



Work Force Ready System™

Skill Connect Assessments:

Helping our students
prove what they can do

Thank you for joining us for this webinar!
*Please mute your phone by pressing *6.*
We will begin promptly at 3pm.



- **Welcome and overview**
- **What are Skill Connect Assessments?**
- **Demonstration, management and updating**
- **The role of industry**
- **Q & A**

2



- Welcome by Tim Lawrence, SkillsUSA Executive Director. We are excited to introduce the Work Force Ready System and specifically, the Skill Connect Assessments, through these webinars. Two sessions are held, November 27 and December 10.

Skill Connect Assessments: What are they, and how did we get here?
(Seth Derner)

How they work on the LearnMate system (Tami Admi)


The role of industry in our Assessments (Tim Lawrence)

Q & A



Work Force Ready System™

Overview of the System



Tim Lawrence
SkillsUSA Executive Director

SkillsUSA Executive Director Tim Lawrence was a student member of SkillsUSA, welding instructor, and State SkillsUSA Director before stepping into his current position in 2001.

Having been involved with SkillsUSA for most of his life, Mr. Timothy Lawrence firmly believes that getting involved in technical education and joining SkillsUSA in high school set his course for a successful future. He worked in both labor and management positions in the manufacturing industry for nine years while continuing his education, and received his teaching credentials from Virginia Tech and his degree in Administration and Training from James Madison University. He fulfilled one of his life dreams when he became a teacher in Virginia in 1978. He achieved another life goal when he was named the National Trade and Industrial Education Teacher of the Year in 1983.

In 1987, he joined the Virginia Department of Education as a vocational student specialist and chief executive officer of the state SkillsUSA organization. He also served other youth initiatives with the National Safety Council's Youth Division, Students Against Driving Drunk and numerous community service organizations. In 1996, Mr. Lawrence joined the national SkillsUSA organization as Partnerships Director at their National Leadership Center in Leesburg, Virginia. He serves as a board member for several national organizations and is proud to have been a member of the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council. In January 2001, Mr. Lawrence became the Chief Executive Officer of SkillsUSA, one of our nation's largest individual membership organizations. In this position, he feels he works for the students and teachers of America's technical education system.

Needed by Education and Industry



- Accountability through Perkins IV
- Increasing challenge of finding skilled workers
- Technical assessment tools exist, but may not be meeting all needs



4

The Skill Connect Assessments have been endorsed by the Technical Skill Assessment Study Group through OVA as a Gold Standard Assessment. An important enhancement to Perkins IV is the recognition of industry credentials. Our industry partners have the challenge of finding skilled workers and knowing they can do what they say they can do.

What we learned through research



- **Keys to assessments identified:**
 - Industry alignment and recognition
 - Aligned with curriculum
 - Proven benefit for student and program
 - Affordable
 - User-friendly for instructor and student
 - Nationwide industry standards instead of company or regional validation
 - Needed for more diverse technical areas

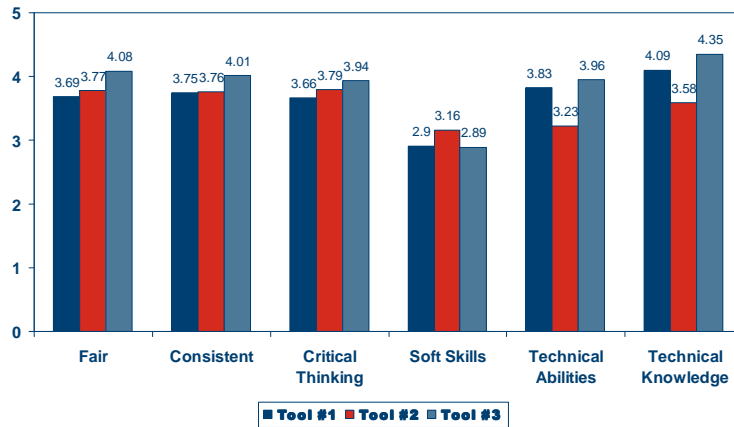
5

Telephone interviews with 32 State Career and Technical Education leaders
Included State CTE Directors, CTE Specialists and Supervisors, college professors, and state SkillsUSA Advisors
30 states represented

Online survey with more than 1,200 CTE instructors
50 states represented, as well as nearly 50 occupational areas

Two focus groups with 22 instructors, administrators and state leadership

Evaluation of existing tools



On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 meaning "not at all true" and 5 meaning "very true," please rate the following statements relative to tool #1, tool #2 and tool #3.

6

Skill Connect Assessments are not intended to compete with industry certifications, but rather to serve as portals to our valued partners.

