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Online, Technical Assessments from SkillsUSA Now Available

SkillsUSA releases its first 8 technical assessments

LEESBURG, VA – SkillsUSA announces today the introduction of eight online, technical assessments to help candidates prove entry-level proficiency.

“Our Skill Connect Assessments align with education and industry standards to provide employers a trusted evaluation of entry-level technical skills,” said Tim Lawrence, SkillsUSA Executive Director. “Our goal is to lift up students and those outside of traditional education programs as they contribute to our future work force.”

Each Skill Connect Assessment evaluates entry-level knowledge and skills through interactive questions with media-rich content. Videos and animations enable a more accurate evaluation of practical knowledge than text-only assessments. These assessments are hosted on the patented LearnMate system, which enables real-time, dynamic reporting available to instructors and administrators. SkillsUSA also created an employability assessment to evaluate soft skills.

“We’ve sought input from more than 3,000 instructors, state directors of education, and industry partners nationwide,” Lawrence said. “Not only has their feedback guided the development of Skill Connect Assessments, but it has also been valuable in determining how to make the system user-friendly and beneficial for students, instructors, and potential employers.”

All assessments align with Perkins IV accountability measures, as issued by the U.S. Department of Education. Additionally, each assessment was developed with industry and education leaders working together to identify the appropriate criterion and testing methodology. Once developed, assessments were evaluated by psychometricians for reliability in comparison to field test data before becoming available for purchase.

Assessments are available today, costing only \$5 for SkillsUSA members or \$20 per assessment for nonmembers. Each Skill Connect Assessment consists of approximately 50 items and takes an estimated 60 minutes to complete. Items are delivered randomly from an item bank, as are the possible answers to each question according to the assessment blueprint defined. To purchase assessments or for a complete list of all technical assessments and their expected availability, visit

<http://www.workforcereadysystem.org>.

ABOUT SkillsUSA AND THE WORK FORCE READY SYSTEM

Skill Connect Assessments are one of four components in the SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System, which was developed as an extension of the SkillsUSA mission and supported by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The System recognizes students for excellence in occupational training; it assesses and documents the entry-level technical proficiency and cumulative experiences of candidates. The unique collaboration between employers and educators also improves instructional programs and provides teachers with a system that is easy to use. For more information about the SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System, visit <http://www.workforcereadysystem.com>.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. SkillsUSA serves more than 300,000 students and instructors annually and has served more than nine million members since its founding in 1965. The organization has 19,333 member sections in every state, three territories and the District of Columbia member classrooms in 54 states and territorial associations. Nearly 16,300 instructors and administrators are professional members of SkillsUSA. For more information about SkillsUSA visit <http://www.skillsusa.org>.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930 “to help people help themselves through the practical application of knowledge and resources to improve their quality of life and that of future generations.” Its programming activities center around the common vision of a world in which each person has a sense of worth; accepts responsibility for self, family, community, and societal well-being; and has the capacity to be productive, and to help create nurturing families, responsive institutions, and healthy communities.

To achieve its greatest impact, the Foundation targets grants toward specific areas. These include health; food systems and rural development; youth and education; and philanthropy and voluntarism. Within these areas, attention is given to exploring learning opportunities in leadership; information and communication technology; capitalizing on diversity; and social and economic community development. Grants are concentrated in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and southern Africa.

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