

Secure Your Future with SkillsUSA



Skills are in Demand!

The National Federation of Independent Business recently cited the NUMBER ONE problem of its members:

“The shortage of skilled, trained workers.”

‘Deplorable’ skills worry manufacturers

By HOWARD HERRNSTADT
Staff Writer

MONTVILLE TWP.—Manufacturing faces severe shortages of skilled personnel, now and in the future.

That was the conclusion of presenters at the National Conference on Manufacturing Technology Education that took place Aug. 25 at Rustic Hills Country Club.

Paul Koonz, president of Denford Inc. in Medina, a manufacturer of computerized machine education systems, opened the conference by explaining the motivation for it. The idea arose July 2, after a recent Precision Machining Competition to design computer programs to control the machining of parts.

The results of the competition were “deplorable,” Koonz said.

The blue-ribbon winner received a score only slightly higher than 50 percent. Many participants could do little or nothing in the hour and 20 minutes allotted to fulfill the competition task, designing two metal parts on a computer, using industry software, he said.

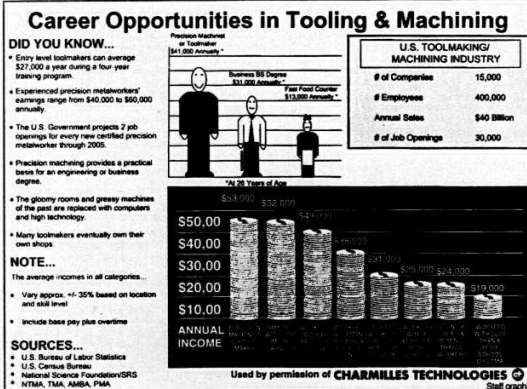
The computerized designs enable a computer-controlled lathe or milling machine to manufacture the part.

The annual event is sponsored by SkillsUSA-VICA, a national organization of students in vocational programs in high schools and junior colleges.

The “decline in manufacturing’s entry-level work force” could be seen in these results, Koonz said.

“Very few companies today offer machinist or tool-making apprenticeships,” he noted. Technical schools do a good job, but do not fill the gap between the empty job slots and available personnel, he added.

An educator, writer and publisher of technical books, Steve Krar, president of Kelm Associates, Ontario, Canada, added, “Each one of us has to share the



blame of what has happened to technical education in this country. ... You're playing with student lives," by not providing relevant, up-to-date technical training.

The conference presented some potential solutions to the problem of inadequate industrial technology training.

Project Lead the Way, a program created by the Autodesk Foundation in Greenbrae, Calif., north of San Francisco, was described by Joe Oakley.

The Charitable Venture Foundation of Albany, N.Y., which funds the program, has made a 10-year commitment of a minimum of \$2 million a year in order to increase the number of applicants

and successful graduates of engineering colleges, Oakley said.

"We have a need for more engineers and fewer are coming out," of two- and four-year colleges, he said.

The program is introducing "a middle and high school pre-engineering curriculum designed to attract engineering or engineering technology careers," he said.

It is now in 105 schools, mostly in suburban districts with a few in rural and inner-city districts. There are five distinct courses, each lasting a full academic year,

Oakley noted.

The program includes training for teachers prior to and during the academic

year and orientation for guidance counselors as well, to assist them in guiding course participants into industrial education and careers, Oakley said.

Educators interested in Project Lead the Way can learn about it on the web at www.PLTW.org, he said.

Women interested in technology careers can visit the site at www.autodesk.com/dyfr, Oakley said. The site, designed and maintained by students, has numerous links to web pages that have such information, he said.

Another organization, The

Society of Manufacturing Engineers, is taking a range of actions to address the shortage of technical personnel.

The society, headquartered in Dearborn, Mich., began in 1986 to "identify those knowledge gaps" resulting from inadequate engineering curricula, said Mark Stratton, manager of manufacturing engineering education for the group.

In 1998 and '99 the society made a total of 16 grants to colleges ranging from \$50 to \$300,000. "The grants focus on industry-driven competency gaps," Stratton said.

These gaps include areas of professional competency such as written and oral communication and teamwork, as well as technical skills such as quality control and product design, he said.

The society also has long-range goals that include "lifelong learning and career development" for its members and delivering "the message to K-12 teachers, students, parents and guidance counselors that manufacturing is important and that it presents challenging, rewarding and desirable careers," Stratton explained.

He said the society has developed a web site at www.manufacturingcool.com. It takes the visitor through manufacturing facilities and introduces technical and managerial careers in manufacturing.

