

## 2009 TALKING POINTS

Thank you for your commitment to Oregon's Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) and your willingness to speak out for their continued funding. As you know, CTSOs are vital to the development and preparation of our students to meet the diploma requirements and prepare for the future, and we strive to ensure that the funding of these organizations continues.

Funding for Oregon's seven CTSOs (AOFC, DECA, FBLA, FFA, FCCLA, HOSA, and SkillsUSA) is administered through the Student Leadership Development Center (SLDC), a contracted program of the Oregon Department of Education through Willamette Education Service District. The Student Leadership Development Center is one of several Grant in Aid (GIA) programs of the Oregon Department of Education, funded by the Oregon State Legislature.

Given the current status of our national and state economy, it is important for us to take action to support continued funding of the SLDC. We have identified the following list of talking points to aid in your efforts to impact the legislative decision makers in Salem. This is not an exhaustive list, but it does provide key talking points for use in your conversations and written correspondence.

Please use these talking points to supplement your personal testimony and plea for funding to be maintained for the SLDC. By far the most persuasive information you can provide is your own personal testimony of the value of CTSOs in helping students learn and meet the requirements for high school graduation and prepare for post high school success. The funding of the SLDC helps provide these learning opportunities. As you make your case for continued funding of CTSOs in Oregon, **don't forget to mention that it is the SLDC that receives the funds** and houses each organization, thus the SLDC must be funded.

Please get involved today by writing to your state legislator, emailing them, calling their office, setting up an appointment to visit with them, and by spreading the word to your members and supporters so that they can do the same. Together we can make a difference and ensure the continued funding of the SLDC.

### **Talking Points:**

- The activities and programs of Oregon CTSOs help students attain Oregon Diploma Requirements, as these organizations directly align with the Oregon Diploma Essential Skills (all the career-related knowledge and skills are included in the Essential Skills), adopted in 2007 and Career Related Learning Experiences, and Extended Application requirements adopted in 2001-2002.
- Extended Applications require students to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it to the real world. CTSOs provide avenues for students to meet the criteria for Extended Applications.

- As a part of the Oregon Diploma requirements, students must demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills; CTSOs help students demonstrate proficiency.
- CTSOs provide a means for students to develop career skills and competence, build self-esteem, experience leadership, and practice community service.
- CTSOs are co-curricular and provide vital opportunities for students to apply what they are learning in the classroom, thus allowing the classroom education to truly take life in actual career situations.
- CTSOs provide opportunities for students interested in pursuing careers in a broad cross section of industries. Through Oregon's seven CTSOs there truly is something for everyone.
- CTSOs provide an avenue for students to participate in service learning as an integral component of their curriculum.
- CTSOs are integrally involved in every community where they exist through community service, outreach, and participation.
- CTSOs not only prepare students for future careers by teaching them the knowledge and skills specific to the industries they represent, but they all include a vital leadership component that prepares students to take the lead wherever they get involved.
- The leadership skills gained through CTSOs are transferable to a wide range of experiences that students will face in the normal course of education and career involvement.