



February 14, 2018

Hello!

We are half way through February and looking forward to spring and the 2018 SKILLS USA Cabinetmaking Competition, which will be held on Tuesday, April 24th & Wednesday the 25th at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI. Planning and preparations for the competition have begun for what has become one of the most popular competitions. Many are already familiar with SKILLS USA – the national competition that brings students, teachers, and industry professionals together to help ensure a skilled workforce for our future. The skills gap is being discussed across nearly every industry and as woodworkers, we all know the challenges we face in finding skilled labor. AWI Wisconsin recognizes these challenges and continues to proudly support young woodworkers by overseeing the Cabinetmaking Competition.

This year we are introducing a new project, a Three-Drawer Storage Chest. Our goal of simulating a real-world production environment remains, and this new project introduces some unique challenges that focus on material planning, precise layout, solid wood machining & assembly. As always, the contestants get to take their projects with them at the close of competition as a proud reminder.

Having a tremendous team of volunteers and support from industry is what has made this competition so successful. We continue to make progress towards our goal of having safe, modern equipment, which reflect our industry's best practices. All the planning and preparation means very little without the talented young men and women that compete each year. It is a great joy to see the talent Wisconsin has to offer and we invite you to attend and/or volunteer at the competition. Being present is a fantastic opportunity to network with AWI WI members, as well as high school & post-secondary students and instructors.

Whether or not you are able to attend or volunteer, continued financial support is needed to allow for modernizing equipment, purchasing contest materials, and of course rewarding contestants for their exceptional work and demonstrated skill. We have three official sponsorship levels: Platinum - \$1,000 | Gold - \$500 | Silver - \$250. We very much appreciate and encourage any amount that makes sense for you or your organization. Your donation can be made online via the AWI website <http://www.awiwi.org/events> or by check payable to: AWI WI / SKILLS USA.

To recognize your support, SKILLS USA will display your company information in this year's advertising and in the Wisconsin Conference Book. This will show that your company supports future woodworkers that will someday be part of our skilled workforce.

If you have any questions, I encourage you to call 608-445-3041 or email me at joshbartlett@franklininternational.com. For more information about SKILLS USA, please check out the website: www.skillsusa.org

All the best,

Joshua A. Bartlett
Technical Chair – Cabinetmaking Competition



STATE COMPETITION – APRIL 24TH – ALLIANT ENERGY CENTER – MADISON, WI



JOIN AWI WI FOR THIS YEAR'S SKILLS USA COMPETITION!

SKILLS USA is a national organization that brings students, teachers, and industry working professionals together to ensure that America has a skilled workforce in many different fields. **AWI WI has a long history with this event and is proud to continue to support the young woodworkers competing in the Cabinetmaking Competition.**

Seeing the talent that Wisconsin has to offer is truly rewarding and we encourage those that can to make the trip to Madison to experience this event, network with AWI WI, as well as High School & Post-Secondary Instructors, and contestants.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PLATINUM
\$1000

GOLD
\$500

SILVER
\$250

If you are not able to participate at any one of these levels, we appreciate any donation that makes sense for you or your organization. As a token of appreciation for your support, SKILLS USA will display your company information on this year's advertising and in the Wisconsin Conference Book for contributions received by April 16th.

VISIT AWIWI.ORG/EVENTS TO MAKE A DONATION!

For more information on AWI Wisconsin or Skills USA, please visit the links below.

AWI WI: www.awiwi.org SKILLS USA: www.skillsusa.org