

SC Chapter Named Top SkillsUSA Chapter in Nation

June 2021

During the 2021 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, the Center for Advanced Technical Studies, led by Lead Advisor Joseph Chapman, was named the Top Chapter in the Nation in the Personal Skills Component. Every year, chapters from across the country participate in the SkillsUSA Chapter Excellence Program. Out of all of those that participate, the Top 24 are named National Models of Excellence based on what they have accomplished throughout the year and how they have integrated the SkillsUSA Framework into their chapter and in their projects. Those 24 schools are then separated into the three components of the SkillsUSA Framework (Personal, Workplace, Technical). During the National Leadership and Skills Conference, two students represent a Model of Excellence chapter during an application, presentation, and interview process. The Center for Advanced Technical Studies was represented by Megan vanVollenhoven (2020-2021 State President) and Asia Caldwell (2021-2022 State Officer). During the virtual awards ceremony, the announcement was made live followed by a live reaction and interview.



“There are not enough words to describe how proud I am of our students for accomplishing this goal. It is a testament to the incredible dedication of all those in our chapter and the difference that SkillsUSA is making in their lives and our community.”
~ Lead Advisor Joseph Chapman



The Center for Advanced Technical Studies made it in the Personal Component based on their 3 Ways, 2 Days, 1 Impact from SkillsUSA Project. This year, they held a virtual toy drive for the Prisma Health Children’s Hospital where they were able to collect and donate over \$1,100 worth in toys. Their culinary program created fruit baskets and hand-written letters that were delivered to the Prisma Health doctors and nurses. They also gathered items, packaged, and donated 450 bag meals for the Pack-a-Smile program with the Ronald McDonald House in Columbia, SC.

This is the second year in a row that the Center for Advanced Technical Studies was named a National Model of Excellence, but their first win and the state of South Carolina’s first win.