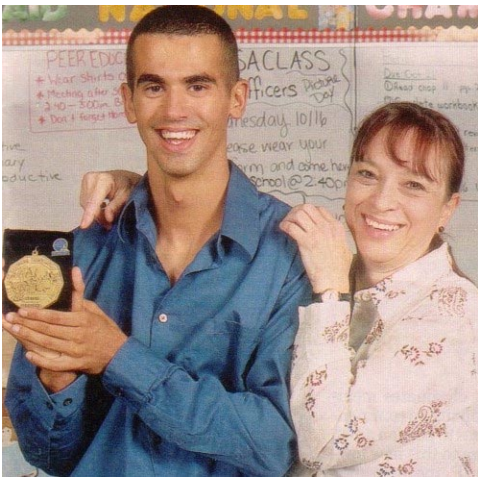


Lauren Zelniker

And the HOSA members of North Miami Senior High School

Lauren Zelniker is a HOSA Advisor who teaches health science education at North Miami Senior High School in Florida. In January 2003, Mrs. Zelniker was named the Region II Teacher of the Year for Miami-Dade county. Like many other HOSA advisors, she seeks to inspire as well as teach, and still finds time to care for her family and play an active role in her community.



In 1998, Lauren Zelniker left her position as a Registered Nurse in a local hospital to teach at North Miami Senior High School. She has found that the similarities between being a nurse and being a teacher are striking. "As a nurse, you automatically teach the patient how to take care of themselves. With kids, you're there to teach and to promote good health."

Growing the health science program from eight to over 170 students in a short span of three years, Lauren creates a life clinic in her classes. Her students are challenged to excel, and they succeed.

One of Lauren's success stories was told in the January 31, 2002, issue of Woman's World magazine. It's the story of Yoel Monzote.

In ninth grade, Yoel was told he was going to be kicked out of school for skipping too many days of school. While the thought of freedom was inviting, Yoel had hoped to be the first in his family to graduate from high school. He got his second chance and enrolled in tenth grade. One of his classes was health science with Lauren Zelniker.

Unlike many teachers, Lauren Zelniker (or "Miss Z" as her students call her) had high expectations for Yoel. First, she encouraged him to succeed in class. As Yoel's grades improved in all his classes, Lauren knew Yoel was capable of more, and encouraged him to join HOSA.

In his junior year, Yoel continued in the health science program and HOSA. With the help of his HOSA advisor, he and his teammate placed first in regional competition in First Aid/CPR and third in state competition.

Not ready to give up, Yoel continued to work hard in school and in HOSA his senior year of high school. He and his partner, Steven Quintana, won their regional and state competition in CPR/First Aid, and then set their sights on Anaheim, California.

Yoel and Steven competed in CPR/First Aid at the 2002 National Leadership Conference. They did well on the Round One test and advanced to the skill round. After the skill round, they felt good about their performance, but had to wait until the Awards Session on Saturday to get the final verdict.

When the results were read, Yoel and Steven were called to the stage as finalists. Then came the results. A team from Texas was announced as the third place winners. Second place went to a team from Colorado. And then after a few seconds that felt like an eternity, the announcement of the event winners - and Yoel Monzote and Steven Quintana were National Champions.

In addition to a full scholarship to Miami Dade Community college and a national title with HOSA, Yoel was honored by the city of North Miami with one of the Mayor's Economic Task Force Scholarships. Yoel credits Lauren Zelniker as the inspiration for his success. "Mrs. Zelniker was the one person who really guided me," Monzote said. "She would stay every day after school helping me out, and gradually became the mother I never had."

Lauren Zelniker is clearly an inspiration to her students. She recognizes the value of HOSA in marketing her program and providing opportunities for student achievement. She also recognizes the value of HOSA leadership and serves as a HOSA Regional Advisor in Florida. She is a Board Certified teacher and is actively involved in school leadership roles.

HOSA congratulates Lauren Zelniker and all the members of North Miami Senior HOSA for setting a standard of HOSA excellence!



COMPETITIVE EVENTS

COMPETITIVE TIPS FOR CHAPTER ADVISORS

HOSA advisors often ask for suggestions when helping to prepare their HOSA members for State and National Competition. **Here are some competition tips that might make a difference!**

Practice – There is no substitute for lots and lots of practice. Study, study, study. Practice, practice, practice. In most events, the knowledge and skills of the event winners is OUTSTANDING.

Start Early - Many national winners are in their second year of doing the event. Those competitors work all year to prepare themselves for State and National competition. Chapter advisors should be helping students select events in the fall and not two weeks before the conference.

Consider the Odds – Some events have fewer competitors than others, so mathematically, the odds are in the favor of those who choose these events.

Follow the Guidelines – That means practicing using the event rating sheets by conducting simulated events. Rather than try to find “experts” in your school to teach you how to do the event, focus on the HOSA guidelines and every single item on the event rating sheet.

Do HOSA in the Classroom - Many instructors use HOSA events in the classroom as a means of supporting classroom instruction. Having students serve as event managers and judges can be a valuable learning experience. Just be sure that what is done is consistent with instructional outcomes.

Work with Events at the State Conference and NLC – Many advisors find that they understand an event to the fullest after serving as an event manager or judge.

Make the Skill of HOSA Members Your Responsibility – BE SURE that before you take any student to competition that he/she has the skills to perform competently. This is particularly true with Category II events. To ask a student to compete in an

event where they clearly have not mastered the skills is extremely unfair to the student.

Make the Event Materials of HOSA Members Your Responsibility – Local advisors know what a good resume, cover letter, portfolio or notebook looks like. If you were grading the event materials in class and wouldn't award above a D, why would you allow the student to take the same event materials to a state or national conference?

Understand the Big Picture – The HOSA competitive events program is not about getting as many warm bodies to competition as possible. The HOSA competitive events program is about excellence in learning. Raise the bar for your students. Help them understand the big picture. Help them compete at a level where, win or lose, they will feel as though they have accomplished something.

Play Fair – Set an ethical example for your students by assuring that they are the ones competing (not you) and that you follow all the rules without looking for an edge, advantage, or special treatment. Be more concerned about the student than you are the medal, and be sure to recognize all students who work hard and do their best – not just the eventual winners.

