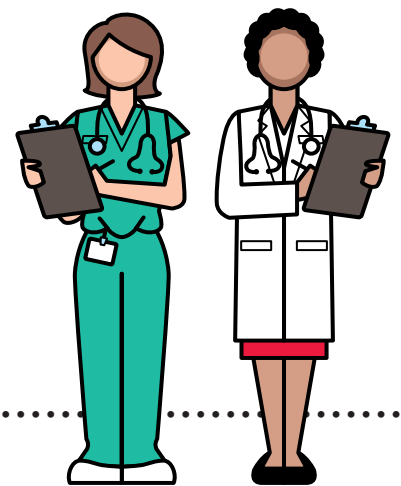
What makes a good worker?

Discover the Future

SkillsUSA has a program called **Workplace Readiness** that includes lesson plans and activities to help students with the following important work skills:

- Communications
- Problem Solving and Critical Thinking
- Information Technology Applications
- Business and Organization Systems
- Leadership, Management and Teamwork
- Ethics and/or Legal Responsibilities
- Safety, Health and Environment
- Employability and/or Career Development

For more career information see your school counselor and get information on-line at:
<http://jobstar.org/tools/career/spec-car.cfm>
 OR
<http://www.acinet.org/acinet/default.asp>



Kidzbiz Leader in the Making

by Vickie Miller
 Haley Rizzo will be attending the SkillsUSA National Championships, both as a member of Manatee Technical Institute's Problem Solving team and also as an elected officer for the State of Florida. She will be representing the Travel and Tourism program at MTI, a course that she started while also attending Lakewood Ranch High School.

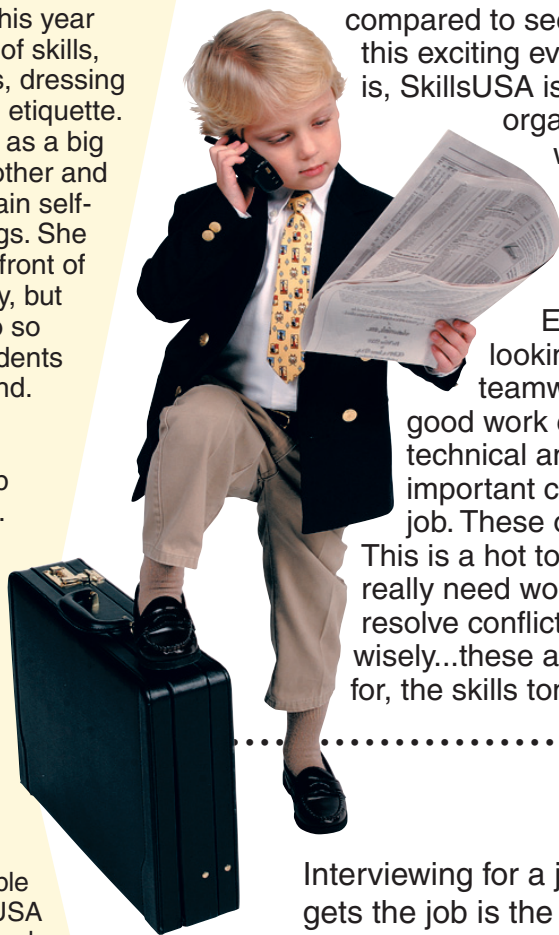


Haley Rizzo

Haley is especially enthusiastic about SkillsUSA. She was first introduced to the organization when she competed at the regional level in Promotional Bulletin Board and in Customer Service.

Haley also attended the State Leadership Training earlier this year where she learned all kinds of skills, such as delivering speeches, dressing professionally, and business etiquette.

Haley describes SkillsUSA as a big family that supports one another and encourages each other to gain self-confidence and try new things. She said that giving a speech in front of a large group was very scary, but she challenged herself to do so and found that the other students were very supportive and kind. Now Haley is getting more comfortable with being in leadership and wants to help others to also build life skills.



School biz Outstanding Advisor

by Vickie Miller

SkillsUSA Advisor, Ms. Michelle Meluch, says that her most memorable experience with SkillsUSA was the first time she took MTI drafting students to nationals. The event was very impressive, and the companies that supported her students were outstanding. One company even opened their business in the Bradenton area and contacted her later to hire her drafting students.

