



NEWS RELEASE

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For more information:
Thomas Goodley, Principal DAAS
313-923-0281
tgoodley@daask12.com

Tom Holdsworth, Executive Director SkillsUSA
703-737-0607
tholdsworth@skillsusa.org

Detroit Academy of Arts & Sciences
Wins Grant to Develop Champions at Work
SkillsUSA awards Champions for Change grant to local school

DETROIT, MI – Detroit Academy of Arts & Sciences (DAAS) is addressing the skilled worker shortage with the implementation of a two-year grant that will help students develop their abilities and connect with employers. DAAS is one of six sites nationwide and the only site in Michigan chosen by Champions for Change, a SkillsUSA initiative supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

“Our students face more and more challenges in finding work they enjoy, and this grant gives students the opportunity to explore their passions and improve skills,” said Rev. Jim Holley PhD, Detroit Academy of Arts & Sciences Founder. “Since launching the Career Pathways program, students have been more excited about careers and better prepared for the work they enjoy. This grant will enable us to expand the reach of our mission, and the greater Detroit area will benefit from a talent pool of individuals more prepared and passionate for their jobs.”

DAAS will use the grant to build upon their Career Pathways program with leadership development that is characteristic of SkillsUSA chapters. The smaller setting enables the pilot site to offer personalized attention to students and strong coaching as they deepen work force skills. The grant enables all students enrolled at DAAS to benefit from leadership and competitive skill opportunities in SkillsUSA.

“SkillsUSA provides students unparalleled opportunities because of our industry partnerships, both locally and nationwide,” said Tim Lawrence, Executive Director of SkillsUSA. “We are excited to see the success of the Detroit Academy of Arts & Sciences and the communities it reaches.”

In addition to technical skill training and internship opportunities, the grant will enable students to document their proficiency through Skill Connect Assessments. For more information, visit www.workforcereadysystem.org.

Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences (<http://www.daask12.com/>) was founded 11 years ago by Reverend Jim Holley, Ph.D., pastor of The Historic Little Rock Baptist Church in the lower auditorium of his church. The school began with grades K-5, and now educates over 2,300 students in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade at the Jefferson and Medbury Campuses.

Champions for Change (www.championsforchange.org) is a SkillsUSA initiative, supported by a W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant. The engagement will focus on workforce development in communities nationwide, validating entry-level workplace competency in

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trade, technical and skilled service professions. The SkillsUSA program model and a new system of portable credentials will help the W.K. Kellogg Foundation fulfill its mission of providing resources to individuals in vulnerable communities.

SkillsUSA (www.skillsusa.org) is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. SkillsUSA serves more than 285,000 students and instructors annually and has served more than nine million members since its founding in 1965. The organization has 15,000 member classrooms in 54 states and territorial associations. More than 14,500 instructors and administrators are professional members of SkillsUSA.

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