Technology Student Association Celebrates 40th Anniversary at 2018 National TSA Conference

Atlanta, GA—Approximately 8,000 middle and high school student members from across the country attended the 2018 National Technology Student Association Conference June 22–26 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta—where TSA held its first national conference in 1978.

In “A Celebration of Success,” TSA marked 40 years of enhancing personal development, leadership, and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through intracurricular activities, competitions, and other programs. More than 250,000 TSA student members are “learning to lead in a technical world.”

Winners were announced in:

- **TSA STEM competitions** for middle school and high school students, with categories ranging from Biotechnology Design to Coding; Dragster to Flight; Forensic Technology to Webmaster; and much more.
- **Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics, and Science (TEAMS)**, for middle school and high school students, featured the theme “Engineering in a Greener World” based on concepts from the National Academy of Engineering’s Grand Challenges.
- **Junior Solar Sprint (JSS)** for middle school students to design, build, and race solar-powered vehicles in the competition funded by the Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP).
- **TSA VEX Robotics Competition and the TSA VEX IQ Challenge** national championships for middle school and high school teams.
- **American Cancer Society (ACS) awards**, recognizing TSA chapters at schools with Silver, Gold and Purple status for raising funds—and Spirit of Service winners in categories such as Highest Fundraising Chapter and State with Highest Collective Fundraising Total. In the 2017–2018 school year, 42 TSA chapters reported raising more than $75,000, and since 2008, TSA chapters have raised almost $851,000 for ACS research, education, advocacy, and patient services.
- **LEAP Legacy Chapter** competition, in which TSA chapters demonstrated involvement in activities related to “The Student Leadership Challenge-Five Practices for Becoming an Exemplary Leader (SLC-Five Practices).” Professional leadership training sessions also were provided at the conference through LEAP (Leadership. Education. Achievement. Personal Growth.).

The **2018–2019 national TSA officers** are:

- President Alexander King, G.W. Carver High School, Columbus, GA
- Vice President Isabella Eleogo, Brewbaker Technology Magnet High School, Montgomery, AL
- Secretary Audrey Garoutte, Carl Junction High School, Carl Junction, MO
- Treasurer Emma Hopson, Arapahoe High School, Littleton, CO
- Reporter Ben Abt, Harriton High School, Rosemont, PA
- Sergeant-at-Arms Ashley Stokes, Carl Junction High School, Carl Junction, MO

The **keynote address** featured Todd Thibodeaux, president and CEO of CompTIA, the leading non-profit trade association for the global technology industry. In “Innovation Waves: Past, Present, Future,” he announced new efforts by CompTIA to help increase the presence of TSA in schools across the country. TSA has partnered with CompTIA’s NextUp initiative, managed by Creating IT Futures, to interest teens in information technology (IT) careers.

**Leadership speaker James Coleman, Jr.**, is a Harvard University alumnus, but he told conference attendees that it was as a TSA member that he received his most valuable education. Coleman shared his experiences—from teaching to launching startups—and encouraged student members to utilize their TSA skills to achieve their dreams.

**Leadership speaker Shannon Huffman Polson**—formerly of Guidant and Microsoft; author; and one of the first women to fly Apache combat helicopters in the U.S. Armed Forces—spoke on “Attaining Your Goals.” "Drill down to your core," Polson declared. "The only good use of increased power is the increased responsibility to take care of your people."

The **2019 National TSA Conference**, “Model the Way,” will be held June 28–July 2 at Gaylord National Resort at National Harbor near Washington, D.C. For more information, contact Communications Manager Sudha Kamath at SKamath@tsaweb.org.