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THE REFLECTOR



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From the Director's Office
by Anna Reynolds



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Nevada Department of Education

Vision:

All Nevada students are equipped and feel empowered to attain their vision of success.

Mission:

To improve student achievement and educator effectiveness by ensuring opportunities, facilitating learning, and promoting excellence.

It's with great enthusiasm that I begin my role as the Director of the Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Education Options. In the past year as Assistant Director of Career and Technical Education, I've had the opportunity to learn a great deal from our former director, Mr. Craig Statucki. Craig has been an invaluable mentor during this transition and his guidance and support have been instrumental as I step into this new role.

While most recently I have served as the Assistant Director of CTE, I have spent over 20 years as an educator working in various capacities. In Buffalo, NY, I earned my bachelor's degree in mathematics/secondary education with a minor in music performance, and my master's degree in special education from Canisius University. My career began in Buffalo, NY, in 2001 as a secondary mathematics teacher. In my years teaching in Buffalo, I taught both middle school and high school math, as well as special education, and adult education at an evening high school program.

In 2007, I moved to Las Vegas, NV to teach for the Clark County School District. I started as a mathematics teacher at Cannon Junior High School, later moving to Del Sol High School. After Del Sol, I was presented with the opportunity to teach at Virtual High School (now Nevada Learning Academy) where I began my experience with online learning. As I learned more, I moved into a central office position as an Instructional Design Project Facilitator for the K-12 Online and Blended Learning Department where I developed math and science courses. During this time, I also earned a master's degree in instructional design. My career in the central office continued when I moved to the Assessment, Accountability, Research, and School Improvement (AARSI) division as a Project Facilitator in the School Improvement Department working with schools on School Performance Planning, and developing Canvas training related to the district data dashboard.

In 2021, I moved on from CCSD to work for the State of Nevada as an Education Programs Professional at the State Public Charter School Authority. My responsibilities included grants program work for Title I, II, III, and IV; serving as the McKinney-Vento and Foster Care Liaison for the SPCSA; and serving as the Canvas System Administrator.

On a personal note, I perform as a professional musician, volunteer as the 1st Vice President of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 149, recently completed an associate's degree in web development, and am the proud parent of a high school CTE student.

CTE programs have the power to transform lives. They provide students with skills they need to succeed in today's competitive job market. Whether it's advanced manufacturing techniques, hands-on experience in healthcare, or IT certifications, these programs provide opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom.

It is my goal to continue progressing towards an educational landscape where every student has access to programs that prepare them for postsecondary education and meaningful careers. This includes programs aligned with a wide range of high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand occupations. The student learning experience is enhanced by opportunities to earn Industry Recognized Credentials, participate in work-based learning, and earn dual credit.

Ensuring equitable access for all students will continue to be a focus as we move forward. It is essential that we continue to break down barriers, whether they be financial, logistical, or cultural, ensuring that all students have an equal opportunity to succeed in CTE programs.

As the Nevada workforce landscape continues to evolve, the importance of CTE programs is key to individual success and the growth of our state's economy. We must adapt our programs and curriculum in response to industry growth and technological advancements. Through collaboration with our industry leaders, postsecondary institutions, and other organizations, we can ensure CTE programs are aligned with the needs of the workforce, giving students the skills they need to succeed. I am committed to advocating for the resources, funding, and support necessary to keep our programs relevant, innovative, and responsive to these shifts.

As a strong advocate for our educators, our students, and our communities, I'll work to ensure that we have the tools, resources, and opportunities necessary to maintain CTE programs of study that empower all students to achieve their goals and succeed in their careers.

I look forward to working with each of you. Thank you for your dedication to CTE and for the incredible work you do every day to shape the future of our students and our communities.

Thank you, Anna Reynolds, Director, Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Education Options



Nevada DECA: Year in Review

By: Karen Wu

Nevada DECA's 64th Officer Team's term has been one of record-breaking accomplishments and new initiatives. This year, our team conducted an impressive 18 chapter visits across the state—the most ever in Nevada DECA's history—reaching both established and new chapters.

Even more exciting has been the array of standout events hosted this year. The inaugural Camp DECA in Nevada, a two-day experience filled with workshops, team-building activities, and plenty of fun, including making s'mores, saw over 50 attendees. We look forward to more successful Camp DECA's in the future. Another highlight was the first-ever Fall Leadership Conference exclusively for DECA members, held on Halloween. The event featured a costume contest and competition preparation, engaging leaders such as former High School Division President Alex Ellsworth and a panel of our very own Nevada DECA Board members.

