



Greetings,

I hope that 2019 is off to a great start for you and your company. We are getting preparations for the SkillsUSA-Wisconsin Cabinetmaking Competition underway a bit earlier this year as we have some exciting news and a new project this year. The competition will be held at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI on Tuesday, April 30th – Wednesday, May 1st. Over the past five years, we have focused a lot of energy on creating more awareness of SkillsUSA, the national organization and competition that brings students, teachers, and industry professionals together to help ensure a skilled workforce for our future. Lately we have seen more coverage in the media and through related trade organizations addressing this challenge. You need not look further than the cabinetmaking competition to see the next generation of skilled woodworkers.

To uphold the level of demonstrated skill, each year we look to add new challenges that keep with a simulated production environment. For this year's project, we are focusing on solid wood machining with a small side-table. To make the table even more unique we have a new partner – Wisconsin Urban Wood (WUW). We all know what is happening to Ash trees throughout Wisconsin. Rather than see the wood go to waste, WUW has created a supply chain and network of craftspeople's that seek the highest and best use for every removed urban and community tree. This will no doubt be a proud reminder of the competition.

We are fortunate to have an excellent team of volunteers and support from industry – this team makes the competition a success every year. We have made great progress with our goal of modernizing equipment to ensure safety and remain relevant to today's practices. All the planning and preparation is for the contestants – they are the best in our state and we encourage all that can to attend the competition. Being there is the best way to network with AWI-WI members, as well as high school & post-secondary students and instructors.

Whether or not you are able to attend, please consider making a donation which will go towards project specific equipment, purchasing contest materials, and of course rewarding contestants for their exceptional work. 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 tax-deductible donation can be made online via the AWI website <http://www.awiwi.org/events> or by check payable to: AWI-WI / SkillsUSA.

To recognize your support, SkillsUSA 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 SkillsUSA, please check out the website: www.skillsusa.org.

All the best,

Joshua A. Bartlett
Technical Chair – Cabinetmaking Competition



STATE COMPETITION – APRIL 30TH – 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