

Champion
YOUR FUTURE
2025 - 2026

SKILLSUSA NORTH DAKOTA

**STATE LEADERSHIP AND
SKILLS CONFERENCE**

April 19-21, 2026
NDSCS Campus
Wahpeton, ND

2026 - 2027 State Officer Candidates



Adrian Rivera
Sheyenne Valley CTC



Alyssa Lehman
Southwest Area CTE



Connor Enney
Southwest Area CTE



Courtney Matcha
Sheyenne Valley CTC



Elizabeth Clemow
Southwest Area CTE



Emilee Nelson
Lake Area CTC



Jazmin Crawford
Southwest Area CTE



Malia Dietz
James Valley CTC



Rayne Nelson
Sheyenne Valley CTC



Rhea Haakenson
Sheyenne Valley CTC

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T H I N K
BIG

JUMP-START YOUR CAREER WITH OUR THINKBIG PROGRAM

Butler Machinery Company has partnered with North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton and Lake Area Technical College in Watertown to offer the ThinkBIG program. This two-year, dealer-sponsored program blends classroom instruction with paid, hands-on training at a Butler location, preparing students to service Caterpillar heavy equipment and start their careers as diesel service technicians.



Scan for more information on ThinkBIG

Butler 

Conference Agenda

Sunday April 19, 2026

1:30 - 2:30 pm	Registration	Red River Valley
3:00 - 5:00 pm	Contest Orientation	Assigned Locations
4:30 - 5:30 pm	Voting Delegate Orientation	Plains Room
5:30 - 7:30 pm	Dinner on Your Own	
7:30 - 9:30 pm	Opening Session	Blikre Activities Center
11:00 pm	Lights Out	

Monday April 20, 2026

8:00 am - 5:00 pm	SkillsUSA Championships	See Schedule
5:00 - 6:00 pm	Voting Delegate Session	Plains Room
6:00 - 9:00 pm	Dinner & Chapter Activities	
11:00 pm	Lights Out	

Tuesday April 21, 2026

9:30 - 11:30 am	Closing and Awards New Officer Installation Awards Ceremony	Blikre Activities Center
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Conference Attire

Name badges must be worn at all times unless prohibited during a contest. Except where specified, official dress, contest or business attire is to be worn throughout the entire conference. We respectfully ask that no caps be worn inside any buildings except when contests require them. Students wearing inappropriate attire at any time during the conference will be asked to leave until dressed appropriately.

Sunday Afternoon Orientations

Students should wear their contest clothing (as required by contest technical standards), business or official attire to Orientations and Opening Session.

Opening/Closing Sessions

Official attire, official contest attire or business professional is required for the Closing and Awards Ceremony. Jeans are not to be worn with the official red blazer. Award winners will not be allowed on stage to receive their award if not appropriately dressed.

Official SkillsUSA Attire (Class A)

Jacket/Blazer: Official red SkillsUSA blazer, jacket, or windbreaker.

Shirt: White button-up, collared dress shirt (or turtleneck/collarless white shirt).

Tie: Plain, solid black tie or official SkillsUSA black tie.

Bottoms: Black dress slacks or black dress skirt (knee-length minimum).

Shoes: Black closed-toe dress shoes.





CONFERENCE KEYNOTE

KAT PERKINS

Kat Perkins appeared on NBC's The Voice Season 6 and advanced to the show's finals. Mentored by Adam Levine, Kat climbed her way to fourth place! A native of the tiny town of Scranton, ND, Kat has resided in Minneapolis, Minnesota since 1999. Kat is a full-time touring musician, songwriter and show creator. Kat founded The Rising Star Foundation in 2015, fostering financial aid to up and coming musicians in need! Music and education is her passion, and she tries to combine them whenever possible!

Monday Community Service Project



Join us Monday in the **Red River Room** of the Student Center during your free time for this year's Community Service Project:

Fleece Tie Blanket

THANKS for your help!