The society also seeks to involve its membership in K-12 education projects, Stratton said. Manufacturing jobs and vocational education have traditionally been thought of as "dirty, dumb and dangerous," Eric Gearhart, senior development officer of SkillsUSA-VICA said. But this image should be changed to one that depicts industry as "clean, safe and high-tech," he said.

"There has never been a better time to have a skilled trade than there is today. It's a seller's market."

SkillsUSA-VICA Senior Development Officer



SkillsUSA®

Skills are in Demand!

The skills employers are desperate for are not only technical skills, but also **EMPLOYABILITY** skills (teamwork, communications, leadership, etc.).

There is a **SKILLED LABOR SHORTAGE** in America today.

Workers with the right skills are highly sought, and, most often, highly paid.

SkillsUSA helps students obtain and develop the skills they'll need to succeed.



What is SkillsUSA?



Founded in 1965 as “The Vocational Industrial Clubs of America” (VICA) - became “SkillsUSA-VICA” in 1999 and simply “SkillsUSA” in 2004.

What is SkillsUSA?



Mission:

To help our student members become world-class workers
and responsible American citizens

What is SkillsUSA?



Core Values:

Integrity, Responsibility, Citizenship, Service, Respect

- A professional organization for students in technical, skilled and service occupations, including health occupations

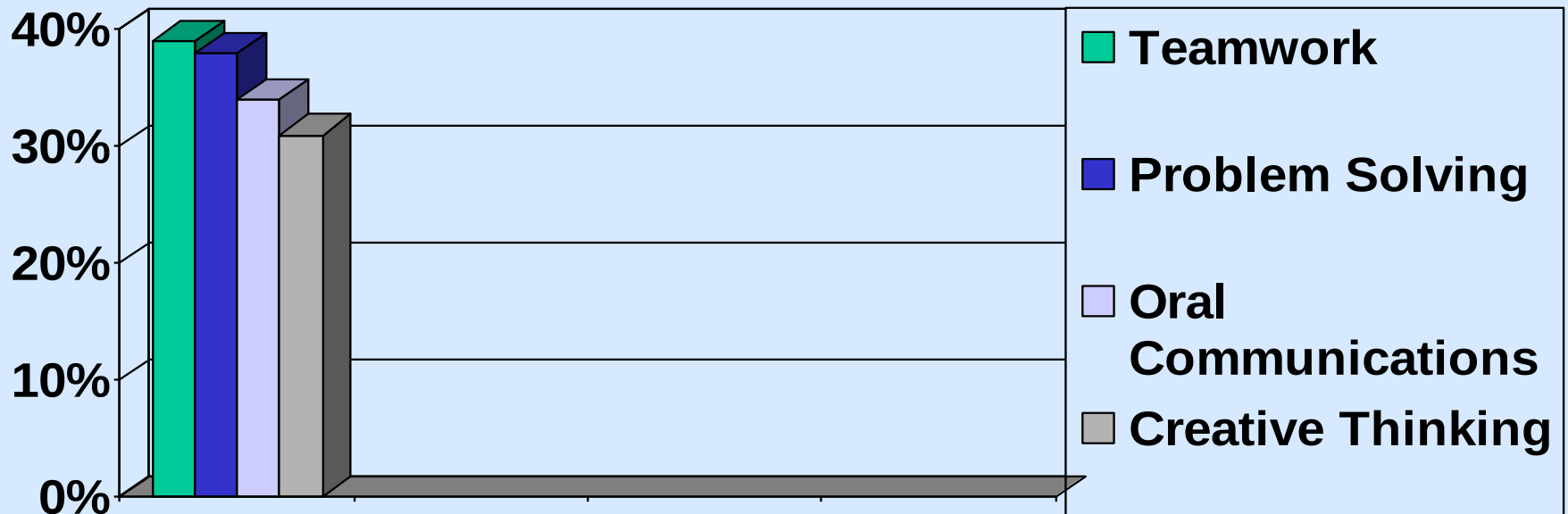


- An association with more than 300,000 members in all 50 states and three U.S. territories
- Offers leadership, citizenship, and character development programs and activities



SkillsUSA teaches what companies want workers to learn

Percentage of companies planning to teach the following key skills to employees in the next three years:



Source: Anthony P. Carneveale, Leila J. Gainer, and Ann Meltzer. *Workplace Basics: The Skills Employers Want* (American Society for Training and Development and U.S. Dept. of Labor), 1989, p. 8.

