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## **NBHS Launches Skills USA Chapter**

*Emerging group garners early successes in competitions*

New Bedford High School has launched a Skills USA chapter as part of its Career Vocational Technical Education (CVTE) Program, officials announced recently. The emerging group has yielded several medals and recognitions in competitions over the last several months. Skills USA is a national organization that focuses on workforce skill training through facilitating learning opportunities and career technical skill competitions across multiple career pathway areas. The organization has over 350,000 student members representing 4,568 schools across the country.

“We are excited to offer a Skills USA chapter, as it provides our CVTE students with an additional opportunity to showcase their career skills” said Bernadette Coelho, Principal of New Bedford High School. “Extra-curricular activities are thriving across all areas, and adding Skills USA is a significant value-add to our wide-ranging club offerings. We are extremely proud of our students’ recent successes,” she added.

The new Skills USA chapter marks another milestone for New Bedford High School CVTE, a rapidly growing career and technical education program, which has resulted in the state’s approval of a new Chapter 74 program in Business Technology. Recent CVTE additions include approval of the National Academy Foundation Academy of Hospitality and capital construction of state-of-the-art career laboratories funded with over \$1,000,000 in competitive grant awards since 2019.

In its inaugural year, the NBHS chapter participated in the Skills USA Fall State Leadership Conference and engaged in competition events covering essential career tech skills including community engagement, workplace skills and personal skills. Four students finished in first place in their respective competitions, yielding a total of six medals for the chapter. NBHS sent 10 students to participate in the leadership conference.

“The early successes at the state leadership conference demonstrate our students’ mastery of significant practices as it relates to employability skill development,” said Christopher Cummings, Manager of CVTE. “The 10-member delegation bringing back 6 First Place

medals was a significant accomplishment and is fostering excitement as we continue to grow the chapter.”

Student award winners included:

- Isiah Williams (2025): Community Engagement Video, 1st place.
- Giovane Tavares (2025): Community Engagement Video, 1st place.
- Jack Titla-Mora (2025): Personal Skills – Content, 1st place; Personal Skills – Best Design, 1st place.
- Rachelle DaPina (2023): Workplace Skills – Content, 1st place; Workplace Skills – Best design – 1st place.

The Skills team recently competed in a regional competition and is planning to participate in a statewide competition in April.

New Bedford High School’s Skills USA program is part of the school’s offerings of Career Vocational Technical Education programming. For more information about Career and Technical Education at New Bedford High School, please contact Christopher Cummings, Manager of CVTE at 508 997 4511, ext. 20799

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Photo:

SKILLFUL WHALERS – NBHS students participated in the Skills USA Fall State Leadership Conference, bringing home six medals for their chapter. Front row (L-R): Kimberly Tzoy-Morente, Rachelle DePina, Layla Torres, Claudia Dorvil, and Co-Advisor Amanda Leite Back row (L-R): Jonathan Vargas Martinez, Isiah Williams, D’Angelo Tejada, Giovane Tavares, Jack Titla-Mora, and Advisor Colleen Hall.