Building on past successes, Team 64 hosted the third annual Speed Friending



event at Northwest Career and Technical Academy. This popular event provided members with the opportunity to make connections and build friendships within the DECA community before state conference. Additionally, the team introduced the first Coffee Chat, featuring real estate expert Serena Chen, offering members valuable insights into industry trends and career pathways.

To further enhance chapter engagement, the officers launched monthly 21st Century Challenges, designed to help chapters develop critical skills applicable to all DECA competitions. Winners of these challenges were rewarded with a \$500 credit towards the State Career Development Conference (SCDC), adding an exciting incentive to participate.

Looking ahead to SCDC, a record-breaking 1,025 attendees can anticipate an unforgettable experience filled with competition, networking opportunities, and leadership development. Key highlights include our second Middle-Level Explorer Day, exposing younger students to the benefits of Career and Technical Education, a talent show, game room, and a brand new event location! With the momentum of this past year, SCDC is shaping up to be a celebration of the dedication and community that defines Nevada DECA.



Nevada FBLA: Future Leaders of

Overview

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is a business-oriented Career and Technical Student Organization that inspires students to take a leap into becoming business leaders. Boasting over 230,000 members across the Middle Level, High School, and Collegiate divisions, FBLA has a strong sense of community around the country. The organization offers a plethora of resources and opportunities, including competition, community service, and leadership development that empowers students for careers beyond high school.

Nevada FBLA has over 30 active chapters throughout three regions and continues to grow with each membership year. The State Officer team, led by President Alexis Bertuzzi (senior - Advanced Technologies Academy), works tirelessly to provide resources for members throughout Nevada and expand on opportunities that can help develop. Through knowledge, networking, service, and leadership, Nevada FBLA actively works to offer business expertise while also providing unforgettable experiences for all members.

Conferences and Competition

Conferences and competition are the heart of FBLA, presenting a fun way to learn about topics in business and connect with others. With 100 competitive events to choose from in High School and Middle Level division, there is no shortage of interest. This year, the State Business Leadership Conference (SBLC), will be held in Reno from March 9-12, connecting chapters from all regions in

Nevada to learn from like-minded individuals. SBLC offers a diverse selection of events and workshops ranging from communication to fundraising. Competitors placing top four in their respective event will qualify for the National Leadership Conference (NLC) and compete against members from the entire nation.

Opportunities

FBLA offers a wide range of resources and opportunities for students to learn from. The Business Achievement Awards are a unique program that enables students to expand leadership skills, contribute to their community, and enhance business knowledge while gaining recognition. Other resources, like The Stock Market Game and Lead4Change, are exciting ways that students can sharpen their skills and enhance their knowledge. On top of that, Nevada FBLA is committed to service, providing opportunities for students to get involved in their community and make a lasting impact. By partnering with organizations such as Making Strides Against Breast Cancer and the Alzheimer's Association, Nevada FBLA encourages students to make strides in their community.

Next Steps

FBLA is available to everyone, regardless of their business experience! If you're interested in business, leadership, making an impact on your community, or even networking with others, it's an opportunity that shouldn't be overlooked.





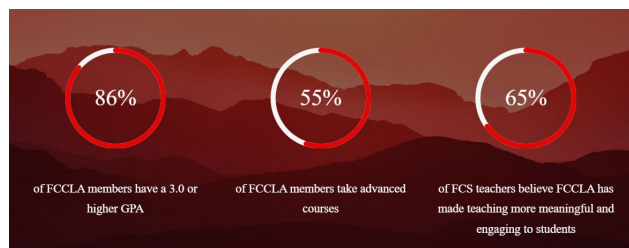
NEVADA REFLECTOR ARTICLE JANUARY PUBLICATION

As Nevada FCCLA prepares for a busy spring season, the association is excited to celebrate FCCLA Week February 10-14, 2025. Nationwide, FCCLA gets ready for week packed full of activities. Every day has a different theme that gets members thinking about leadership, building a chapter network, and living the mission of FCCLA.

As the year progresses, the association is looking forward to the Nevada FCCLA State Leadership Conference (SLC) in March. The State Officer Team is planning encouraging workshops dedicated to themes of leadership development, career readiness, and goal setting. From hands-on activities to networking opportunities, workshops are specially designed to transform members and ensure their future success.

