SkillsUSA for a week, not just a day, at Greater Lowell Tech

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TYNGSBORO — Students and faculty at Greater Lowell Technical High School celebrated the recent SkillsUSA Week.

Each February, SkillsUSA Week celebrates career and technical education and the SkillsUSA program, which works to support CTE students as they develop their personal, workplace and technical skills.

The week at Greater Lowell Tech included efforts to recognize various aspects of CTE education and the SkillsUSA program through an Appreciation Day, Advocacy Day, Service Day, Member Outreach Day and SkillsUSA Day.

"SkillsUSA Week is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together, celebrate the value of CTE education and recognize what the SkillsUSA program offers our students as they prepare to enter the workforce," Interim Superintendent Jill Davis said. "SkillsUSA does a wonderful job supporting students as they prepare for their futures, which directly aligns with our school's mission to ensure students' readiness for career, college and citizenship in the 21st century."

Greater Lowell Tech's SkillsUSA Executive Council honored advisers and teachers with personalized gift packages on Appreciation Day and, on Advocacy Day, SkillsUSA officers chapter wrote a letter to U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan promoting SkillsUSA and CTE Programs.

The school also organized a community-service event, with students in the SkillsUSA chapter creating Valentine's Day cards to be delivered to residents at D'Youville Manor Senior Living Center in Lowell, down the street from the campus.

The chapter also held an in-house award ceremony, during which 234 students were honored for their achievements at the in-house level of the competition, with a keynote address by Jillian Gentle, president of JM Career Services and a Greater Lowell Tech SkillsUSA alumnus.

Students recognized at the ceremony will move on to the next level of the SkillsUSA competition, a District 4 event on March 12. Five other area schools will compete in the competition at Greater Lowell Tech to advance to the state level, where more than \$2 million in scholarships and tools will be awarded.