

NLSC Success for South Carolina

The SkillsUSA South Carolina delegation of students, teachers, administrators, and parents competed at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference from June 24-29, 2024, and surpassed multiple state records, received multiple awards, and continued to improve on the overall experience. They were joined by nearly 18,000 people from across the country for the annual conference.

It started on Tuesday evening when Allison Terry (York Technical College) was taken on stage and announced as the Region 2 Advisor of the Year (Southeast United States), becoming one of only a few to gain that honor from our state. Avery Smith (Center for Advanced Technical Studies) was also announced as a candidate for National Officer, becoming only the second person from South Carolina to run.

Throughout the week, students worked extremely hard, competed well, and found themselves on the lens side of the camera. Cailee Ratliff (York Technical College) was chosen to be on the case of SkillsJam where her experience is documented throughout the entire process of the conference and beyond.

Each of the last two years, our state has broken our previous records of medal counts, and this year was no exception. We also racked up some great numbers with placement and in other areas.

- Dozens of students participated in the Community Service Project on Friday.
- 310+ people from South Carolina attended the conference
- 58 Students finished in the Top 10
- 37 Students finished in the Top 5
- 22 Students received medals (8 Gold, 2 Silver, 12 Bronze)
- South Carolina medaled in 14 competitions (6 Gold, 2 Silver, 6 Bronze)
- 8 Students won National Championships across 6 competitions

Also, on Friday night, nearing the end of the ceremonies, Avery Smith (Center for Advanced Technical Studies) was officially voted in as a National Officer, becoming the first from South Carolina to make it into the role.

At the Farewell Breakfast on Saturday, Joseph Chapman gave his final speech as State Director. On Monday, he announced Jason Warren as the new State Director (Interim). Avery Smith gave a thank you speech for assistance with her national campaign. Also, Joseph Chapman announced the move of the State Leadership and Skills Conference to Columbia, South Carolina beginning in March 2025.

Placements

Gold Medal (National Champions!)

- Additive Manufacturing – White Knoll High School – Matthew Queen, Joshua Ridley
- Commercial Roofing – Golden Strip Career Center – Brandon Lopez
- Firefighting – Lancaster Vocational School – Landyn Filliben
- Marine Service Technology – Lexington Technology Center – William Coggins
- Mechatronics – York Technical College – Nathan Baker, Sean Hames
- Nail Care – Lexington Technology Center – Avery Sammons

Silver Medal

- Action Skills – York Technical College – Daniel Pernell
- Nurse Assisting – York Technical College – Britney Hunter

Bronze Medal

- Architectural Drafting – Midlands Technical College – Dylan Stokes
- CNC 5-Axis Milling Programmer – York Technical College – Tristan Moss
- Community Action Project – Heyward Career Center – Aurelius Taylor, Cassius Bannister
- Mobile Electronics Installation – Hannah-Pamplico High School – James Bass
- Occupational Health & Safety (Single) – Center for Advanced Technical Studies – Caleb Anderson, Tristan Strother, Zymeria Taylor
- TeamWorks – Midlands Technical College – William Rodriguez, Noah Newburn, Kaleb Lawrie, Angel Mendoza

Pictures of finalists can be found online through the state website (photos) and the national website at <https://www.skillsusa.org/competitions/skillsusa-championships/scores-and-medalist-photos/>