This year, the State Officer team has focused on a significant and meaningful project for community service. The organization FCCLA is partnering with is Spread the Word Nevada. This project focuses on donating books to children in underprivileged communities across the state. All FCCLA chapters in Nevada are encouraged to contribute by organizing book drives, cleaning books, and creating bookmarks at the State Leadership Conference.

Nevada FCCLA is committed to cultivating the next generation of leaders. As FCCLA Week is celebrated and preparations for SLC are underway, constant reminders of the incredible potential of members to make a difference are continually present. Through hard work, passion, and dedication, Nevada FCCLA is shaping a brighter future for students, families, and communities alike. If you are in the Reno area and would like to help shape the next generation of family, career, and community leaders, please consider signing up to be a judge at SLC. <https://nevadafcla.org/judge/>



National FFA Organization

By: Gabriella Minoletti
Nevada FFA Foundation Intern

Nevada is proudly home to over thirty agricultural education programs spanning all across the state. Each year, there are many exceptional students that embody the FFA motto: "Learning to do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve." Among these remarkable students is Max Bushey, a dedicated member of the Capitol FFA chapter in Carson City, Nevada.

Max Bushey is a great example of the positive influence of agricultural education and FFA. His journey through agricultural education began during his sophomore year of high school when he joined an agricultural science class. This class was more than just an elective; it became a gateway to numerous opportunities and experiences that have shaped his future.

During Max's enrollment in agricultural education, his participation in the greenhouse management class allowed him to delve into his aspirations and goals. "This class has allowed me to explore my career interests. I have been able to work and experiment with hydroponics, practice different types of plant propagation, and grow fruits and veggies year-round," he explains. These hands-on experiences have been valuable in shaping his aspirations and giving him practical skills that will serve him well in the future.

Max's involvement in agricultural education also extends beyond the classroom. He currently serves as the Capitol FFA Chapter President and the Western Zone Secretary. Through participating in FFA opportunities, Max found a sense of community and belonging. "As I became more deeply involved in FFA, it gave me a community; people who had similar interests that I could connect with. I've made a number of my closest friends because I am a part of FFA", he shares.

Living in an urban area, Max's influence extends into his community. His efforts, both inside and outside school, showcase that agriculture thrives in urban areas too. Through his work with hydroponics, Max inspires others to explore ways to incorporate agriculture into various settings.

Looking ahead, Max has ambitious plans for his future. After high school, Max plans on continuing his education pursuing a degree in Horticulture and to hopefully start his own hydroponic farm. His passion for agriculture demonstrates how agricultural education is shaping future leaders.

Max Bushey's journey exemplifies the transformative impact of agricultural education. His experiences, ranging from developing hydroponic techniques to building a community of life-long connections, and his vision for the future, all highlight the crucial role agricultural education plays in building the next generation of leaders. As Max and countless other students navigate their paths, the future of agriculture and FFA is set for remarkable success.



The hydroponic system Max Bushey built and manages at Carson High School



Max Bushey



The Nevada HOSA State Officer Team

We of Nevada HOSA have been privileged to engage in impactful initiatives that exemplify our commitment to leadership, learning, service, and innovation. From participating in HOSA’s Washington Leadership Academy (WLA) to contributing to the Guatemala Service Project and implementing State Officer programs, these efforts reflect our mission to empower future health professionals and foster positive change within and beyond our community.

The WLA provided us, the Nevada HOSA State Officers, with an invaluable opportunity to strengthen our leadership framework. This event brought together leaders from across the country to collaborate on strategies for enhancing chapter engagement and promoting organizational growth. Our Nevada HOSA delegation worked to develop innovative solutions tailored to the unique needs of our state’s chapters. The academy reinforced the importance of shared vision, effective communication, and adaptability in driving our mission forward.

Through the Guatemala Service Project, those of us serving in Nevada HOSA demonstrated dedication to global health equity. This initiative allowed our organization to contribute to critical efforts aimed at improving healthcare access for underserved communities. By providing essential medical supplies and supporting health education programs, our members directly impacted the well-being of individuals in need. The project also highlighted the importance of cultural sensitivity and teamwork, core values that guide our approach to service.

