Students from Across the Country Model the Way at the 2019 National TSA Conference

National Harbor, MD—More than 8,500 middle school and high school Technology Student Association (TSA) members from across the country gathered at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center June 28–July 2, 2019 near Washington, D.C. for the National TSA Conference.

“Model the Way” marked TSA’s 41 years of enhancing personal development, leadership, and education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through intracurricular activities, competitions, and other programs.

The conference culminated with the announcement of finalists in:

- **TSA Competitions**—Middle and high school students competed in 70+ STEM events, including two new ones: Cybersecurity and CompTIA ITF+ Certification.
- **TEAMS**—Middle and high school students were challenged by Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics, and Science, featuring the theme “The Engineering Brain” with concepts based on the National Academy of Engineering’s Grand Challenges.
- **Junior Solar Sprint (JSS)**—Fifth through eighth grade students designed, built, and raced solar-powered vehicles in the JSS finals, administered by TSA and funded by the Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP).
- **TSA VEX**—The TSA VEX Robotics Competition (VRC) and the TSA VEX IQ Challenge (VIQC) national championships drew middle and high school competitors from around the nation.
- **Spirit of Service**—Top TSA chapters and state delegations that raised money for the American Cancer Society were recognized. The TSA chapter that raised the most funds was Boyertown Senior High, Montgomery, PA. The TSA state delegation that raised the most funds per capita was South Carolina TSA.
- **Super Star Awards**—National recognitions were announced.
- **National TSA Officers**—The 2019–2020 school year national TSA officer team was installed: President Audrey Garoutte, Vice President Apu Mutyala, Secretary Alexis Miniat, Treasurer Ashley Stokes, Reporter Angel Koshy, Sergeant-at-Arms Tate Green.
- **Keynote**—TSA alumnus Guy Cecil, chair of Priorities USA, spoke on “Failing and Serving our Way to the Top.” The former national TSA president declared, “In order to succeed, you have to fail…. To be successful, you must think of how you can be of service to others…. The things that make you different are the things that make you special.”
- **LEAP**—Mr. Gary Morgan led training sessions based on TSA’s leadership program. In addition, 2018–2019 LEAP Legacy Chapter winners were announced.
- **Special Interest Sessions**—Experts covered humanoid robotics, drones, artificial intelligence (AI), autonomous vehicles, 3D design, military technology, and more. Speakers represented AEOP; Appalachian State University; Chief Architect Software; CompTIA; Computer Science Teachers Association; FemaleFounders.Network; International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA); JSS; Leidos; Liberty University; Stokes Educational Services; National Academies of Science; Sundance Media Group; TechGirlz; U.S. Naval Academy; and Technology and Engineering Educators Collegiate Association.
- **TSA Meet and Greet, and TSA Partner Hub**—Conference attendees networked with representatives from companies, universities, and non-profits that support STEM and IT education and careers.
- **Town Hall**—Creating IT Futures CEO Charles Eaton chaired the “Preparing Students for Careers in Technology” panel that included Alicia Park, TechGirlz; Franklin Reed, TEKsystems; and Roopa Vasan, Leidos. Also at the conference, Eaton awarded the first CompTIA Scholarships for Future Technologists to ten TSA members from the Class of 2019.
- **Senior Night Celebration**—A CompTIA Pro party for recent graduates and other alumni featured games and tech prizes.

The 2020 National TSA Conference, “Inspire a Shared Vision,” will be held June 27–July 1 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, TN. Follow @nationalTSA on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter and bookmark TSAweb.org for more information. More than 250,000 TSA members across the United States are “learning to lead in a technical world.” All TSA activities are correlated to the Standards for Technological Literacy as set forth by the ITEEA.