Competition Schedule - Skilled/Occupational

Orientation Sunday, April 19 - Contests Monday, April 20

Competition	Location	Orientation	Contest
Architectural Drafting	Orientation & Contest Horton Hall 122	3:00 pm	8:00 am
Automotive MLR	Orientation & Contest Schuett Hall 117	3:00 pm	8:00 am
Automotive Refinishing Tech	Orientation & Contest Ballweber Hall	3:00 pm	8:00 am
Automotive Service Tech	Orientation & Contest Schuett Hall 117	3:00 pm	8:00 am
Baking & Pastry	Orientation & Contest Student Center Red River	3:00 pm	7:30 am
Cabinetmaking	Orientation & Contest Building Construction Tech 100	3:00 pm	8:00 am
Carpentry	Orientation & Contest Bisek Hall (CAT Lab) 1143	3:00 pm	8:00 am
Collision Damage Appraisal	Orientation & Contest Ballweber Hall	3:00 pm	8:00 am
Collision Repair Tech	Orientation & Contest Ballweber Hall	3:00 pm	8:00 am
Computer Programming	Orientation - Student Center Alley Contest - Student Center 029	3:30 pm	9:00 am
Culinary Arts	Orientation & Contest Student Center Red River	3:00 pm	12:30 pm
Diesel Equipment	Orientation & Contest Bisek Hall 1223	3:00 pm	8:00 am
EMT	Orientation - Student Center Alley Contest - Student Center Plains	3:30 pm	1:00 pm
Electronics Tech	Orientation - Student Center Alley Contest - Barnard Hall	3:30 pm	8:00 am
Electrical Construction Wiring	Orientation & Contest Barnard Hall 105	3:00 pm	8:00 am
Firefighting	Contest Tech Center 185	None	1:00 pm
First Aid/CPR	Orientation - Student Center Alley Contest - Student Center Plains	3:30 pm	Morning Appointment
Information Tech Services	Orientation - Student Center Alley Contest - Student Center 029	3:30 pm	8:30 am
Motorcycle Service Tech	Orientation - Student Center Alley Contest - Schuett Hall	3:30 pm	8:00 am
Nurse Assisting	Orientation & Contest Mayme Green Allied Health 204	3:00 pm	9:00 am
Photography	Orientation - Student Center Alley Contest - Student Center Plains	3:30 pm	Appointment

Competition Schedule - Skilled/Occupational

Orientation Sunday, April 19 - Contests Monday, April 20

Competition	Location	Orientation	Contest
Plumbing	Orientation - Student Center Alley Contest - Mechanical Systems 107/112	3:30 pm	8:00 am
Power Equipment Technology	Orientation - Student Center Alley Contest - Schuett Hall	3:30 pm	8:00 am
Robotics Urban Search	Orientation - Student Center Alley Contest - Student Center Plains	3:30 pm	Morning Appointment
Teamworks	Orientation & Contest Tech Center 172	3:00 pm	8:00 am
Welding	Orientation & Contest Trade Tech 2 Room 146	3:00 pm	7:30 am 12:30 pm
Welding (Intro)	Orientation & Contest Trade Tech 2 Room 146	3:00 pm	12:30 pm
Welding Sculpture	Orientation & Contest Student Center Plains	3:00 pm	Appointment
Woodturning	Orientation - Student Center Alley Contest - Student Center Plains	3:30 pm	Appointment

Off Campus Contests

Competition	Location	Orientation	Contest
Welding Fabrication	Orientation - Student Center Contest - Lynnes Welding, Fargo	3:00 pm	8:00 am 12:30 pm

Contest Team Appointments

AM Chapters

Sheyenne Valley CTC (3 Teams), NDSCS - PS (2 Teams)

PM Chapters

Mandan (2 Teams), Minot (1 Team), SWCTE (1 Team), SRCTC (1 Team),
Dunseith (1 Team)

Monday Lunches

Competitions in Wahpeton Lunch

All-day contest contestants, judges and Technical Chairs will receive a boxed lunch at the contest and will not need tickets. Contests ending before 1:00pm, starting at 1:00 pm, or that are by appointment will be receiving a meal ticket to eat at the Flickertail Dining Room.

Competitions in Fargo Lunch

Contestants, judges, Technical Chairs and supervising advisors will receive a box lunch at the contest location.

Voting Delegate Information

Required Sessions

Delegate Orientation - Sunday April 19, 4:30 - 5:30 pm, Student Center

Voting Session - Monday April 20, 5:00 - 6:00 pm, Student Center

What are the duties of a Voting Delegate?

SkillsUSA ND is a student run organization where student members are charged with the responsibility of governing the affairs associated with the student constitution. Delegates will be responsible for electing new officers, attend annual business meeting and vote on any By-Law changes, if necessary.

How many delegates is my school allowed?

The SkillsUSA ND Constitution states

2 - Delegates for each High School Attending

10 - Delegates for each College Attending

What will be required of me as a Voting Delegate?

