



Career and Technical
Student Organizations

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The Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations



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The Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations (MFSO) was created in 1996 by the Minnesota State Legislature to ensure the stability of and provide collaborative leadership and guidance to the Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) in Minnesota. The MFSO is governed by a Board of Directors that representing a variety of career areas.

The MFSO acts in an advisory capacity to the MDE and to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities in allocating, managing and reporting on legislative funds awarded to the CTSOs for basic operations.

Current initiatives of the MFSO include:

- Student Leadership through Civic Awareness
- Providing Opportunities to Underserved Populations.
- CTSO Guidance and Development



What is a CTSO?

CTSOs are career and technical student organizations. They support the academic content of CTE programs in the classroom, internships and other work experiences.

CTSOs are considered an integral part of CTE; they help students develop the technical, academic and leadership skills that are essential for success.

All CTSO programs include business and industry partnerships, ensuring they are prepared to enter the workforce.

CTSOs provide student members the opportunity to compete in skill based competitive events at the local, state and national level.

The MFSO
serves the
following
CTSOs:

BPA – Business Professionals of America

DECA – Marketing Education

FCCLA – Family, Career and Community
Leaders of America

FFA – Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

HOSA – Health Occupations

SkillsUSA – Technical and Industrial Occupations

Benefits of a CTSO

Why CTSOs?

- CTSOs help students develop “soft” skills. Students develop life-long skills such as interpersonal relationships, teamwork, decision making, and setting and achieving goals.
- CTSOs provide experiential learning. Each CTSO utilizes a hands-on approach to learning, whether it be leadership training or a competitive event.
- CTSOs provide opportunities for recognition. Students are provided a wide range of activities that showcase their skills and talents in an arena where they can be recognized by business and industry professionals.
- CTSOs offer members the opportunity to earn scholarships and prizes for participation in leadership and competitive events.
- CTSOs offer technical and industry-based assessments and certifications ensuring the student is prepared to enter the workforce. CTSOs build business partnerships bringing industry standards and equipment into the classroom.



Employability Skills

Employers look for students with academic knowledge, technical skills as well as intangibles like **ethics, teamwork, problem solving, and critical thinking.**

Co-curricular activities that happen outside of school in the “real world,” help students see the “big picture,” thereby **providing the relevance students need and the perspective employers seek.**

Competitive Events



The competitive events offered by CTSOs include a broad range of technical and academic skills: prepared speech, job interview, career display as well as more technical competitions such as robotics, nursing assistant, welding, sports marketing, soil and water conservation, and financial literacy.

CTSO event evaluation process may include both a written component such as an exam or report and an interactive component with an industry professional serving as a judge.

The CTSOs competitive events directly contribute to every student being college and/or career ready when they graduate from high school or complete their program of study.

CTSO members have the opportunity to experience the competitive events program at a variety of different levels.



- District or regional competitions range from 50-800 students and are located throughout the state.
- State Competitions range from 500-2,000+ members have the opportunity to compete, network and broaden their professional interests.
- National Competitions range from 5,000-15,000+ students, advisors, businesspersons and alumni gather for several days of competitions, leadership training and career academies.

Community Service Projects



A critical part of all CTSOs is Community Service. They are done at the local, state and national level. Community service projects by a chapter may also function as a competitive event. Examples of CTSO Community service projects:

- SkillsUSA: Integrated a community service project into their state conference; making 2000 sandwiches to be distributed through MRD (The Sandwich Project). This year they will be increasing the amount to 3000.
- High School BPA: Champlin Park BPA Chapter ran the Rebels with a Cause Powder Puff game raising donations for the American Cancer Society, Feed My Starving Children, The Animal Humane Society, and our school food shelf, The Shelf. Over \$2000 was raised for these charities.

Industry Partnerships

All of the career and technical student organizations have industry partnerships that provide event sponsorship, prizes, scholarships, equipment and other financial and in-kind donations.

Many of these sponsors also serve as industry representatives advising classroom standards and judging at events.



Instructor Benefits

... by making your program bigger and better with committed and actively involved students. You spend less time with discipline and your teaching is more productive.

... by increasing the level of recognition for your program in the school and in the community. An important factor in this day of cutbacks.

... by providing well-planned activities to integrate into your curriculum. Projects that promote the occupational competence of your students.