Nevada HOSA’s State Officer initiatives have been instrumental in enhancing member engagement and fostering leadership development. The implementation of the Slack platform has revolutionized how we com-

municate, streamlining interactions between State Officers and local chapters. This has improved transparency and efficiency while fostering collaboration across all regions. Additionally, the State Officer program has been refined to emphasize mentorship and skill-building, ensuring that future leaders are well-equipped to carry forward Nevada HOSA’s legacy of excellence.

Regional engagement remains a cornerstone of our efforts to connect with members across Nevada. By organizing workshops and building relationships with chapter leaders, we continue to create a sense of inclusivity and accessibility. These efforts have resulted in increased participation and enthusiasm among members, demonstrating the power of community-driven leadership.

Collectively, our experiences have solidified Nevada HOSA’s role as a leader in fostering growth, service, and innovation within the healthcare community. From the international impact of the Guatemala Service Project to the national collaboration at WLA and the statewide initiatives that strengthen our foundation, we continue to inspire meaningful change. Our organization remains committed to empowering members and advancing the mission of HOSA, ensuring a brighter future for healthcare and for the communities we serve.



SkillsUSA Nevada
By: Sindie Read
Nevada SkillsUSA Director

SkillsUSA Week
February 3-7,

National SkillsUSA Week activities include presentations to administrators, business leaders, and legislators; community service events to benefit local charities and organizations; interviews with the news media; student-led events and campus outreach; and industry partnership development. SkillsUSA Week is held in February each year in conjunction with Career and Technical Education Month.

As a national student organization, SkillsUSA helps career and technical students become career-ready through the development of personal, workplace, and technical skills utilizing the SkillsUSA Framework.

Did you know SkillsUSA has more than 380,000 members nationwide and is respected by higher education and employers when seen on a resumé or job portfolio? SkillsUSA helps every student excel.

We encourage you to celebrate all week by planning activities that follow the daily schedule of events that will be used by local chapters nationwide:

-Monday, **February 3 – Recognition Day**. Recognize and honor members, advisors, administrators, business partners, community leaders, and supporters who make a meaningful impact on your CTE program and SkillsUSA chapter.

-Tuesday, **February 4 – Give Back Day**. Rally around your school community by focusing on ways for your chapter to give back.

-Wednesday, **February 5 - Partner Day**. Invite local business and industry leaders to connect with members, highlighting the importance of developing career-readiness skills found in the SkillsUSA Framework.

-Thursday, **February 6 – Advocacy Day**. Amplify CTE in your community by conducting a local public relations activity such as presenting to

school board members, administrators, and community group leaders.

-On Friday, **February 7 –SkillsUSA Day**. Help us celebrate SkillsUSA by wearing your favorite SkillsUSA T-shirt, planning a celebration activity, or by posting your SkillsUSA Framework story on social media.

In November, Nevada SkillsUSA hosted its Annual Fall Leadership Conferences at Clark High School in Las Vegas and the Academy of Arts, Career, and Technology in Reno. These events provided local officers and members with the essential knowledge and tools to lead successful SkillsUSA chapters at their schools.

Looking ahead to February, we will be hosting regional contests in Automotive Technology and Welding. These exciting competitions will take place in Las Vegas, Elko, and Reno, showcasing students’ technical expertise and dedication as they prepare for this year’s State Conference.

The highlight of the year, our State Conference, is scheduled for April 8–11 in Reno at the ROW. During this conference, students will compete in over 68 events, demonstrating their skills across a range of disciplines. Additionally, new officers for the 2025–2026 school year will be elected. Gold medalists from the state competition will earn the honor of representing Nevada at the National SkillsUSA Conference in June, held in Atlanta.

We are always in need of volunteer judges from industry and the community to support the State Conference. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a judge, please contact Sindie Read at website@nvskillsusa.

Thank you for supporting Nevada SkillsUSA as we prepare students for success in their careers and beyond!

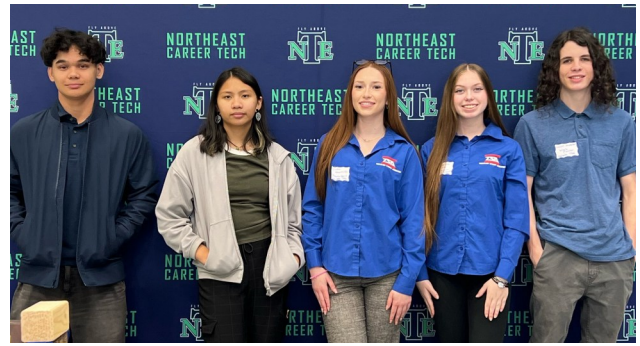




Nevada TSA 2024–2025

On November 16, 2024, Nevada TSA hosted a State Leadership Conference for officers and members from local high school chapters. Approximately 40 attendees participated in workshops on building stronger chapters, preparing for competitions, improving overall program quality, and information on running for state office. They also brainstormed ambitious goals and priorities for the upcoming year during a group-wide planning session led by the state director and officers during the conference. This inspiring event, which set the stage for Nevada TSA’s promising future, was held at Northeast Career and Technical Academy in North Las Vegas.