Since first taking students to nationals, Ms. Meluch has gotten more and more involved in SkillsUSA and



Michelle Meluch

now is the full-time advisor. What she likes about the organization is that it gives students a sense of belonging and helps them to feel like they are a part of a team.

Although she realizes that the competitions can put a lot of pressure on students, at the same time she sees how it helps the students to grow professionally.

As you can imagine, Ms. Meluch is very busy. Manatee Technical Institute has won the most medals at State competition for the past three years. At the beginning of the year, Ms. Meluch helps teachers prepare students for competition. Then, she coordinates fundraising and does hotel bookings and airline reservations for 118 students and advisors who will be attending Nationals this year. We are all thankful to her for her hard work.

Work Skills

SkillsUSA Helps Create Future Employees

by Vickie Miller

Imagine entering an arena that is the size of eleven football fields. However, instead of throwing balls and kicking for goals, you see a mass of materials covering the entire area. Everything you can imagine is there: all kinds of equipment, vehicles, building supplies, computers, and business work stations to name a few. This is what the National SkillsUSA Championship is like. The whole purpose of this multi-million dollar event is for students to show off just how good they are. As you can imagine, it is exciting, both for the students and teacher sponsors at Manatee Technical Institute and Bayshore High School, who will be attending in June.

Students from all over the country who have trained for vocational and technical careers and who also won their State competitions go to the National event to prove that they are the best. Everything you can imagine is there. Whole kitchens have been moved in for the culinary arts and baking competitions. Bricks and mortar are stacked for the masonry event. Computer stations are wired for networking competition. Cars, boats, and airplane engines are rigged for technicians to repair. Wood and roofing materials are stacked for the carpentry event, just waiting for students to build a model house or wall.

Since MTI won the most medals in the State of Florida (over 85 compared to second place's 15), they will be taking 115 students to this exciting event. However, as exhilarating as the National event is, SkillsUSA is about more than just competition. This

organization is also concerned with developing good workers and leaders for the future. Workshops and programs are offered to help students mature into successful business people. It takes more than just being the BEST in the nation to make a good employee.

Employers have said that the qualities they are looking for in workers include a positive attitude, teamwork, communication skills, leadership skills, and good work ethics and habits. Unfortunately, many students get technical and academic training but never learn the other important career skills that will help them get a job and keep a job. These other skills are often called "employability skills."

This is a hot topic because many employers are saying that they really need workers who can communicate, work on a team, resolve conflicts, make good ethical choices, and use one's time wisely...these are the skills today's employers are DESPERATE for, the skills tomorrow's workers need.

explore it

Interviewing for a job is something that can be practiced and developed. Sometimes, the person who gets the job is the one who interviews best and not necessarily the most qualified applicant. Below are possible jobs and common questions that are asked on an interview. Pick a partner and practice interviewing for the jobs below. Your answers should vary depending on the job. It would be helpful to give each other tips.

- Job 1: A costumed character at Walt Disney World
- Job 2: Manager of a pet store
- Job 3: Salesperson at a sports and recreation store
- Job 4: Assistant in a business office.

What will you wear for this interview? _____

1. What can you tell me about yourself?
2. Why do you want to work here?
3. What experiences do you have that have prepared you for this job?
4. What are your strengths?
5. How well do you work with other people?
6. What are your interests and hobbies?
7. What are your future goals?
8. Why should I hire you?
9. What questions do you have about the job?

Hints: Remember to always say positive things about yourself. Smile and be courteous. Even if you don't have specific training for the job, think of something in your background that would make you a good candidate. Shake hands and thank the interviewer for his/her time.

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Schools listed in red offer instruction in the subject area featured in today's InquiziKIDz



- <http://www.skillsusa.org/>
- <http://www.careers.uottawa.ca/en/students/tools/skills>
- <http://www.youthactionnet.org/toolkit/employability.cfm>
- <http://www.careers.unsw.edu.au/careerEd/planning/knowYourself/employability.aspx>