

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Investigate the opportunities and benefits available through Career & Technical Student Organizations (CTSO)**

Objectives:

- A. Determine the important benefits of CTSO to career education.
- B. Determine what CTSO are available in your school.
- C. Link the CTSO with the appropriate career and technical program

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### **MODULE 1C: INFORMATION SHEET**

*TO THE STUDENT: Read and study this information sheet and then complete the student activity at the end of this project.*

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#### **What are CTSO's?**

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) are nonprofit intracurricular associations for students enrolled in various technical education programs or interested in certain career paths. These organizations were instituted out of a need for identification and provide an essential place where students can share common interests and goals. They are supervised by qualified instructors and in many cases are integrated into the curriculum. They give students positive, powerful experiences in which students can achieve and build leadership skills.

#### **What are the benefits?**

CTSO's vary widely in career focus and skills emphasis. At the same time, they are allied in a commitment to provide students with the best learning experiences that stimulate interest, provide opportunities for leadership, and allow students to develop incentive. Through various individual and team activities and experiences, students gain motivation, occupational experience, and develop social and work ethic skills. CTSO's recognize

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students through competition and provide awards and scholarships for achievement. Student competitions motivate technical, leadership and business management skills through local, regional, state and even national contests. Plus, employers like employees who were involved and even more importantly, involvement in CTSO's are fun. Through the combination of career and technical training and CTSO membership, students can become proficient students, employees and leaders.

## What do they do?



### DECA - An Association of Marketing Students

DECA, a national association of marketing education students, provides teachers and members with educational and leadership development activities to merge with the education classroom instructional program. DECA is not extracurricular; it is an integral part of the classroom instructional program. DECA chapters attract students who are interested in preparing for entrepreneurial, marketing or management careers. Working hand-in-hand with the education and business communities, DECA's goal is for its student members to develop a "career success kit" to carry into their business and personal lives after graduation.

DECA is an organization where you can go to have fun, have a positive effect on your community and learn - all at the same time. As part of DECA's mission, you can learn about marketing, starting your own business, and even getting involved in e-commerce. As a DECA member you have the chance to tap into \$250,000 of awards and scholarships from major U.S. corporations. You can obtain those leadership skills that will give you a head start toward a real career. You will have the opportunity to enter your class projects into a competition that could lead you not only to applause, but to self-confidence and usable skills. Other experiences include traveling to conferences, associating with business people, and networking your way into the future. With 180,000 student members and faculty advisors, DECA functions as the companion student organization to over 5,000 marketing education programs in secondary and postsecondary schools across the U.S., its territories and Canada.



### **FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America)**

Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda is an educational association of student members preparing for careers in business or who are just simply interested in learning more about the free enterprise system. FBLA helps students develop leadership abilities, and prepare for entry into, and advancement within, a business or business-related occupation. Members learn how to engage in business enterprise, how to direct the affairs of a group, and how to compete honorably in competitive events. These activities help prepare students to be better employees and better citizens.

There are over 270,000 active members in over 12,000 chartered chapters in 50 states, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, U.S. Territories, and Department of Defense Dependent Schools worldwide.

### **FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America)**

(FCCLA) formerly Future Homemakers of America (FHA), founded in 1945, is a dynamic and effective student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through family and consumer sciences education.



Members throughout the state of Pennsylvania use individual and team projects that provide leadership opportunities, develop critical thinking and decision-making skills and recognize student achievement. The overall goal is to help individuals improve personal, family, and community living through participation in organized activities. FCCLA is the only national organization with the family as its central focus. Through the chapter projects you'll meet new people, learn new skills and lead the way for your family and peers as you share your knowledge and experience with them.

### **FFA - An Association of Agriculture Education Students**

FFA is the student leadership organization for students attending agriculture education programs nationwide. There are over 450,000 FFA members in the United States.

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. To accomplish this mission, FFA:

- Develops competent and assertive agricultural leadership.
- Increases awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
- Strengthens the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
- Promotes the intelligent choice and establishment of an agricultural career.
- Encourages achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs.
- Encourages wise management of economic, environmental and human resources of the community.
- Develops interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations and social interaction.
- Builds character and promotes citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism.
- Promotes cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people.
- Promotes healthy lifestyles.
- Encourages excellence in scholarship

### **HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America)**

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) is a national student organization that provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation and recognition exclusively for secondary, post-secondary, collegiate and adult students enrolled in health occupations education course or instructional programs. HOSA is an integral part of approved health occupation programs. Health Occupations Education (HOE) students who become active members in a local HOSA chapter are eligible for membership in state and national HOSA.

The mission of HOSA is to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of all health occupations education students, therefore helping the students to meet the needs of the health care industry.

The primary purpose of a HOSA chapter is to serve the needs of its members and to promote and strengthen the HOE-HOSA Partnership in the following ways:

- Foster programs and activities which will develop:
  - physical, mental and social well-being of the individual.
  - leadership, character and citizenship.
  - ethical practices and respect for dignity of work.
- Foster self-actualization of each member, which contributes to meeting the individual's psychological, social and economic needs.
- Build the confidence of students in themselves and their work by providing opportunities to assume responsibilities and by developing personal and occupational competencies and social skills that lead to realistic choices of careers and successful employment in the health care field.
- Promote inter-organizational relationships with professional groups, businesses, health care delivery systems and other organizations.
- Recognize individual achievement in scholarship, occupational skills, or services rendered, by providing recognition and awards.
- Promote involvement in current health care issues, environmental concerns and survival needs of the community, the nation and the world.