Work Force Ready System



- **“The Total System”**
 - Standards
 - Technical assistance for instructors
 - Assessments
 - Credentials
- **Skill Connect Excelerator**
 - Instructor’s command center
- **Skill Connect Assessment**
 - Prove what students can do
- **Skill Connect Portfolio**
 - The full picture of personal achievement
- **Skill Connect Credential (certificate)**

7

Through the research, we discovered that instructors and administrators would find value in a “total system” that integrated standards, assessments, credentials and administration. We have built the Work Force Ready System with this in mind, and we are excited to offer these four components of the system:

Skill Connect Assessment

Prove what students can do

Skill Connect Excelerator

Instructor’s command center

Skill Connect Portfolio

The full picture of personal achievement

Skill Point Certificate

The pinnacle in authentic assessments

YOU WILL SEE GRAPHIC SUPPORT OF THIS LATER...ALONG WITH THE INDUSTRY SUPPORT IT RECEIVES



Work Force Ready System™

What are Skill Connect Assessments?



Seth Derner
Assessment Development Leader

Seth Derner has spent his career focusing on important outcomes that lead to measurable success. As a teacher, he grew enrollment in his program from 32 to 105 in three years. As an education specialist with a national CTSO, Seth completed the revision of nine national student programs in two years, led the design and production of a comprehensive leadership skill curriculum that was adopted by more than 2,000 career and technical teachers, and managed five newly-funded projects to completion.

Seth co-authored the book, “Strategies for Great Teaching” and is set to release another book in early 2008 about techniques for integration of academic skills in CTE instruction. He has been a champion of refining SkillsUSA's technical standards to align with academic expectations, and today will help us understand more about the development process of our Skill Connect Assessments.

Skill Connect Assessments



- **Test technical skills and knowledge**
 - Multiple choice, drag-and-drop, simulations and other question forms
- **Available online in 46 trade, industrial and technical areas**
 - Two employability tests also available: secondary and post-secondary
- **Developed through a rigorous, educationally sound process**
 - Based on critical competencies, standards and criteria as defined by industry

9

Technical skills and knowledge are tested through a variety of question types. One unique feature of career and technical education is the hands-on component. While an online assessment cannot evaluate the quality of an end product that a student develops, we have designed Skill Connect Assessments to be appealing to all learning styles. The interactivity of the assessments more closely simulates hands-on activities than traditional paper/pencil assessments.

How they were developed



- **Developed by SkillsUSA, an industry-driven organization since 1965**
- **Worked closely with both industry and education experts**
- **Competencies and test items validated by industry-based SMEs and consulting psychometricians**

10

SME = subject matter expert

Maintaining and educationally sound, industry supported process has been our top priority. Assessments are designed for learners to demonstrate knowledge, more than reading comprehension. They are predictive of hands-on and appealing to multiple learning styles. While they are developed by SkillsUSA, these assessments go beyond the scope of contests.

The Work Force Ready System encourages students to pursue industry certification.

How they are used



- **Candidates prove skills and knowledge to employers**
- **Instructors demonstrate the value of their programs**
- **Support programs in several ways**
 - Pre-assessments
 - End-of program evaluation
 - Prepare for industry certification

11

We're already getting interest from employers to use these as pre-employment exams, and they will be beneficial to students, instructors, programs and employers.

Serving needs of education and industry



- **Interactive**
- **Industry-driven**
- **Responsive**
- **Diverse**
- **Affordable**
- **Perkins IV requirements**

12

Interactive

Animations allow assessment of a broader range of competencies than other assessments

Industry-driven

Developed by industry experts

Responsive

Provides instant results to candidates, and instructors can also provide feedback to the System

Diverse

Assesses employability and technical skills in 46 unique areas

Affordable

designed with budgets of instructional programs and individual career seekers in mind

Meets Perkins IV Requirements



Work Force Ready System™

**Demonstration, management
and updating**



Tami Bonnett-Admi,
intelitek Vice President

Tami Bonnett-Admi works with nearly 15 years of experience in curriculum development and delivery. In her current role as Vice President of e-Learning Operations and Chief Learning Officer of intelitek, Inc., Tami oversees the development of more than 2500 of web-based content through LearnMate, intelitek's state-of-the-art tool that powers our Skill Connect Assessments.

Tami is passionate about ensuring effectiveness of learning solutions in terms of student knowledge gain and performance, whether it is delivered through a traditional hands-on approach or through online delivery. Today, she will demonstrate how the LearnMate system powerfully supports our Skill Connect Assessments through a sneak peak at a few assessment questions.

Sneak peek at the questions

LearnMate

Skill Connect Assessments

LearnMate > Login to the site English (en)

Returning to this web site?

Login here using your username and password
(Cookies must be enabled in your browser)

Username

Password

Some courses may allow guest access

Forgotten your username or password?

Is this your first time here?

