INDIVIDUAL CONTEST GUIDELINES
❖ It is important that as SkillsUSA advisors we follow the guidelines set forth in the new SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards (2016-2017 Edition). I personally have a CD version that you could borrow to study for your specific program area.

❖ The Technical Standards describe the clothing regulations and the contest guidelines for each individual contest. It suggests concepts that may be tested during the competitions as well as what criteria the judges will score on.

❖ To see copies of past national contest problems and to review current tips and guidelines for individual contests, go to the SkillsUSA homepage @ (www.skillsusa.org). I also have a copy of the CD’s that include many of the past national contest problems from 2010 through 2016. You may also go online and purchase a copy for yourself.

SCHOOL, STATE & NATIONAL CONTEST DATES
❖ Here at UVU, our individual contests need to be completed in each department by Wednesday, February 1, 2017. First, second, and third place winners need to be determined by then to accommodate the UVU Awards Program that will take place from 3:00-4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 3rd, 2017. The lead time is needed to coordinate the medallions that will be handed out.

❖ The State of Utah SkillsUSA Competitions will be held on March 23rd & March 24th. The conference will be held at Salt Lake Community College, Redwood Road Campus.

❖ The National Leadership/SkillsUSA Conference will be June 19-24, 2017. This year the conference will be held in Louisville, Kentucky.

UVU SkillsUSA CONTEST & AWARDS PROGRAM
❖ Each department will be responsible for organizing and judging their own individual contests. The organization of these contests is left up to the departments holding the contest. It is highly suggested that you try to set up your contests similar to what the state and national contests require since this is the best way to prepare your students for the state and national levels. Each department will be responsible for prizes to be awarded. At the UVU SkillsUSA awards program, the First, Second, and Third place winners will receive a medallion to be supplied by UVU. If you would like your contestants to receive prizes in addition to the medallions, it is your responsibility to acquire prizes.
Your department can schedule your contest on any day or time you like, just be certain that you have established your winners by January 27, 2016. (Note: As a public relations tool, some departments sponsor the local high schools SkillsUSA competitions. We need to know if we should order medals for these additional schools. We would be glad to recognize them during our awards program, but your department will need to inform us of the medallions for the high school winners.)

❖ The UVU SkillsUSA Awards Program will be held on Friday, February 3, 2017. It is scheduled to run from 3:00 to 4:00 P.M. The program will be held in CS-404 located on the bottom floor of the Computer Science Building. Please ask your students to wear their SkillsUSA clothing or business dress.

REGISTRATION PROCESS AND DEADLINES
❖ Each department SkillsUSA advisor must have the National/State Registration completed and emailed no later than FEBRUARY 17th, 2017. If you miss this deadline the students will not be allowed to compete on the State or National level. If you have a student that is not sure if they can schedule time off to compete, you may think of registering some alternates just in case. For example: we have had students withdraw at the last minute, if you do not have another student registered by the February 17th deadline, the national office will not let you register another student to take their place.

❖ Each advisor should have received the SkillsUSA registration packet by now. If you have not, please contact Darin Taylor to get one ordered. You can also register on-line which is the preferred method of registration.

❖ If you need help with the registration process, please let me know and I will provide you with some assistance. You will be receiving an additional email from me with instructions on how to carry out the registration process.

❖ One additional deadline will concern our application to compete at the state contest. The state requires each college to provide a list of students who will be competing at the state contest. This early state registration deadline is also February 20th. However, if a student is not registered by the February 17th national deadline, there will be no need to worry about the state contest deadline because they will not be allowed to compete.

LEADERSHIP CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES
❖ UVU has to provide at least one leadership contestant or we will not be allowed to compete in any of the skills competitions. These leadership contests are open to any active SkillsUSA member whose dues are paid by the February 17th deadline. The following is a list of these contests:

1. Prepared Speech = 5-7 minute speech prepared on SkillsUSA theme.
2016-2017 Theme:
SkillsUSA: Champions at Work
Preparing America’s Skilled Workforce

2. Extemporaneous Speaking = Given 5 minutes, prepare a 3-5 minute speech.
3. Job Interview = Prepare a resume and participate in the interviewing process.
4. Opening and Closing Ceremonies = Team presentation on the ceremony.
6. Others upon demand.

❖ A SkillsUSA contestant can compete in only one competition on the state and national level.

❖ The UVU Leadership contests will be held Wednesday, February 1st. The times and room locations of these contests will be determined at a later date.

❖ There is a Related Technical Math Contest available to all SkillsUSA students. If you have a student that excels in math, this contest may be considered.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
❖ The traditional SkillsUSA Knowledge Test administered at the state and national contests will gather questions from the SkillsUSA Student Workbook and the PDP level 1 & 2 Student Workbooks. In the past, the SkillsUSA Knowledge Test was used only for tie breakers; we can’t guarantee this will always be the case. There are some individual contests that now include the score of the SkillsUSA knowledge test in the overall contest.

OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST
❖ The Technology & Computing Dean’s office will coordinate the offering of scholarships to the high school seniors that win at the State SkillsUSA Competitions (amount to be determined later). Scholarships are limited so the amount of awards may also need to be helped by departmental scholarships.

❖ In order for a student to be eligible to compete in a skills contest, they must be enrolled in one career or technical related class relating to the area they are competing in within the 2016-2017 school year. Their declared major must also be in the related contest area.

❖ UVU Faculty may be asked to serve on education teams in their area of expertise to help organize the contests on the state level.
This past summer, Utah won a total of 35 medals at the National SkillsUSA Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. This earned the state a ranking of #5 in the nation. **UVU won 13 medals which earned a #1 ranking in the United States.** There were 44 states in the nation that did not win as many post-secondary medals as UVU.

A video of the national conference is available for all to see. You can borrow it at any time to show your students what SkillsUSA is all about.