SkillsUSA offers students:

- Cutting-edge professional development training
- Employability skills (teamwork, leadership, goal setting, etc.)
- Chances for competition in your skill area
- Scholarships, industry contacts, and jobs opportunities
- Fun, travel, and excitement
- Social outlets with your peers and community
- The opportunity to be the best that you can be!



The SkillsUSA Advantage:

- SkillsUSA involvement enhances technical education programs
- SkillsUSA activities will develop the skills and attitudes that will set you apart:
 - Positive outlook
 - Self-esteem
 - Desire to excel in work and life
 - Ability to work with others
 - Conflict resolution
 - Much, much more



The SkillsUSA Advantage:

- Gives you a head start for college and the workforce
- SkillsUSA works *directly* with business and industry so students like you get the skills employers want.
- Leadership training is key part of SkillsUSA experience.
- You will put leadership programs into practice through community service.
- You will design and run the program.



SkillsUSA Partnerships:

- Over 1,000 corporations, trade associations and unions are associated with SkillsUSA at the national level
- Partnerships can mean funding for your programs
- Partnerships keep your program relevant
- Companies look for SkillsUSA involvement on the resumes they receive – they know that SkillsUSA graduates are the type of workers they need.



Program of Work

- **Professional Development**
- **Community Service**
- **Social Activities**
- **Ways and Means**
- **Public Relations**
- **Employment**
- **SkillsUSA Championships**

Award-winning curriculum:
The Professional Development Program (PDP) and Career Skills Education Program (CSEP). These programs teach employability skills, including communications skills, ethics, conflict resolution, time management, goal-setting and more...



Program of Work

- Professional Development
- **Community Service**
- Social Activities
- Ways and Means
- Public Relations
- Employment
- SkillsUSA Championships

- Instills lifetime commitment to community service
- Promotes goodwill and understanding among all segments of a community
- Teaches the importance of teamwork



Program of Work

- Professional Development
- Community Service
- **Social Activities**
- Ways and Means
- Public Relations
- Employment
- SkillsUSA Championships

- Increase cooperation in the school and community
- Improve self-esteem by providing healthy outlets
- Students feel like they're part of a team, like they belong



Program of Work

- Professional Development
- Community Service
- Social Activities
- **Ways and Means**
- Public Relations
- Employment
- SkillsUSA Championships

- Chapter fund-raising activities to support the chapter's yearly projects



Program of Work

- Professional Development
- Community Service
- Social Activities
- Ways and Means
- **Public Relations**
- Employment
- SkillsUSA Championships

- Help change public misconceptions and stereotypes of technical education students and programs
- Make the public aware of the value of strong technical education programs in our school systems



Program of Work

- Professional Development
- Community Service
- Social Activities
- Ways and Means
- Public Relations
- **Employment**
- SkillsUSA Championships

- Students offered job shadowing, mentoring, apprenticeship opportunities
- Increased student awareness of career options, quality job practices and attitudes
- Increased opportunities for employer contact and eventual employment



Program of Work

- Professional Development
- Community Service
- Social Activities
- Ways and Means
- Public Relations
- Employment
- **SkillsUSA Championships**

- The premiere showcase of career and technical education.
- The greatest commitment of corporate volunteerism on a single day anywhere in America.





- **Local, regional and state competitions lead to the national SkillsUSA Championships!**





- **National SkillsUSA Championships held annually in Kansas City, Mo. during SkillsUSA's national conference**
- **More than 5,000 state winners compete in more than 90 occupational and leadership contests**
- **Requires more than 700,000 square feet of floor space - more than 14 football fields!**
- **The result of a direct interaction between industry and education; More than 2,000 technical experts from labor and industry design and judge the contests**

How Does it Work?

- In the classroom, students like you run their own Program of Work.
- You can participate in local, state or national activities
- Qualified students are invited to the state or national conference as delegates or competitors
- Students participate and gain skills, confidence and are better prepared for employment after completing school



How do I start?

- Ask your local SkillsUSA advisor how to join
- If you need membership materials, contact your state office or the national office
- Run for local office or serve on a committee
- Help develop your chapter's Program of Work and calendar of activities
- Participate in chapter meetings and other activities
- Enjoy professional growth, networking opportunities and have fun!



Since 1965, we've helped nearly 10 million students to develop the skills necessary to succeed, at work and in life.



We hope you'll will join us!



For More Information:

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www.skillsusa.org