Delegates are to be present and on time for all sessions, must be in official dress during delegate sessions and have knowledge of parliamentary procedures.

2025 - 2026 Annual Theme

Champion
YOUR FUTURE
2025 - 2026

Mark your Calendars

SkillsUSA Dates to Remember

SkillsUSA NLSC - Atlanta, Georgia, June 1-5, 2026

SkillsUSA ND SLSC - Wahpeton, ND, April 18-20, 2027

NLSC Travel Scholarships

SkillsUSA is proud to announce, in partnership with Harbor Freight Tools for Schools, a scholarship opportunity for SkillsUSA high school members competing at NLSC. Applicants can receive up to \$1,500 to attend the 2026 National Leadership and Skills Conference.

Deadline for this travel scholarship is May 14, 2026.

<https://www.skillsusa.org/recognition/scholarships-and-grants/>

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS

In partnership with Hyundai, SkillsUSA is proud to announce this scholarship opportunity for SkillsUSA high school and college-postsecondary members competing at the 2026 National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) in the Auto Service Technology competition.

Eligible members can apply to receive up to \$1,500 to assist in attending the 2026 NLSC. Recipients of scholarship funds must agree to use the funds for reasonable and appropriate costs of travel, lodging, and the cost of registration for the 2026 NLSC, as described in the online application.

Deadline for this travel scholarship is May 15, 2026.

<https://www.skillsusa.org/recognition/scholarships-and-grants/>



In partnership with **Ford Philanthropy**, SkillsUSA is pleased to offer a travel grant to support SkillsUSA members attending the 2026 National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC). This opportunity reflects Ford Philanthropy's commitment to helping people move forward and build meaningful futures, while encouraging SkillsUSA members to pursue careers in the skilled trades.

Eligible applicants include high school and postsecondary students competing at NLSC in June in Atlanta in the specified competition areas listed on the application.

Deadline for this travel scholarship is May 15, 2026.

<https://www.skillsusa.org/recognition/scholarships-and-grants/>



Horton Hall (2)

Architectural Drafting

Hektner Student Center (4)

Conference Headquarters
Baking/Pastry
Career Pathways
Community Action Project
Computer Programming
Culinary Arts
EMT
First Aid/CPR
Flickertail Dining Room
Health Knowledge Bowl
Health Occ Professional Portfolio
Information Technology Services
Job Skill Demonstration
Medical Math
Medical Terminology
Opening/Closing Ceremonies
Photography
Pin Design
Related Technical Math
Robotics Urban Search & Rescue
T-shirt Design
Quiz Bowl
Welding Sculpture
Woodturning

Mechanical Systems (11)

Plumbing

Barnard Hall (12)

Electrical Construction Wiring
Electronics Technology

Tech Center (13)

Extemp/Prepared Speech
Firefighting
Job Interview
TeamWorks

Bisek Hall (14)

Carpentry
Diesel Equipment Technology



Blikre Activity Center (19)

