

ENGINEERING ALLIANCE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The TSA, Inc. Board of Directors announces a partnership formed among Project Lead The Way (PLTW), TSA and SkillsUSA. The purpose of this partnership is to deliver a program of competitions and leadership skills activities to students enrolled in PLTW courses. The program, ***Engineering Alliance***, draws on the expertise and experience of TSA and SkillsUSA.

Some Things to Know

1) When was the partnership formed among PLTW, TSA and SkillsUSA?

During the past year, TSA discussed the possibility of a collaborative effort with PLTW. In November 2008 at the invitation of PLTW, national TSA submitted a proposal. To best serve PLTW's population, it was then decided that TSA and SkillsUSA should work on this effort jointly. The official partnership was formed late this spring.

2) Why was *Engineering Alliance* developed?

Engineering Alliance was developed in response to requests from chapter advisors, as well as state career and technical education leaders, who saw the need for a program such as *Engineering Alliance* in conjunction with PLTW.

3) What is the *Engineering Alliance* program?

Engineering Alliance consists of a limited number of competitions and leadership activities that align with the PLTW curriculum. The program will be provided from the national level of TSA and SkillsUSA. *Engineering Alliance* will not have a state-based component at this time.

4) When will *Engineering Alliance* be launched?

Fall 2009.

5) How will *Engineering Alliance* be delivered?

It will be accessible through a web-based format.

6) Will *Engineering Alliance* be mandatory for PLTW programs?

No. However, PLTW will highly recommend that its network of schools participate in the *Engineering Alliance* program.

7) Are TSA and SkillsUSA merging?

No. TSA and SkillsUSA are simply partnering to provide *Engineering Alliance* for the PLTW network of schools.

8) Is *Engineering Alliance* a new Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO)?

No.

9) Will *Engineering Alliance* have student members?

No. PLTW schools will pay a fee to offer the *Engineering Alliance* program to their students, but the students are not “members.”

10) Can TSA or SkillsUSA chapters participate in *Engineering Alliance*?

Only schools using the PLTW curriculum may participate in *Engineering Alliance*. If a TSA or SkillsUSA chapter is in a PLTW school, the chapter may participate in both *Engineering Alliance* and in TSA and/or SkillsUSA by paying the applicable affiliation fees.

11) Can a PLTW school have both *Engineering Alliance* and a TSA or SkillsUSA chapter?

Yes, schools participating in *Engineering Alliance* may also choose to have a TSA or SkillsUSA chapter. Many PLTW schools already have a TSA or SkillsUSA chapter.

12) What will participation in *Engineering Alliance* cost?

Each participating PLTW school will pay an annual fee of \$300 to participate in the *Engineering Alliance* program. The fee will be evenly split between TSA and SkillsUSA. Fees will be used to develop and maintain the program.

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