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## President's High Growth Job Training Initiative Career Skills Education Program



**Grant Amount:** \$142,000

**Grantee:** SkillsUSA - VICA

**Leveraged Amount:** \$25,000 in cash and in-kind contributions from SkillsUSA-VICA

**Location of Grant Activities:** Nationwide

**Challenge:** SkillsUSA-VICA is a national organization serving high school and college students and professional members enrolled in training programs in technical, skilled, and service occupations, including health occupations. More than a quarter million students become members annually. SkillsUSA-VICA prepares America's high-performance workers by providing quality education experiences in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. It builds and reinforces self-confidence, work attitudes and communications skills. SkillsUSA-VICA's students learn the values of total quality at work: high ethical standards, superior work skills, life-long education and pride in the dignity of work. SkillsUSA-VICA also promotes understanding of the free enterprise system and involvement in community service activities.

SkillsUSA-VICA's grant project will increase the recruitment of post-secondary students into innovative skilled trades programs, thus building the youth pipeline of experienced workers with advanced training. Participating students will thus possess the technical and professional skills that employers require.

**Addressing the Challenge:** In this national program, SkillsUSA-VICA, along with its industry and community college partners, aims to increase the youth pipeline of skilled trades workers by building advanced competency models and career ladders. The program will also provide secondary students interested in the skilled trades with more post-secondary training alternatives, such as the opportunity to continue their skills development in advanced community college programs.

Specifically, this grant will increase SkillsUSA-VICA's effectiveness in preparing postsecondary students for the skilled workforce and fund stateside activities related to TeamUSA's participation in the 2003 WorldSkills competition in St. Gallen, Switzerland.

**Projected Outcomes:**

- Increased engagement of post-secondary students in SkillsUSA-VICA's skilled trades programs and initiatives; development and implementation of comprehensive post-secondary/community college training models.

