

## Upcoming Events:

February	Career and Technical Education Month
February 10-16	National FBLA-PBL Week National FCCLA Week
February 13	CTSO Day at The Capitol
February 23- March 1	National Entrepreneurship Week
February 26	Missouri LifeSmarts Competition (middle school)
February 27	Missouri LifeSmarts Competition (high school)

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## Student Consumer Challenge Expands to Middle School

The 4th Annual Missouri LifeSmarts program will hold its statewide final competitions later this month. The challenging consumer knowledge competition helps students learn more about personal finance; consumer rights and responsibilities; technology, ecology and health.



Students first competed online to get a team score high enough to qualify for the in-person finals to be held Feb. 26-27 at the Governor Office Building in Jefferson City, Mo.

New to the 2008 competition is a Junior Varsity level for students in grades 6-8. The six top-scoring teams in the online competition will participate in the first annual Junior Varsity state finals to be held February 26.

The Varsity level state finals competition for students in grades 9-12 will be held Feb. 27. Nine teams from across the state have been invited to participate. The winning team will represent Missouri at the national finals in Minneapolis, Minn., April 12-15.

Setting a new participation record, more than 1,600 students in 128 teams participated in the online portion of the 2008 competition. The program has grown tremendously since 2005 when 181 students from 52 teams participated.

The National Consumers League (NCL) is the national sponsor for the LifeSmarts program. Missouri LifeSmarts financial sponsorship is provided by American Century Investments and is coordinated by the Missouri Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).

For more information, visit [www.LifeSmarts.com](http://www.LifeSmarts.com) or contact Merilee Thoenen at (573) 751-6878 or send e-mail to [merilee.thoenen@dese.mo.gov](mailto:merilee.thoenen@dese.mo.gov).



Attendees at the Cisco event included (from left) Ed McCarty, Metropolitan Community College (MCC) instructor; Kathlee Douglas, Raytown Academy instructor; Tom Vansaghi, MCC interim dean of instruction; Jeremy Armstrong, Herndon Career Center student; Amy Christen, Cisco Networking Academy VP; Brian Lightfoot, MCC instructor; Lisa Oyler, Summit Technology Academy instructor; and Kinzie Doll, MCC student.

## Cisco Networking Academy Salutes 10th Anniversary in Missouri

An event marking 10 years of partnership between Missouri Career Education and the Cisco® Networking Academy® was held Jan. 28 in Jefferson City, Mo. The celebration was attended by alumni, instructors, state government officials and education industry representatives from the state of Missouri.

Over the past decade, more than 8,000 Missouri students have received essential information technology and networking skills. Missouri currently has more than 50 networking academies, creating opportunities and preparing over 2,400 students to innovate and lead economic development in the state.

Seven students were recognized in a special ceremony for their achievements: Kristel Catterton, Linn State Technical College; Robbie Davis, Southeast Missouri State University; Martin McLafferty, St. Louis Community College - Forest Park; Kinzie Doll, Metropolitan Community College; Jeremy Armstrong, Herndon Career Center; Christina Mead, University of Central Missouri; and Dustin Ford, North County Technical School.

## Missouri SkillsUSA Applauded for Membership Growth

SkillsUSA Executive Director Tim Lawrence applauded Missouri and 12 other states who have already surpassed membership levels over the previous year in its national “Drive for Five” campaign. Nationally, SkillsUSA membership has now grown to nearly 255,000 members, which exceeds last year by more than 17,500.

SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization serving teachers, high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations. It is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled work force.

SkillsUSA Missouri is a state affiliate and consists of nine districts with over 85 local chapters. Statewide membership grew nearly 9 percent over the previous year. It now surpasses the 10,000-member mark. Dr. Paul Light serves as SkillsUSA State Adviser. Light is a supervisor in the Industrial Education and Health Sciences Section, Division of Career Education, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

“We have great momentum and hope to have a banner year as we move toward the close of our membership campaign on March 1,” Lawrence said. “There are so many positive things happening in SkillsUSA right now and our goal is to serve students and teachers at the highest level ever.”

### Events to Be Held at Linn State and Kansas City

The State Leadership and Skills Conference will be held April 3-5 at Linn State Technical College. The SkillsUSA Missouri championships has been called the showcase of technical education. It recognizes career and technical education students who excel in their occupational areas, as well as leadership development activities that are such an integral part of the SkillsUSA program in the classroom.

National SkillsUSA will return to Kansas City June 24-27 for the 44th annual National Leadership and Skills Conference, a showcase of career and technical education students. More than 13,750 people – including students, teachers and business partners – are expected to participate in the week-long event.

More than 4,500 outstanding career and technical education students—all state contest winners—will compete hands-on in 87 different trade, technical and leadership fields. Contests are run with the help of industry, trade associations, and labor organizations, and test competencies are set by industry. The SkillsUSA Championships will be held Thursday, June 26, in H. Roe Bartle Hall and Municipal Auditorium.

### SkillsUSA Announces Move to Kentucky in 2015

Virginia-based SkillsUSA announced in January that its annual National Leadership and Skills Conference will move to Louisville, Ky., for 2015 through 2020. The sole reason is space. The event first met in Kansas City in 1994 and annually ranks as the city’s largest convention.

“SkillsUSA loves Kansas City. We’ll be here for seven more years, and we’d love to come back,” said Tim Lawrence, SkillsUSA executive director.



## Columbia Area Career Center Expands

The Columbia Area Career Center has completed a brand new 28,000 square foot addition. The expansion includes two advanced kitchens for its culinary program, a high-tech lab, an Adult Health Sciences wing, and a large multi-purpose room. The expansion will allow the center to be on the cutting edge for new and expanding programs. Arden Boyer-Stephens, director of the Columbia Area Career Center, takes DESE career education leaders on a tour during its open house held in January. For more information about the CACC, visit [www.career-center.org](http://www.career-center.org).

## Implementation Grants Available for PLTW Programs

Project Lead The Way Implementation Grant Awards are now open to Missouri public school districts operating Technology Education programs in grades 9-12. The purpose of the grant award program is to support the implementation of PLTW programs at the local level.

PLTW is a sequence of courses, combined with traditional college-preparatory math and science courses. It introduces students to the scope, rigor, and discipline of engineering prior to their postsecondary experiences. Schools also benefit from the creation of partnerships with industry and other Missouri schools to prepare students to be successful in engineering and engineering technology programs.

The deadline for requests is 4:00 p.m., March 31, 2008.

For more information, visit [www.dese.mo.gov/divcareered/pltw\\_index.htm](http://www.dese.mo.gov/divcareered/pltw_index.htm).

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