NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Parson Proclaims February 2-8, 2020 as SkillsUSA Week

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Students and teachers across Missouri will join others across the nation to celebrate SkillsUSA Week, Feb. 2-8, 2020. The annual celebration represents more than 300,000 SkillsUSA members nationwide and promotes career and technical education (CTE). The week highlights the benefits of the SkillsUSA program in developing personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics. It also provides schools with an opportunity to demonstrate how CTE helps prepare local students for college and high-wage, high-demand career fields.

“The activities planned will illustrate the rigor and relevance CTE courses offer our students,” said Joey Baker, state executive director of SkillsUSA Missouri. “By partnering with the business community, CTE programs are investing in students and providing them with the latest technology and skills that will prepare them to become successful employees and future leaders.”

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

“This is one of the most important weeks of the year. Expanding awareness of SkillsUSA is so important as we work toward our goal of graduating 100,000 SkillsUSA students each year who are career-ready,” said SkillsUSA’s executive director, Chelle Travis. “SkillsUSA Week is a time for us to spread the positive message of the organization and bolster support for local programs that define student excellence.”

Governor Michael Parson supports SkillsUSA Week by proclaiming February 2-8, 2020 SkillsUSA Week in the State of Missouri. He urged all citizens “to acquaint themselves with the purposes and activities of SkillsUSA and to give help and encouragement to the members who are working hard to achieve the goals that will make them outstanding skilled workers in our communities.”

For more information on local SkillsUSA Week events, contact: Joey Baker, State Executive Director, Joey.Baker@dese.mo.gov, (573) 751-4460.

About SkillsUSA
SkillsUSA is a vital solution to the growing U.S. skills gap. This nonprofit partnership of students, instructors and industry ensures America has the skilled workforce it needs to stay competitive. Founded in 1965 and endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education, the association serves more than 400,000 member students and instructors each year in middle schools, high schools and colleges. This diverse talent pipeline covers 130 trade, technical and skilled service occupations, the majority STEM-related. More than 600 corporations, trade associations, businesses and labor unions actively support SkillsUSA at the national level. SkillsUSA programs are integrated into career and technical education through a framework of personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics. Local, state and national championships designed and judged by industry, set relevant standards for career and technical education and provide needed recognition to its students. SkillsUSA also offers technical skill assessments and other workplace credentials. For more information, go to: www.SkillsUSA.org or www.SkillsUSAMO.org.

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Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, this administration is committed to the promotion of career and technical education; and

WHEREAS, February 2-8, 2020, has been designated by the SkillsUSA national association as SkillsUSA Week; and

WHEREAS, profound economic and technological changes in our society are rapidly reflected in the structure and nature of work, thereby placing new and additional responsibilities on our educational system; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education provides students with a school-to-careers connection and is the backbone of a strong, well-educuated workforce, which fosters productivity in business and industry and contributes to our leadership in the national and international marketplace; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education gives high school students experience in practical, meaningful, applications of basic skills such as reading, writing, and mathematics, thus improving the quality of their education, motivating at-risk students, and giving all students leadership opportunities in their fields and their communities; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education offers individuals lifelong opportunities to learn new skills, which provide them with career choices and potential satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, the ever-increasing cooperative efforts of career and technical educators, business, and industry stimulate the growth and vitality of our economy and that of the entire nation by preparing graduates for career fields forecasted to experience the largest and fastest growth in the next decade; and

WHEREAS, SkillsUSA – a national organization for students preparing for technical, skilled, and service occupations in high schools and colleges/technical schools – helps its members become world-class workers and responsible Americans; and

WHEREAS, SkillsUSA is preparing more than 300,000 students annually to be high-performance workers.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim February 2-8, 2020, to be

SKILLSUSA WEEK

in Missouri, and urge all its citizens to acquaint themselves with the purposes and activities of SkillsUSA and to give help and encouragement to the members who are working hard to achieve the goals that will make them outstanding skilled workers in our communities.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 6th day of January, 2020.

Michael L. Parson
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Jay Ashcroft
SECRETARY OF STATE