This year, Nevada TSA has grown to 18 Nevada TSA Chapters and almost 1,200 members. Nevada TSA is thrilled, eagerly anticipating the annual State Conference on February 17, 2025, to be held again at Northeast Career and Technical Academy. Over 280 students will showcase their skills in both leadership and technical competitions. The goal is to build upon the success of previous conferences, with the dedication and creativity the members bring on full display. Get ready for an unforgettable experience.



Marina McHatton
*Education Programs Professional
Nevada Department of Education
Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning,
and Education Options*

Career Advising Series

In the spring of 2024, the Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Education Options offered a one-hour, six-week virtual career advising series designed for school counselors. Following its success, the series was offered again in the fall, expanding its audience to include administrators and counselors. The program aims to equip participants with knowledge, tools, and strategies to enhance career advising practices and support learners in navigating their career and college pathways. Below is an overview of the topics covered during the series.

Week 1: Shifting Perception of Career and Technical Education (CTE)

This session addressed the historical perception of CTE and emphasized CTE as career-connected learning and programming designed to benefit every learner. Participants explored the fundamentals of CTE as a leading strategy for career exploration, highlighting its ability to make learning relevant and meaningful while preparing students for success in both college and the workforce.

Week 2: CTE and Communicating the World of Work

This session highlighted the importance of utilizing state and regional labor market information (LMI) in career advising. Participants learned how to locate relevant LMI and the value of sharing this data to assist students in career exploration. The session demonstrated how LMI underscores the necessity of postsecondary education and training to access careers that provide family-sustaining wages.

Week 3: Expanding and Elevating High-Quality CTE

Week three centered on defining the characteristics of high-quality CTE programming and the critical role counselors play in supporting these initiatives. Key components included strategies to ensure equitable access and enrollment, the integration of work-based learning opportunities, attainment of industry-recognized credentials, access to early postsecondary options, and engagement with Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs).

Week 4: Connecting CTE and Effective Career Advising Practices

Week four explored practical strategies and resources for effective career advising. The session underscored the importance of supporting students to develop comprehensive career and academic plans that align with their interests and aspirations. Additionally, it emphasized fostering a continuous career advising framework that begins in the elementary grades and extends through postsecondary education, ensuring smooth transitions into the workforce.

Week 5: Understanding Implicit Bias and Its Impact

This session explored how implicit bias influences career advising, learner decision-making, and program recruitment. By increasing awareness of these biases, participants gained insights into developing inclusive and equitable advising practices that empower all students to explore a wide range of career opportunities.

Week 6: Effective Communication of CTE to Learners, Families and/or Caregivers

The series concluded with strategies for effective communication. Counselors and administrators examined barriers that limit participation in CTE programs and discussed tools and messaging approaches to convey the value of CTE equitably. The goal was to encourage greater engagement from learners, their families, and/or caregivers.

Building a Stronger Foundation for Career Readiness

By addressing these critical topics, the six-week series provided actionable strategies to elevate career advising practices. The sessions reinforced the essential role of counselors and administrators in shaping learners’ futures and emphasized the importance of comprehensive, inclusive, and informed career guidance. Moving forward, the series will be offered annually to continue supporting counselors and administrators in this vital work.



Upcoming Events in 2025

February 8, 2025	SkillsUSA Nevada Regional Conferences Statewide
March 5, 2025	HOSA Nevada State Leadership Conference Reno, Nevada
April 26-29, 2025	DECA International Career Development Conference Orlando, FL
April 30-May 3, 2025	NACTE ACTE Region V Conference Las Vegas, Nevada
June 18-21, 2025	HOSA International Leadership Conference Nashville, TN
June 23-27, 2025	SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference Atlanta, GA



The Nevada Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.



CTE Mission Statement:

The Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Education Options is dedicated to developing innovative educational opportunities for students to acquire skills for productive employment and lifelong learning.

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