

HACIENDA LA PUENTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD INQUIRY

Date Received: May 5, 2025

Time: 8:00 AM

Board Member: Ms. Adriana Quiñones

Administrator: Dr. Greg Buckner

I. ESTIMATED RESPONSE TIME REQUIRED: 1.5 HOURS

II. INQUIRY/ISSUE DESCRIPTION: To provide the Board of Education information regarding the participation of Adult Education students and staff in the Skills USA National Championships and National Leadership and Skills Conference.

III. ANALYSIS/FACT FINDING:

On the May 8, 2025 Board Agenda, items 5.02.a (Staff) and 5.02.b (students) include requests for approval of the School Board for selected individuals from the Hacienda La Puente Adult Education Program to attend the Skills USA Championships and Skills USA National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) from June 22 through June 28, 2025. For this event, the staff and students who will be participating have already advanced through both the Regional and State Skills USA Competitions and the students who will be participating in the National Competition were all Gold Medal Winners in their respective disciplines at the California State Skills USA Competition.

All of the students who will be attending the Skills USA National Championships are students at the Hacienda La Puente Adult Education Willow Center Campus. Their names and disciplines are as follows:

- Maria Consuelo-Quinones – Cosmetology
- Alfredo Gomez-Loza – Medical Terminology
- Mina Gutierrez – Esthetician
- Angelina Lara – Esthetician

The staff members attending the Skills USA National Championships include the HLP AE Skills USA Lead Advisor, and the Instructors that directly oversee the disciplines of the students who qualified for the National Championships. The staff and their roles are as follows:

- Yara Carillo – HLP AE Skills USA Lead Advisor
- Ava Utasi – HLP AE Cosmetology Instructor
- Wendy Morrell – HLP AE Esthetician Instructor
- Silvia Davila – HLP AE LVN Instructor

There are three instructors that are the students' Staff Advisors for each area the students are competing in. (Cosmetology, Esthetician, Medical Terminology). Yara Carrillo is our Lead Skills USA advisor for the HLP AE Chapter. The three instructors taught, trained, and mentored the students in these areas all year and attended the regional and state competitions in the role as Staff Advisor to the students. Yara Carrillo has organized the activities for the HLP AE Skills Chapter this year and is going in her advisor role.

Hacienda La Puente Adult Education has been recognized for the past two years as a California Skills USA Silver Medal Chapter of Excellence. In addition to the honor of receiving these medals, the awards also include a cash prize (\$1,750) that the school receives. While HLP AE is happy to participate in Skills USA for the benefits that it provides for our students, participation in a Career Technical Student Organization (CTSO) is one of the requirements of the Perkins Grant that HLP AE receives every year.

Participation in the Skills USA National Championships and Skills USA National Leadership and Skills Conference is an exceptional opportunity for all of the students who qualify. In addition to providing valuable training and experience, competing (and receiving awards) at this level serves is highly valuable for inclusion on the students' resumes as they seek to enter the workforce upon completion of their programs with HLP AE. Additionally, the Conference that serves as the venue for the Championships provides robust opportunities for professional growth and development as well as professional networking opportunities that provide students with valuable opportunities to connect with employers. As described in the event's promotional materials,

The event brings together more than 17,500 attendees, including students, instructors, industry partners, government officials, administrators and more. The highlight of the NLSC is the SkillsUSA Championships, where more than 6,500 state champions compete for national gold, silver and bronze medals in 114 skilled and leadership competitions. Other highlights include the largest technical education trade show in the nation in SkillsUSA TECHSPO, an excitement-fueled Opening Session, transformative leadership training, insightful workshops and seminars, an impactful community service project to benefit city children and, to end the event, a tears-of-joy-inducing Awards Ceremony.

The \$37,176 cost of the event is paid entirely out of funding that HLP AE received this year through its Adult Education Perkins Grant allocation. The cost covers seven days of travel, including airfare, hotel, meals, admission to the conference and entry into the respective competitions for which the students qualified. While the Skills USA National Championships have been held in a different state for the past several years, HLP AE has benefitted from the fact that the Regional and California State Competitions have all been held locally in Ontario, California for the past several years, significantly limiting the cost of student and staff participation in those events.