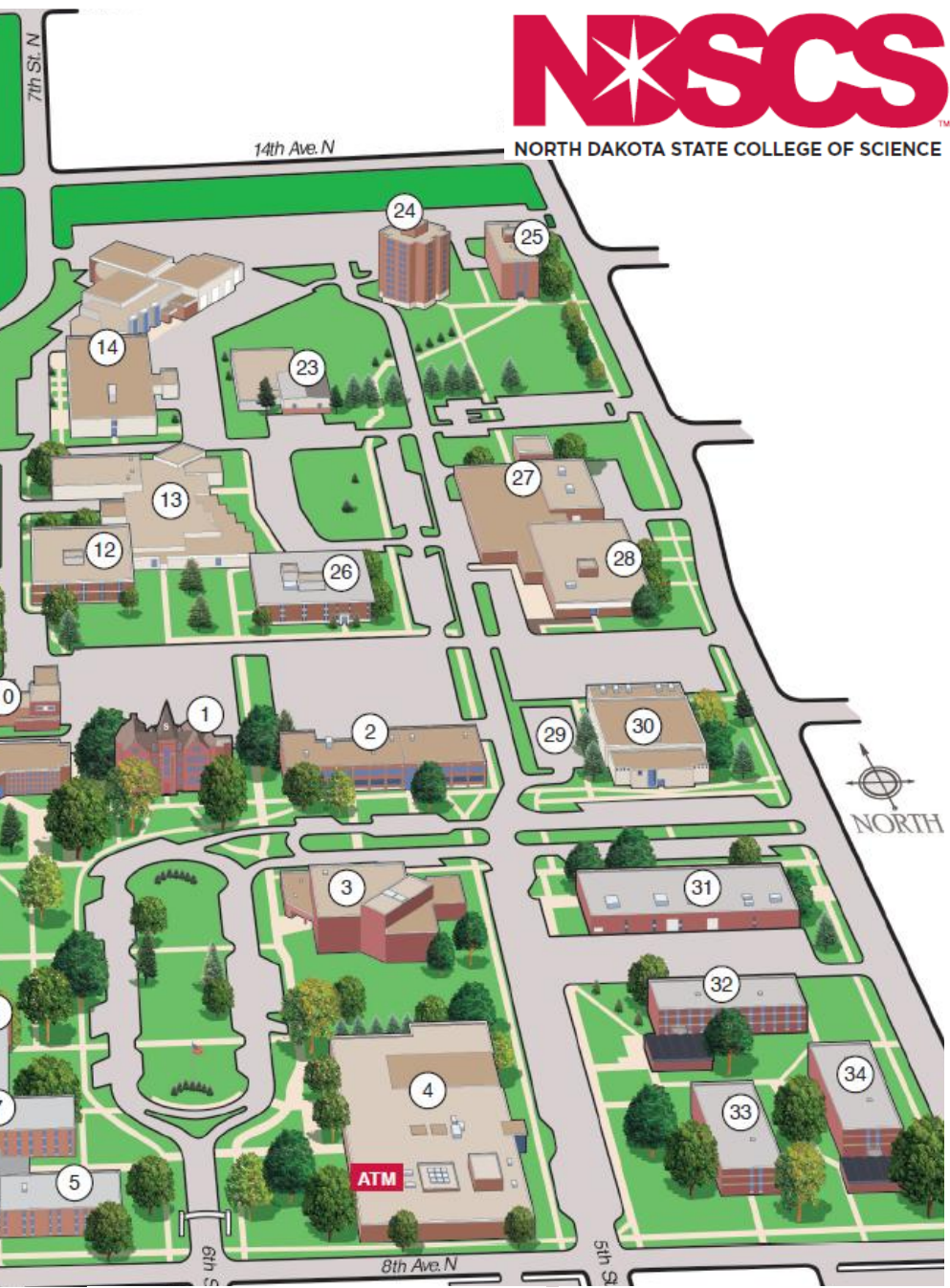
Closing/Awards Ceremony

Building Construction Tech (23)

Cabinetmaking

Schuett Hall (27)

Automotive MLR
Automotive Service Tech
Motorcycle Technology
Power Equipment Technology



Trade Tech 2 (28)

Welding
Welding - Intro

Mayme Green Allied Health (30)

Nurse Assisting

Ballweber Hall (31)

Automotive Refinishing Tech
Collision Damage Appraisal
Collision Repair Tech



Deegan Kirschenmann, Secondary President

Hello, my name is Deegan Kirschenmann and I am a Senior at Barnes County North. I am in my second year of SkillsUSA, and I have taken both Welding and Health Careers this year at Sheyenne Valley Area Career and Technology Center. My plan after this year is to attend the University of Jamestown with a major in Accounting, as well as continuing my wrestling career. SkillsUSA has transformed me into a better leader, communicator, and person overall. I am going to miss all of the amazing memories SkillsUSA has given me.



Elijah Ricks, Secondary Vice-President

Hello! My name is Elijah Ricks and I am currently a senior at Southwest Area Career and Technical Education Academy in Dickinson. I'm enrolled in my fourth year in the architecture and design program and am currently participating in work based learning at TMI. I have committed to South Dakota School of Mines and plan to get my master's degree in civil engineering over the next 5 years. Other activities I participate in include DHS soccer, Acalympics, NASA Techrise, Leadership Dickinson, and FCA. I first joined SkillsUSA after a recommendation from one of the past state officers, Justin

Wardell, and it has provided me with all sorts of amazing experiences, from going to state, helping run it or participating at nationals. SkillsUSA is for everybody and it's pushed me to become a better version of myself. Thank you guys for an amazing

Meerah Malcolm, Secretary

Hi! My name is Sameerah Malcolm, I'm currently a senior at Valley City High School. I'm enrolled in the health sciences and welding programs at Sheyenne Valley Area Career and Technology Center. My plan after high school is to attend Grand Canyon University with a major in psychology with applied forensic science and a minor in criminal justice to hopefully be a lawyer when I graduate. One thing I will be taking away from SkillsUSA are the skills and lessons I learned to be a better leader.



