

# MY HOSA SUCCESS STORY

By Jon Campbell, 2008-09 National Region 2 Vice President

When I started out in HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) around five years ago, I was a very drawn back and a shy individual. I had been thru a lot of battles in my life from cancer to being a rape victim.

I still remember my first day of health science class, I was originally signed up for band, but I got mad at the director and switched classes the second day of school. When I signed up for health science I was looking for a class that I thought would be easy to pass and that I wouldn't have to do much in. My first semester of health science was a breeze and is when I decided to join HOSA. Our instructor at the time really did not know much about the organization, so we really did not do anything. My second semester of health science our school hired a new health science instructor. This woman is one of the most dedicated, hardworking, and determined women I know. Her first day she explained to our class what she thought HOSA was. Within weeks she started getting us involved in HOSA, of course I was always held back and never wanted to get involved in the group activities.

Later one day our new health science instructor took us to the local hospital to see what doctors and nurses really go through everyday. I knew as soon as I walked in that hospital I wanted to be a doctor; Although most of my childhood was spent in the hospital due to cancer I never thought I was smart enough to work in the health care field. Finally one day I told my teacher I wanted to go into the health care field one day. She looked me straight in the eyes and told me I could do whatever I set my mind to. For the first time in my life I felt like someone believed in me.

My instructor later pushed me to run for local HOSA office, however, I told her over and over I was going to lose, and I did not want to humiliate myself like that. Come election day, I found out later that afternoon I had been elected my local HOSA historian. The next year I decided to run for a higher office, because serving as historian gave me the experience I needed to do a good job. I then was elected as my local HOSA president.

After being elected my local president my advisor talked me into taking my experience further and run for state office. Excited as I was when I got to the state conference I broke down in tears telling myself, I could not do it, it was just too much for me to handle. My advisor set me down later and calmed me down, she talked me into going ahead and giving it a try. Later that evening I was elected the 2007-2008 Alabama HOSA president. All I could think of that entire day was how far I had come, from being that held back shy individual. I thought this was the happiest day of my entire life, until I went to my second National HOSA Conference in Dallas, Texas.

Over a portion of the year I had decided on myself to run for a National HOSA office. I am not going to lie when I arrived at the conference I was sure to myself I would not make it to the executive candidate interviews, but for some reason the 2007-2008 HOSA executive council saw something in me and chose me to run for region 2 vice president. After giving my campaign speech I was sure that I had not won, and I was ready to say congratulations to my opponents. Then when I least expected the night of the awards ceremony my name was called as the 2008-2009 National HOSA Region 2 Vice President. To this very day that was the happiest day of my life.

I am still currently serving my position as National HOSA Region 2 Vice President. I serve this position with pride and determination and do the best of my abilities. After all the disappointments in my life HOSA gave me an experience of a lifetime. It gave me something that I can truly say not many others have done.

That is my HOSA success story.

