

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)



Washington State has eight recognized CTSOs that have a definite impact on student's overall college and career readiness. CTSOs provide relevant, engaging programs that improve student achievement, reduce dropout rates and help students discover the wide range of career options available. CTSOs engage the community and local businesses to help students understand global competition, develop 21st century skills focused on creativity, problem solving, teamwork, goal setting, and chart effective and efficient pathways through high school and postsecondary education for their personal success. Students who participate in CTSOs demonstrate higher levels of academic engagement and motivation, civic engagement, career self-efficacy and employability skills than other students.

Washington DECA



DECA was founded in 1943 and prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. Washington DECA is the fifth largest DECA association in the world, with over 12,000 members in 164 high schools and skill centers. DECA provides experiential, career connected learning opportunities. By creating partnerships between business and education, Washington DECA maximizes real-world experiences to develop students into leaders and entrepreneurs.

Contact: Lori Hairston, Executive Director | lori@wadeca.org | wadeca.org

Washington FFA Association



The official name of the organization is the National FFA Organization. The letters "FFA" stand for Future Farmers of America. National FFA was founded in 1928 and Washington FFA Chartered in 1930. FFA is an organization that changes lives and prepares members for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education through hands-on on experience that lead to real-world success.

Members are future chemists, veterinarians, government officials, entrepreneurs, bankers, international business leaders, teachers and premier professionals in many career fields. FFA is an intracurricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership. It is one of the three components of agricultural education.

Contact: Jason Bullock, Washington State FFA Executive Director | jason@washingtonffa.org | washingtonffa.org

Washington State Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)



FCCLA was founded in 1945 and involvement in FCCLA offers members the opportunity to expand their leadership potential and develop skills for life. FCCLA students are able to attend conferences and participate in competitive events at the state and national level. FCCLA students' career interests are in education, food, hospitality, interior decorating, and textiles (sewing, fashion).

FCCLA members focus on the roles of family member, wage earner and community leader. Members develop skills for life including character development, creative and critical thinking, and interpersonal communication.

Contact: Mike Oechsner, Executive Director | executivedirector@wa-fccla.org | wa-fccla.org



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Washington Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

FBLA inspires and prepares students to become community-minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences. FBLA was founded in 1940 and provides students with professional development, networking opportunities, real-world experiences, and valuable connections to business and industry partners. Students gain valuable leadership skills by planning and participating in community service, developing speaking and presentation skills, and attending conferences.

Contact: Mike Oechsner, Executive Director | mike@wafbla.org | wafbla.org



Washington HOSA Future Health Professionals

HOSA, founded in 1976, is a national organization for students exploring health care careers.

Students gain leadership and technical HOSA skill competencies through a program of motivation, awareness and recognition, which is an integral part of the Health Science Education instructional program. Students attend conferences and participate in competitive events and network with peers and health care industry partners.

Contact: Karen Hay, Executive Director | khay@wahosa.org | hosa.org



SkillsUSA Washington

SkillsUSA, founded in 1965, is a national organization for students exploring trade, industrial, technical health and service-related careers. Areas of competition include architectural drafting, construction, carpentry, computer programming, web design and nurse assisting.

This organization promotes superior work skills, life-long education, leadership, teamwork, citizenship and community service among its student members. It also strives to build and reinforce self-confidence, work ethic and communication skills.

Contact: Terri Lufkin, Executive Director | tlufkin@comcast.net | skillsusawashington.org



Washington Technology Student Association (TSA)

TSA is an international student organization, founded in 1978, devoted exclusively to the needs of students interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education. TSA students can explore careers in architecture, engineering, construction, manufacturing, film/video production, graphic arts or other technical areas.

TSA students gain leadership and technical skills competencies as they prepare and participate in competitions that are correlated with the national STEM standards.

Contact: Jennifer Smith, Executive Director | jsmith@washingtontsa.org | washingtontsa.org



Washington Career and Technical Sports Medicine Association (WCTSMA)

WCTSMA is a student organization founded in 1994, which is dedicated to ensuring high-quality athletic medicine and healthcare at middle and high schools, and to raising awareness about health quality among school administrators, coaches, athletes, students and the general public.

Students gain leadership and skills competencies when they participate in competitions and network with professionals. Students gain career and college readiness skills in sports medicine and related careers, and learn how to help others develop, grow and succeed, both on and off the field.

Contact: Larry Howe, Executive Director | executivedirector.wctsmabod@gmail.com | wctsmabod.com



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