### **PYFA (Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association)**

The mission of the PYFA is to promote the environmentally appropriate production, marketing, and processing of food, feed, and fiber.



The purpose of the PYFA is to develop leaders, inspire service, strengthen communities, and enhance the success potential for American agriculture, especially the beginning farmers.

The PYFA is proud to be an association that educates agricultural leaders and helps recruit new people into agricultural careers. It is a leadership training, business skill development and community service organization.

To accomplish these goals, The PYFA provides seminars and conferences to train individuals in leadership and business management. Further, it provides activities such as competitions, contests and projects that allow individuals to apply what they have learned in community service projects. The association sponsors community service projects to assist the general public in understanding more about agriculture. Projects are also featured which promote new entrants into agricultural occupations

### SkillsUSA-VICA

SkillsUSA-VICA is a national organization serving more than 250,000 high school and college students and professional members who are enrolled in training programs in technical, skilled, and service occupations, including health occupations.



SkillsUSA has more than a quarter million student members annually, organized into 13,000 chapters and 54 state and territorial associations (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands).

SkillsUSA prepares America's high performance workers. It provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. It builds and reinforces self-confidence, work attitudes and communications skills. It emphasizes total quality at work, high ethical standards, superior work skills, life-long education and pride in the dignity of work. SkillsUSA also promotes understanding of the free enterprise system and involvement in community service activities.

Approximately 13,000 teachers and school administrators serve as professional SkillsUSA members and instructors. More than 1,000 corporations, trade associations and labor unions actively support SkillsUSA on a national level through financial aid, in-kind contributions, and involvement of their people in SkillsUSA activities. Many more work directly with state associations and local chapters.

SkillsUSA programs include local, state and national competitions in which students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills. During the annual national-level SkillsUSA Championships, more than 4,100 students compete in 73 occupational and leadership skill areas. SkillsUSA programs also help to establish industry standards for job skill training in the classroom.

### TSA (Technology Student Association)

The Technology Student Association is a non-profit national student organization devoted to teaching technology education to young people. TSA's mission is to inspire its student members to prepare for careers in a technology-driven



economy and culture. The demand for technological expertise is escalating in American industry. Therefore, TSA's teachers strive to promote technological literacy, leadership, and problem solving to their student membership. TSA is the only student organization dedicated exclusively to students enrolled in technology education classes grades K-12.

TSA now serves more than 160,000 K-12 students in 2,000 schools in 47 states nationwide. Student members have the chance to compete at local, state, regional and national competitions. They may participate in chapter fund-raising activities and community service projects. TSA chapters host social activities. Leadership training is offered to student officers at the local, state or national levels.

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**MODULE 1C: STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

*TO THE STUDENT:* After you have read and studied the information sheet, complete the following activities.

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Answer the following questions:

1. List four benefits of being involved with a CTSO?

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\_\_\_\_\_

2. Which CTSO would be of benefit to a student who is interested in owning and operating their own clothing store?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Which CTSO would be of benefit to a student pursuing a career in agriculture?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Which CTSO has the "family" central to its goals?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Which CTSO sponsors and holds competitive events in over 70 occupational and technical areas?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. If you were interested in a career in nursing, which CTSO might be right for you?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Which CTSO would be of interest to you, if you were enrolled in a technology education class? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Find out what CTSO's are available in your school and list them below.

For each organization, list the advisor and the current number of members.

CTSO	Advisor	# of Members

9. If you are currently a member of a CTSO, complete Activity A.

If you are not currently a member of a CTSO, complete Activity B

Activity A: On a separate paper, write a 1-2 page essay about your CTSO, answering the following questions:

- Why did you join the organization?
- What activities has the organization done in the last year?
- What activities, experiences have you been involved with?
- What have you gained by being part of this organization?

Activity B: Pick a CTSO that your school offers that you would be interested in joining (appropriate to your career/training). Using the information in this module, the organization's website, and interviews with the advisor and student members, write a 1-2 page essay answering the following questions about the CTSO you selected:

- How can participating with this organization help you in obtaining your goals?
- What activities has the organization done in the last year?
- Which activities/experiences interest you?

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**MODULE 1C: STANDARDS ADDRESSED IN THIS MODULE**

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**Pennsylvania's Academic Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening (RWSL)**

**1.1.11. Learning to Read Independently**

- E. Establish a reading vocabulary by identifying and correctly using new words acquired through the study of their relationships to other words. Use a dictionary or related reference.

**1.5.11. Quality of Writing**

- A. Write with a sharp, distinct focus.
  - Identify topic, task and audience.
  - Establish and maintain a single point of view.
- B. Write using well-developed content appropriate for the topic.
  - Gather, determine validity and reliability of, analyze and organize information.
  - Employ the most effective format for purpose and audience.
  - Write fully developed paragraphs that have details and information specific to the topic and relevant to the focus.
- D. Edit writing using the conventions of language.
  - Spell all words correctly.
  - Use capital letters correctly.
  - Punctuate correctly (periods, exclamation points, question marks, commas, quotation marks, apostrophes, colons, semicolons, parentheses, hyphens, brackets, ellipses).
  - Use nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions and interjections properly.
  - Use complete sentences (simple, compound, complex, declarative, interrogative, exclamatory and imperative).