State Officer Team

Alyssa Lehman, Treasurer

Hi, my name's Alyssa Lehman and it had been a pleasure serving as your 2025-26 state treasurer. I'm a junior at Dickinson High School and am enrolled in the building trades and culinary arts programs at the Southwest Area CTE Academy. Aside from SkillsUSA, I am a part of Student Council, National Honor Society, Speech and Debate, and Bowling. My favorite memory this year was playing our series of intense games of Pacc-man at the arcade during officer training. (I won just so you know). I will miss our pre-conference get-togethers and hype sessions very much. Do not use the word c*llige around me, for I do not know what I want to do. For the next state treasurer of SkillsUSA North Dakota, cherish the time and get as much Starbucks as possible!! With that being said this is your state treasurer, Alyssa Lehman, signing off.



Mia Fountain, Reporter/Historian



Hello! My name is Mia Fountain, and I am currently serving as your state reporter and historian. I am a senior from Maple Valley High School enrolled in Health Sciences at Sheyenne Valley Area Career and Technology Center. I have been involved in SkillsUSA for 2 years now, attending Mid-America and Memorial Hall my first year. Along with SkillsUSA, I am also involved in SADD, National Honor Society, and FBLA. Next year I plan to attend NDSCS for their nursing program! I think my favorite memory as an officer was being able to spend time with the officer team both at training and at FLC. Getting to know everybody and getting close with everyone was the best thing SkillsUSA has gifted me. I'm going to miss our room checks the 😊 most.

Taylor Murphy, Parliamentarian

Hi! My name is Taylor Murphy. I am a senior at Dickinson High School and am currently enrolled in the health program at Southwest Area CTE Academy. Next year, I plan on attending Bismarck State College and majoring in cardiovascular technology to pursue a career as a cardiovascular surgical technician. My growth within SkillsUSA has been transformative, and I have loved every minute and opportunity of being a state officer and part of this "Dream Team." I have made so many great memories and friendships, and I am immensely grateful for the experience.



SkillsUSA Creed

I believe in the dignity of work

I hold that society has advanced to its present culture through the use of the worker's hands and mind. I will maintain a feeling of humbleness for the knowledge and skills that I receive from professionals, and I will conduct myself with dignity in the work I do.

I believe in the American way of life

I know our culture is the result of freedom of action and opportunities won by the founders of our American republic, and I will uphold their ideals.

I believe in education

I will endeavor to make the best use of knowledge, skills, and experience that I will learn in order that I may be a better worker in my chosen occupation and a better citizen in my community. To this end, I will continue my learning now and in the future.

I believe in fair play

I will, through honesty and fair play, respect the rights of others. I will always conduct myself in the manner of the best professionals in my occupation and treat those with whom I work as I would like to be treated.

I believe satisfaction is achieved by good work

I feel that compensation and personal satisfaction received for my work and services will be in proportion to my creative and productive ability.

I believe in high moral and spiritual standards

I will endeavor to conduct myself in such a manner as to set an example for others by living a wholesome life and by fulfilling my responsibilities as a citizen of my community.

SkillsUSA Pledge

Upon my honor, I pledge:

To prepare myself by diligent study and ardent practice to become a worker whose services will be recognized as honorable by my employer and fellow workers.

To base my expectations of reward upon the solid foundation of service.

To honor and respect my vocation in such a way as to bring repute to myself.

And further, to spare no effort in upholding the ideals of SkillsUSA.

SkillsUSA Colors

The colors red, white, blue and gold represent the SkillsUSA organization.

Red and White

represent the individual states and chapters.

Blue

represents the common union of the states and of the chapters.

Gold

represents the individual, the most important element of the organization.

SkillsUSA Emblem



The Shield Represents Patriotism

The shield denotes our belief in democracy, liberty and the American way of life.

The Gear Represents the Industrial Society

The gear, symbolic of the industrial society, denotes the interdependence and cooperation of the individual working with labor and management for the betterment of mankind.

The Torch Represents Knowledge

The flaming torch reflects the light of knowledge, which dispels the darkness of ignorance. In the light of the torch, progress will be made toward the vocational goals of the individual.

The Orbital Circles Represent Technology

The circles represent the challenge of modern technology and the training needed to accept and master the challenge of new technical frontiers and the need for continuous education.