Hi! For full access to courses you'll need to take a minute to create a new account for yourself on this web site. Each of the individual courses may also have a one-time "enrolment key", which you won't need until later. Here are the steps:

1. Fill out the *New Account* form with your details.
2. An email will be immediately sent to your email address.
3. Read your email, and click on the web link it contains.
4. Your account will be confirmed and you will be logged in.
5. Now, select the course you want to participate in.
6. If you are prompted for an "enrolment key" - use the one that your teacher has given you. This will "enrol" you in the course.
7. You can now access the full course. From now on you will only need to enter your personal username and password (in the form on this page) to log in and access any course you have enrolled in.

14

Please view the video demonstrations for the sneak peek, also available on the "News" page of www.workforcereadysystem.org.

LearnMate: supporting assessments



- **Powers Skill Connect Assessments**
- **State-of-the-art assessment tool**
- **Enables a variety of question types**
- **Delivered, graded and tracked online**
- **Immediate feedback**
- **Mapped to technical and STEM standards**

15

Developed by intelitek, Inc., LearnMate is the easy-to-use, powerful backbone to the Skill Connect Assessment System. LearnMate is a proven, state-of-the-art assessment tool packaged within a robust learning management system. LearnMate enables a variety of question types (e.g. drag-and-drop, hotspots, simulations, etc.) designed to uniquely assess all types of learners, and tactile CTE learners in particular. Content and assessments are delivered, graded and tracked online, allowing access from anywhere, as well as for real-time reporting. Grading and feedback is immediate – for students, instructors and administrators. With LearnMate, all assessments can be mapped to both technical and STEM standards, allowing for detailed competency-based reporting and generation of skills gap analyses of test candidates. LearnMate enables instructors to output certifications immediately upon test completion, ensuring that there is no wait time for testing results and certificate generation.



Work Force Ready System™

The Role of Industry



Tim Lawrence
SkillsUSA Executive Director

Industry-driven assessments



- **Leadership from technical committees**
 - Develop competencies and standards
 - Update assessments annually
- **Technical Advisory Committee**
 - Policy, education and industry leaders
- **Collaboration with other certifying agents**

17

Again, research told us that industry support and validation was the most important component of technical assessments.

Leadership comes from technical committees, who reach out to other industry partners to gain expertise. It's beyond contest standards; goes much broader



Students achieving successful scores on the assessments will receive a certificate, automatically generated by the LearnMate system. Notice the “competency areas” on the left-hand side that indicate specific skills and knowledge tested. Another valuable piece of the certificate is in the logos across the bottom. These logos belong to the organizations represented by the respective technical committee members for each technical area.

Accessing Skill Connect Assessments



- **First eight available May 2008**
 - 20 more completed in late 2008
 - Additional 20 complete in 2009
- **Online only**
- **\$20 each**
- **\$5 for SkillsUSA members**

19

First 8 in May 2008:

Automated Manufacturing Technology

Commercial Baking

Graphic Communications

Internetworking

Power Equipment Technology

Welding

Employability Skills (Secondary)

Employability Skills (Post-Secondary)

8 Assessments coming in May 2008



- Automated Manufacturing Technology
- Commercial Baking
- Graphic Communications
- Internetworking
- Power Equipment Technology
- Welding
- Employability Skills (Secondary)
- Employability Skills (Post-Secondary)

How can you get involved?



- **Share feedback and questions with us**
- **Tell your colleagues**
- **Explore use of Skill Connect Assessments as measure of accountability for Perkins IV**



21

Tell us your feedback and questions

Tell your colleagues about the assessments

Be sure you're signed up for our monthly e-newsletter updates, and if you know others who are not, please pass along the word to them

Explore use of assessments as measure of accountability for Perkins IV



Work Force Ready System™

**Questions?
Thank you for joining us!**

www.workforcereadysystem.org

Assessment areas



- Employability
- Robotics and Automation Technology
- Welding
- Collision Repair Technology
- Automotive Service Technology
- Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration
- Culinary Arts
- Graphic Communications
- Automated Manufacturing Technology
- Commercial Baking
- Precision Machining Technology
- Power Equipment Technology
- Major Appliance Technology
- Internetworking
- Advertising Design
- Diesel Equipment Technology
- Nail Care
- Motorcycle Service Technology
- Masonry
- Cosmetology
- Carpentry
- Residential Wiring
- Criminal Justice / Crime Scene Investigation
- CNC Turning Technology
- Marine Service Technology
- Collision Repainting Technology
- 3-D Visualization and Animation
- Nurse Assisting
- Engineering Technology
- Dental Assisting
- Computer Maintenance Technology
- Electronics Technology
- Mechatronics
- Screen Printing Technology
- Web Design and Development
- Aviation Maintenance Technology
- Technical Computer Applications
- Telecommunications Cabling
- Medical Assisting
- Practical Nursing
- Cabinetmaking
- Photography
- Plumbing
- Electronics Applications
- CNC Milling Technology