

World of Possibilities Career Expo

By Megan Prawdzik



The best and the brightest of Florida SkillsUSA competitors will face off to showcase their technical trade talents and leadership abilities at the 2012 Florida SkillsUSA State Competition, which will be held in conjunction with the 2012 Worlds of Possibilities Career Expo, April 29 through May 2, 2012 in Pensacola, Florida at the Pensacola Civic Center.

SkillsUSA has more than 300,000 members nationwide and serves as a partnership between students, teachers and industry working together to ensure the United States has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization, dedicated to training high school and college students for their future careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations. The mission of the organization is to assist these students in becoming world workers, leaders and responsible American citizens.

SkillsUSA is committed to providing quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. The program benefits students by improving their self confidence, work attitudes and communication skills. Ultimately, the students' total quality of work is also improved, including high ethical standards, superior work skills, life-long education and pride in their work. SkillsUSA also

promotes understanding of the free-enterprise system and involvement in community service.

The Worlds of Possibilities Career Expo, a premiere event of its kind, will showcase businesses and vendors in technical and vocational career fields by engaging over 3,000 seventh and eighth-grade students from Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, and more than 2,000 high school and college students from throughout the state of Florida with exciting hands-on and interactive experiences in 16 "worlds," or industry sectors, ranging from the "World of Energy" to the "World of Finance." One of the new events added this year is an Electrathon Race Competition, sanctioned by Electrathon America and sponsored by the Gulf Power Engineering Society, which will be held April 28 at Five Flags Speedway. High school competitors from across the state of Florida will race electric vehicles through an endurance course to determine how far they can travel on electric batteries.

The Worlds of Possibilities Career Expo will include the following world or industry sectors:

- World of Energy • World of Engineering & Architecture
- World of Health/Life Science • World of Transportation
- World of Education • World of Construction • World of Information Technology & Communications • World of Human Service • World of Hospitality & Tourism • World

of Public Service • World of Safety
 • World of Logistics & Distribution
 • World of Finance • World of
 Aviation & Defense • World of
 Aerospace • World of Manufacturing
 & Repair

"The Expo is an opportunity for our businesses to provide students a hands-on experience of career possibilities in their fields, ideally sparking academic curiosity that drives their educational pursuits," states Kelly Reeser, existing business and workforce manager at the Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

The four-day event, which is estimated to have a \$2.5 million economic impact on the local community, is a significant and impressive accomplishment achieved by the efforts of Pensacola's business representatives, including the PBACOC/Visit Pensacola, Gulf Power, Associated General Contractors, Southern Solutions Inc., Workforce Education, Escambia County Tourism Development Council and the Santa Rosa County and Escambia County School Districts.

Seventh and eighth graders from Escambia and Santa Rosa County school districts will be attending the World of Possibilities Career Expo on a field trip May 1-2. Students in other grades, students from private schools and the general public are also invited to attend the expo on May 1 between 2 and 3:30 pm.

"This event is critical to influencing the workforce of tomorrow, *today*, by educating students on the vast availability of careers in Florida," states Jennifer Ponson, event chair and director of student and program outreach at Pensacola State College.

The Greater Pensacola Chamber encourages all businesses and industries throughout Florida to participate by hosting a trade exhibition in the Worlds of Possibilities Career Expo, judging one of the SkillsUSA state competitions or by helping through funding or in-kind donations.

To learn more about the Expo, please visit www.worldsofpossibilities.com/ or www.facebook.com/worldsofpossibilities and follow on Twitter at @WOPossibilities. BC

Combined Insurance
 SERVICES, INC.



Todd O. Torgensen, csc
 President



Anna Barber Causey
 Vice President

**Benefit Specialists
 For
 Employer Groups
 & Individuals**

Insurance Policies for:

- Health
- Dental
- Disability
- Life

Let Our Experience Work For You!

A Contracted General Agency For



**BlueCross BlueShield
 of Florida**

An Independent Licensee of the
 Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

www.ciscompanies.com

CONTACT US
 NOW FOR AN
 EVALUATION OF
 YOUR PROGRAM!

850-433-9996

2704 N 12th Ave Pensacola, FL 32503

Policies have limitations and exclusions. Dental, Life and Disability are offered by Florida Combined Life Insurance Company, Inc. (FCL), an affiliate of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida (BCBSF). FCL and BCBSF are Independent Licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. For costs and complete details of coverage, contact your insurance agent.

61610-00278

Discover Pensacola State College

On-site registration | advising | financial aid

Saturday, April 14

Cordova Mall • 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

discover.pensacolastate.edu



An EAEO Institution

Get help with FAFSA forms and more!

Sunday, April 22 • 2–5 p.m.

Pensacola State College, Building 21

(850) 484-1095 | getinfo@pensacolastate.edu
pensacolastate.edu