



NEWS RELEASE

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**Miami Job Corps Center Wins  
Grant to Develop Champions at Work**  
*SkillsUSA awards Champions for Change grant to local program*

MIAMI, FL - The Miami Job Corps Center 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. The Miami Job Corps Center is one of six sites nationwide 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 Willie Brown, Miami Job Corps Center Director. "Miami Job Corps students will have more opportunities to serve their communities, and the greater Miami area will benefit from a talent pool of individuals better prepared for their careers."

The Miami Job Corps Center will use the grant to implement technical skill training and 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. They plan to develop Project Based Learning Teams, which could allow Computer Repair Technician students to job shadow local technicians and Culinary Arts students to run a catering business for students and staff.

"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 Miami Job Corps students 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](http://www.workforcereadysystem.org).

Champions for Change ([www.championsforchange.org](http://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 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](http://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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