The Hands Represent the Individual

The hands portray a search for knowledge and our desire to acquire a skill. In the process of attaining knowledge and skill, we will develop a respect for the dignity of work and become productive and responsible citizens.

SkillsUSA Motto

Preparing for Leadership in the World of Work

SkillsUSA Framework

Description

The SkillsUSA Framework is the foundation for all SkillsUSA educational programs, resources and products. It is essential to SkillsUSA's mission, because it serves as the blueprint for career readiness.

The Framework is divided into three main components, and a total of 17 Essential Elements are divided among those three components. The Framework Essential Elements were developed with the direct input of over 1,000 employers and represent the skills employers consider the most crucial for a successful hire.



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Here with you



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A Special Thank You!

Contest Technical Chairpersons, Judges and the businesses they are employed by, for donating their time and expertise to run the state contests.

Sponsors for their support of SkillsUSA ND through personal time, equipment, supplies, and funding.

Advisors, who have committed their time, encouragement and careers to students.

Student members, the most important element of SkillsUSA.



North Dakota State College of Science



THE WELDING EXPERTS™



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Contest Scholarships



THE SCIENCE OF SUCCESS.

North Dakota State College of Science



Become a SkillsUSA Alumni

Wanting to Continue with SkillsUSA After Graduation?

Scan to Join!



Everyone is welcome to join the SkillsUSA Alumni and Friends Association. Whether you are a graduating senior, a former member from years ago, an instructor, a school administrator, a parent or a business and industry partner, there will always be a role for you in SkillsUSA.

The alumni group is served by an elected, national executive committee and has the support of the national headquarters staff. The alumni are working on a number of initiatives including membership growth, awareness, gaining greater industry support and increasing activity at state or national conferences.

Members receive a link to the quarterly online magazine *SkillsUSA Champions* as well as a special alumni area of the website. Members are also alerted to volunteer opportunities at upcoming events, or we are glad to connect you to a chapter in your area.



For more information or to Join visit:

www.skillsusa-register.org/alumni/welcome.aspx

State Board of Career & Technical Education

- Ms. Sonia Meehl, ChairOakes
- Mr. Mike McHugh, Vice-Chair..... Mandan
- Mr. Levi Bachmeier..... West Fargo
- Mr. Pat Bertagnolli Bismarck
- Ms. Lyndsi Engstrom Westhope
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- Mr. Eric Nelson Williston
- Mr. Jason Rohr Jamestown

SkillsUSA North Dakota is sponsored in part by the North Dakota Department of Career & Technical Education.

Wayde Sick, Director & John Gruenberg, Assistant Director

State Staff and SkillsUSA North Dakota Executive Board

State Conference Personnel

- Tracy BeckerSkillsUSA ND Director
- Lorie Ruff, Jenna Beckman, Cindy SorensenND CTE

SkillsUSA North Dakota Executive Board

- Randall Brockman (Admin) Southeast Region CTC, Oakes
- Megan Grafing (Health).....Sheyenne Valley Area CTC, Valley City
- Marjorie Lehman (Alumni)..... Southwest CTE Academy, Dickinson
- Michael Seedorf, (Post-Secondary) North Dakota State College of Science
- Dave Lynnes (Industry Partner)Lynnes Welding
- Jason Ehler (Industry Partner) ND Building Trades Unions



Bobcat

Gwinner, North Dakota

Bobcat's original and largest manufacturing site, where the company was founded and core production continues today. The facility is known for large-scale manufacturing of loaders and utility work machines and for ongoing investment in advanced automation and fabrication technologies.



West Fargo, North Dakota

Serves as Doosan Bobcat's North American headquarters, housing core corporate functions including human resources, information technology, finance, product management, sales, and marketing. Engineering and software teams are also located in Fargo at Bobcat's downtown innovation space, the Studio.



Bismarck, North Dakota

Known for manufacturing compact excavators and aftermarket parts, while also serving as home to the Bobcat Acceleration Center—an engineering and innovation hub focused on product development, testing, and future technologies.



Wahpeton, North Dakota

This site focuses on precision machining and manufacturing of hydraulic components essential to Bobcat's compact construction equipment.



Our Global Commitment

Bobcat maintains a strong global presence across North America, Europe, and Asia, staying close to customers and dealers worldwide while driving innovation at every level. Through our independent dealer network, we offer career paths for service technicians who play a critical role in keeping customers' equipment running and supporting our brand in local communities.



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