

SkillsUSA Liaison Report

NASDCTEc 2009 Spring Meeting

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Here are a few brief updates:

- Membership continues to grow; it is nearing 300,000 which could be eclipsed yet this year.
- The first wave of SkillConnect assessments is available online. Eight were made available on March 15, with many more waiting final testing. They are on target to have all 46 assessments ready for field testing and deployment over the next year.
- Tough Tools for Cool Schools program kicked off March 6. Lowe's is donating more than \$300,000 worth of Kobalt tools to 500 SkillsUSA building and construction trades programs across the country.
- SkillsUSA held its third conference with representative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This was an online demonstration of the Work Force Ready System including the assessments and reporting system. The Gates Foundation is looking for standards-based education that leads students (or out-of-school youth) to further their education and credentials. When asked how the foundation views CTE, we were told: "CTE is the contextualization of education. It's essential for education reform."
- The National Skills Leadership Conference in Kansas City will be held June 21 – 26, 2009. If you haven't had the opportunity to attend, please consider it.