Learn more about
CTSOs

BPA

Collegiate BPA

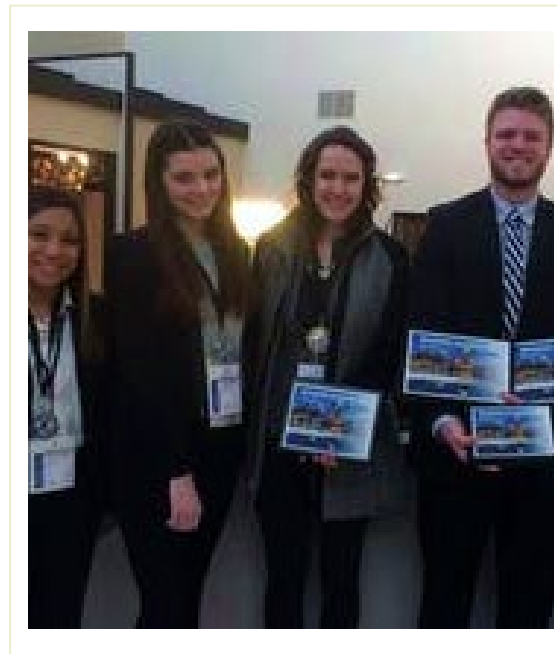
Business Professionals of America (BPA) is the CTSO for students pursuing careers in business management, information technology, finance, office administration and other related career fields. BPA contributes to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills. BPA provides educational experiences that further develop social intelligence, civic consciousness, leadership skills and self-esteem for its members.



DECA

Collegiate DECA

The mission of DECA is to enhance the education of all students with interests in marketing, management or entrepreneurship. DECA assists students in developing skills and competencies for marketing careers, while building self-esteem, experiencing leadership, and providing community services.



FCCLA

FCCLA strives to promote personal development and leadership, through family and consumer sciences education for the multiple roles of:

- Family members
- Wage earners
- Community leaders

Members develop skills for life Through character development, creative and critical thinking, interpersonal communication, Practical knowledge and career preparation.



FFA

The FFA Organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agriculture, food and natural resource education. The FFA award and degree programs recognize students for excellence in academics, career development, leadership and community service.

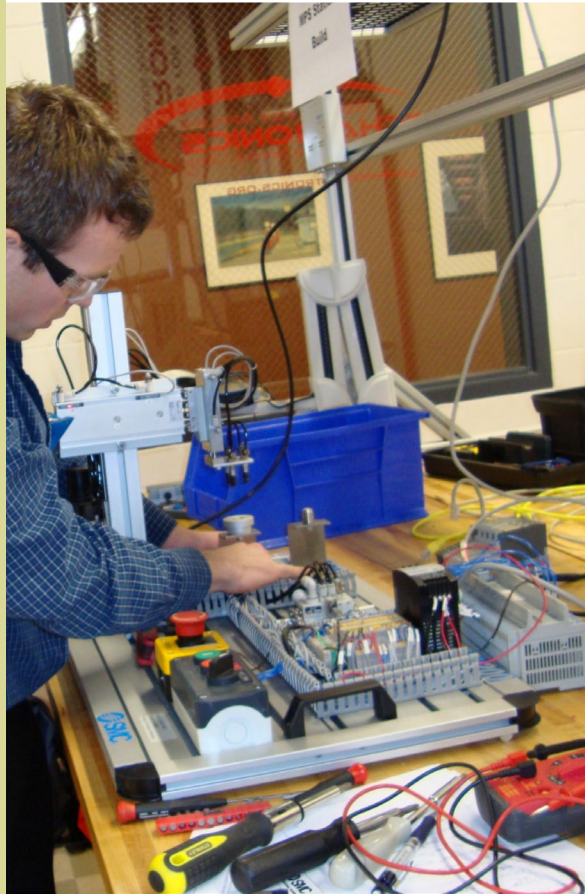


HOSA

The mission of Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) is to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of all health science technology education students, therefore, helping students to meet the needs of the health care community.

100% Healthcare in all events and activities!





SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA empowers its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. SkillsUSA improves the quality of our nation's future skilled workforce through the development of Framework skills that include personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics. SkillsUSA creates opportunities for students, educators and business through leadership training, volunteerism opportunities, competitions and conferences, which enhance students' self-worth and employability skills to create a seamless transition into the workforce.

Bring a CTSO into Your Classroom



- “Shop Around” Find out what CTSO best suits your program(s) of study.
- Contact the CTSO State Director.
- Check out the Advisor Resources and incorporate the CTSO into your syllabus/curriculum and include a membership form.
- Create awareness- all of the CTSOs have “kick-off” videos and promotional information.
- Select a meeting date and ADVERTISE the meeting.
- Hold Officer Elections and let the students “dive” into the program of work.