



For Immediate Release

SkillsUSA National Signing Day Sponsored by Klein Tools® Will Celebrate Thousands of High School Seniors Nationwide May 8

National Signing Day to acknowledge, honor and encourage high school seniors who have chosen to pursue a career as a professional in the skilled trades

March 13, 2019 (Lincolnshire, Ill.) – [SkillsUSA](#) and [Klein Tools](#) are excited to announce [National Signing Day 2019](#), celebrating thousands of high school seniors dedicated to pursuing a career in the skilled trades. Taking place May 8, 2019, this inaugural nationwide program will recognize students at hundreds of SkillsUSA chapter high schools across the country for their dedication to pursue a career in residential wiring, building trades and renovations, HVAC or plumbing.

On National Signing Day, high school seniors will be recognized by their school administrators, teachers, elected officials, SkillsUSA advisors, family and friends for making the decision to pursue a career in the skilled trades, a sector in high demand that continues to face an immense labor shortage. In a style similar to “National Signing Day” events for high school student athletes, seniors will be applauded as they announce their career plans, and will sign “letters of intent” for a job offer, apprenticeship or advanced technical training. Tradespeople and others across the nation can participate in this special day and share their thoughts of encouragement as Klein Tools will host live look-ins on the company’s [Facebook page](#) from schools across the country throughout the day.

Klein Tools, title sponsor of National Signing Day 2019, is an over 160-year-old American manufacturer who designs, develops and manufactures premium-quality, professional-grade hand tools used in the construction, electrical, utility and mining industries. Klein Tools’ commitment to American manufacturing runs deep – with nine facilities in seven states, including its corporate office and world-class forging facility in suburban Chicago, and its state-of-the-art manufacturing headquarters in Mansfield, Texas.

“We are thrilled to partner with SkillsUSA on this first-ever national program saluting high school seniors excited to start their career in the skilled trades. SkillsUSA predicts that by 2025 there will be 3.4 million new manufacturing jobs available. Right now, six out of 10 open skilled production positions are unfilled due to the shortage of workers,” says Klein Tools Co-President Mark Klein. “Klein Tools is committed to strengthening the skilled workforce. By empowering the next generation of workers to enter the trades, we can help close the skills gap, while presenting robust career opportunities for young workers who enjoy challenging work that offers stability and long-term benefits.”

“We want to thank Klein Tools for sponsoring our first SkillsUSA National Signing Day in May,” says SkillsUSA’s Executive Director Tim Lawrence. “This program celebrates high school students nationwide and acknowledges their commitment to a fulfilling and rewarding career in the skilled trades. Because of Klein Tool’s support, National Signing Day will help generate more awareness among students considering the skilled workforce as a career option.”



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During National Signing Day, participating students will receive a Klein Tools signing kit, which includes a hat, t-shirt, and a pair of Klein Tools pliers. Additionally, students will also have the opportunity to purchase a full Klein Tools starter set at a discounted price, thanks to The Home Depot. “This generosity reinforces The Home Depot’s commitment to outfitting and training 20,000 new tradespeople by 2028 to help fill the U.S. labor and skills gap,” added Klein.

More information on National Signing Day events and participating schools can be found at:
www.kleintools.com/nsd.

About Klein Tools

Since 1857 Klein Tools, a family-owned and operated company, has been designing, developing and manufacturing premium-quality, professional-grade hand tools. The majority of Klein tools are manufactured in plants throughout the United States and are the No. 1 choice among professional electricians and other tradespeople. Klein is a registered trademark of Klein Tools, Inc. For more information, visit www.kleintools.com.

About SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is a vital solution to the growing U.S. skills gap. SkillsUSA empowers its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens as it improves the quality of our nation’s future skilled workforce. The nonprofit partnership of students, instructors and industry ensures America has the skilled workforce it needs to stay competitive. SkillsUSA helps every student excel through the development of SkillsUSA Framework skills that include personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics. The association serves more than 360,000-member students and instructors per year in middle schools, high schools and colleges. This diverse talent pipeline covers 130 trade, technical and skilled service occupations, the majority STEM-related. More than 600 corporations, trade associations, businesses and labor unions actively support SkillsUSA at the national level. Local, state and national championships are designed and judged by industry to set relevant standards for career and technical education and provide recognition opportunities for students. SkillsUSA programs also help to establish industry standards for job skill training in the lab and classroom and promote community service. SkillsUSA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and is cited as a “successful model of employer-driven youth development training program” by the U.S. Department of Labor. SkillsUSA offers technical skill assessments and workplace credentials through the *SkillsUSA Career Essentials* program, a cutting-edge solution that defines, implements and measures career readiness skills for students. For more information: www.skillsusa.org

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