SkillsUSA Program and Student Competition Update

Overview

Downey Unified School District highlighted its continued participation in SkillsUSA, a national career and technical student organization that supports middle school, high school, and postsecondary students preparing for careers in trade, technical, and skilled service occupations. Downey Unified has participated in SkillsUSA since 2010.

SkillsUSA Framework

SkillsUSA focuses on developing students across three areas:

- Personal Skills
- Workplace Skills
- Technical Skills Grounded in Academics

Through this framework, students develop technical knowledge alongside leadership, workplace readiness, and professional skills.

Growing Student Participation

Participation in SkillsUSA continues to grow across Downey Unified. During the 2025–26 school year, the District had 1,899 members, including 232 competitors. For 2026–27, participation increased to 2,275 members and 276 competitors.

Levels of Competition

Students have opportunities to advance through three levels of SkillsUSA competition:

- **Regional:** Students compete in skill and leadership events, with top performers advancing to the state level.
- **State:** Students compete at the California Leadership & Skills Conference, where winners can earn the opportunity to represent California nationally.
- **National:** State winners from across the country compete in more than 100 events at the SkillsUSA Championships.

District competitors earned 42 medals at the regional level, including 16 gold, 12 silver, and 14 bronze medals. At the state level, students earned 14 medals, including five gold, five silver, and four bronze medals. Students also earned two bronze medals at the national level.

2027 Competitors

The presentation also recognized students from Downey High School and Warren High School who will compete in 2027. Six students from Downey High School and five students from Warren High School were highlighted as competitors representing the District.

Program Impact

Through SkillsUSA, Downey Unified students have opportunities to apply Career Technical Education skills in competitive settings while building leadership, workplace readiness, and technical expertise. Growing membership and continued success at regional, state, and national competitions reflect expanding student participation in career-focused learning opportunities across the District.