

Snap-on CEO Nick Pinchuk Celebrated as SkillsUSA's Champion of the Year

Event Celebrates Technical Excellence of American Workforce

Leesburg, Va. ([PRWEB](#)) September 20, 2012 -- On the evening of September 18, Nicholas T. Pinchuk, chairman and CEO of Snap-on Incorporated, was honored as the SkillsUSA Champion of the Year before an audience of more than 300 corporate executives, national education leaders and career and technical education (CTE) students and teachers, during a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

“We hold with the dignity of work,” said Pinchuk in his acceptance remarks. “Society advances through the hands, minds and hearts of its workers. The success of America depends both on the brilliance of the few, and on the efforts of the many,” he said. “Despite the unemployment rate, thousands of good jobs go unfilled because of a shortage in technical capabilities. Through its training programs with secondary and post-secondary students, SkillsUSA helps fill that gap. We, as a nation, need to make skilled workforce training a national priority, and to make skilled careers, a national calling.” He concluded by recognizing the students in the audience saying, “Meet America’s future, the young men and women of SkillsUSA.”

“We in career and technical education, government and industry need to work together to build a highly enabled and motivated workforce,” said Tim Lawrence, executive director of SkillsUSA. “This organization works at the national level with 1,100 corporations, trade associations, businesses and unions. Since 1977, Snap-on has been a corporate partner that keeps students and their instructional programs up-to-date so they can meet and exceed employer expectations. There is no better partner,” he said.

Others honoring Pinchuk and his accomplishments were Bryan Albrecht, president, Gateway Technical College who said, “Nick is increasingly called upon to shape the agenda of American workforce development.” There were also letters of congratulations from Assistant Secretary of Education and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor Jane Oates, Senators Herb Kohl, Ron Johnson, Mike Enzi and Mark Warner and from five U.S. Representatives. Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker declared September 18 “Nick Pinchuk Day.” Also performing during the awards ceremony was the Tremper High School Golden Strings, a 40-member ensemble of strolling musicians from Snap-on’s hometown of Kenosha, Wisconsin.

The SkillsUSA Champion of the Year award is given annually to recognize the leadership of a corporate executive for exemplary work in supporting and influencing the growth of a highly skilled workforce throughout America. The award also recognizes executives and their corporations for involvement in promoting career and technical education and for support of SkillsUSA, a national nonprofit that strives to provide a quality workforce in trade, technical and skilled service occupations.

Pinchuk is a strong long-time advocate for career and technical education and has provided leadership in the development of new initiatives to link industry and education. In addition to his work with SkillsUSA, he serves on the advisory board for Skills for America’s Future, an industry-led initiative that promotes partnerships with community colleges to enhance workforce development strategies and to improve job placement.

In 2011, the Career and Technical Education Foundation named Pinchuk its National Business Leader of the Year, recognizing his role in the formation of the nation’s technical education agenda.

About SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA helps students discover and grow their career passions. As a nationwide partnership of students, instructors and industry working together, SkillsUSA works to ensure America has a skilled workforce. It helps every student excel. The nationwide career and technical education student organization annually serves more than 320,000 high school, college and postsecondary students—and their instructors—in technical, skilled, and service occupation instructional programs. Career and technical education is learning that works for America. SkillsUSA has the active support of more than 1,100 corporations, trade associations, business and labor unions at the national level. Over 10.5 million people have been annual members of SkillsUSA since its founding as the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America in 1965. SkillsUSA programs teach leadership, citizenship and character development to complement technical skill training. The organization emphasizes respect for the dignity of work, ethics, workmanship, scholarship and safety. For more information, go to www.skillsusa.org

About Snap-on Incorporated

Snap-on Incorporated is a leading global innovator, manufacturer and marketer of tools, equipment, diagnostics, repair information and systems solutions for professional users performing critical tasks. Products and services include premier quality hand and power tools, tool storage, diagnostics software, information and management systems, shop equipment and other solutions for vehicle dealerships and repair centers, as well as customers in other critical industries including aviation and aerospace, mining, natural resources and power generation. Products and services are sold through the company's franchisee, company-direct, distributor and Internet channels. Founded in 1920, Snap-on is a \$2.9 billion, S&P 500 company headquartered in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

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