



2026

Marsha Daves Lifetime Achievement Award

(Honoring a Lifetime of Legacy of Dedication and Impact)

The Marsha Daves Lifetime Achievement Award was established to honor individuals who have devoted their lives to SkillsUSA Oklahoma. Those who exemplify the same passion, commitment, and unwavering service that defined Marsha Daves' remarkable career. Her legacy is rooted in mentorship, servant leadership, and an unshakable belief in the power of career and technical education to transform lives and communities.

This prestigious award recognizes individuals who, like Marsha, have made a profound and lasting impact on SkillsUSA at the local, state, and national levels. Recipients demonstrate an extraordinary dedication to empowering students, cultivating leadership, and advancing SkillsUSA's mission to ensure America has a skilled workforce. Through their lifelong service, they carry forward the spirit, vision, and enduring influence that Marsha so powerfully modeled.

About Marsha Daves

Marsha Daves was a beloved leader, mentor, and advocate within SkillsUSA, dedicating her life to empowering students, advisors, and industry partners. Her impact on the organization was profound, shaping the future of SkillsUSA and leaving an enduring legacy of service, leadership, and passion for career and technical education (CTE).

Key Contributions and Impact:

Lifelong Commitment to SkillsUSA

Marsha’s journey with SkillsUSA spanned decades, during which she played a pivotal role in strengthening the organization at all levels—local, state, and national. She was deeply committed to the mission of ensuring America had a skilled workforce and worked tirelessly to support students in developing the leadership and technical skills needed for success.

Leadership and Vision

As the State Director for SkillsUSA Oklahoma and later the Director of Education at SkillsUSA’s national office, Marsha oversaw crucial programs, including advisor training, leadership development, and student engagement initiatives. She was instrumental in designing and implementing programs that enhanced the experience of students and educators, fostering a culture of excellence and continuous improvement.

Passionate Mentor and Advocate

Marsha’s influence extended far beyond her official roles—she was a mentor, guide, and friend to thousands of students, teachers, and SkillsUSA partners. Her warm and compassionate nature made her an approachable and respected leader, and her dedication to developing young leaders ensured that SkillsUSA remained a transformative force in education.

A Legacy of Service and Inspiration

Even after her passing, Marsha’s influence continues to resonate within SkillsUSA. The lives she touched—whether through mentorship, leadership development, or simply her kindness—carry forward her spirit of service. Her legacy serves as a guiding light for future generations of SkillsUSA members, reminding them of the power of dedication, integrity, and unwavering belief in others.

Honoring Her Legacy

The establishment of the **Marsha Daves Lifetime Achievement Award** ensures that her contributions are forever recognized and celebrated. This award honors individuals who, like Marsha, have committed their lives to making a difference in SkillsUSA and in the lives of thousands of students and educators.

Marsha Daves’ impact on SkillsUSA is immeasurable, and her legacy will continue to inspire those who follow in her footsteps—building a stronger, more skilled future for all.

Award Criteria:

Recipients of the Marsha Daves Lifetime Achievement Award must exemplify:

- A proven and continued dedication to SkillsUSA and its mission.
- A record of mentorship and guidance that has positively influenced students, advisors, and stakeholders.
- A commitment to servant leadership and excellence in career and technical education.
- An enduring impact that has shaped the future of SkillsUSA and inspired generations.

Nomination Process:

Nominations for the award may be submitted by SkillsUSA members, advisors, alumni, or industry partners. Each nomination should include:

- A detailed biography of the nominee's contributions to SkillsUSA.
- Specific examples of the nominee's dedication and long-term service to SkillsUSA.

Presentation of the Award:

The Marsha Daves Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented annually at the SkillsUSA State Leadership & Skills Conference, held at Tulsa's Cox Business and Convention Center. The recipient will be honored on stage for their remarkable contributions to the organization and the lives they have touched.

This award stands as a tribute to Marsha Daves and her unwavering belief in the power of SkillsUSA to change lives. It ensures that her legacy lives on through those who continue to make a difference in the lives of students, educators, and industry leaders.

How to Submit a Nomination

1. Read the application carefully.
2. Complete all four sections of the form.
3. Submit the completed nomination by Friday, March 13, 2026, to:

Lauren Holmes
SkillsUSA Oklahoma State Advisor 1500
West 7th Ave.
Stillwater, OK 74074
Email: lauren.holmes@careertech.ok.gov

2026

**Marsha Daves Lifetime Achievement Award
Nomination Form**

Section 1 – Nominee Information

- Full Name of Nominee: _____
- School Name or Organization: _____
- Nominee Email Address (if Applicable): _____
- Nominee Phone Number: _____

Section 2 – Nominator Information

- Full Name of Nominator: _____
- Nominator Telephone Number: _____
- Nominator Email Address: _____

Section 3 – Leadership Positions Held in SkillsUSA. Example: State Officer, SkillsUSA Chapter Advisor, SkillsUSA State Staff, Business and Industry Partner, etc.

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Section – 4 Nomination Narrative

In 500 words or less, explain why you are nominating this individual, including examples of their service, leadership, and dedication to SkillsUSA.

(Click here to begin typing)

In 500 words or less, describe specific activities or projects where the nominee has made a significant impact to SkillsUSA.

(Click here to begin typing)

Thank you for your nomination and helping us honor the Marsha Daves Lifetime Achievement Award by recognizing exceptional SkillsUSA leaders and Alumni!