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**Lowe's Provides Grant to SkillsUSA Maine Association
*Supports Workforce Development at State Leadership and Skills Conference***

Leesburg, Va. — SkillsUSA, a partner in the Generation T national movement launched by Lowe's Home Improvement to address the widening skills gap, has received a \$1.2 million grant for support of SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conferences. The Lowe's state grants are tiered based on the state's total SkillsUSA membership for the 2018-19 school year.

"We are thrilled to receive this \$7,500 grant from Lowe's," said Hal Casey. "It will help defray the enormous costs of the 2020 Maine conference and will enhance the student experience across our contests. We plan to use the funds to help with material and other contest costs."

The SkillsUSA Maine State Leadership and Skills Conference will be held March in Bangor, Maine. More than 1,000 students and teachers will attend the conference. Students will participate as competitors or as voting delegates. Competitors are focused on one technical skill, while delegates represent their state and conduct the business of their organization. Admission is free and open to the public.

SkillsUSA joined more than 60 Generation T organizations across the nation who are facilitating the education and training needed to populate the skilled trades industry, close the job skills gap and shape a new perception of the skilled trades. Together, Gen T seeks to drive enrollment in skilled trade training and build a pipeline of skilled trade workers to offset the anticipated gap of 3 million jobs by 2028.

"It is thrilling to see our state associations receive these grants," said SkillsUSA executive director Chelle Travis. "Our SkillsUSA state associations directors are the lifeblood of our organization and these state associations work directly with teachers and students

nationwide to deliver our programs and manage exceptional competitions. These grants will improve the quality of our state conferences.”

About SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is a nonprofit partnership of education and industry to strengthen our nation’s skilled workforce. Driven by employer demand, SkillsUSA helps students develop necessary personal and workplace skills along with technical skills grounded in academics. This SkillsUSA Framework empowers every student to succeed at work and in life, while helping to close the “skills gap” in which millions of positions go unfilled. Through SkillsUSA’s championships program and curricula, employers have long ensured schools are teaching relevant technical skills, and with SkillsUSA’s new credentialing process, they can now assess how ready potential employees are for the job. SkillsUSA has more than 365,000 annual members nationwide in high schools, colleges and middle schools, covering over 130 trade, technical and skilled service occupations, and is recognized by the U.S. departments of Education and Labor as integral to career and technical education. For more information: www.skillsusa.org

About Generation T

Generation T is a movement of organizations, launched by [Lowe’s](#), committed to rebuilding and changing public perceptions of the skilled trades in America. Generation T seeks to drive enrollment in skilled trades education and build a pipeline of skilled trade workers to offset the anticipated gap of 3 million jobs by 2028 through a first-of-its-kind national marketplace for connecting people to prospective apprentices and jobs. For more information about Generation T, visit WeAreGenerationT.com or follow the conversation on social with #GenerationT.

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