The mission of HOSA is to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of all health science education students, therefore, helping students to meet the needs of the health care community.
Volunteering with the Medical Reserve Corps is a great way to learn new skills, enjoy the shared mission and values of like-minded people, and serve your school and community. If you are considering a health-related career, working with your local MRC enables you to not only learn about emergency response and preparedness, but also about disease prevention strategies and public health.

The Medical Reserve Corps, headquartered in the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, is a national network of local groups of volunteers who are committed to improving the health, safety and resiliency of their communities. As a member or partner of a Medical Reserve Corps unit, you can be part of an organized and trained team to be ready and able to bolster local emergency planning and response capabilities. You'll also assist with activities to improve public health in their community—supporting flu vaccination clinics, disease screening programs, childhood obesity prevention, and promoting healthy lifestyles.

HOSA and the MRC have a longstanding partnership that provides benefits to all involved. “Young people bring incredible energy, enthusiasm and great ideas to an MRC unit,” says Captain Rob Tosatto, MRC Director. “They are our future health professionals, future volunteers and future leaders, and the MRC provides an invaluable learning experience that will serve them throughout their lives.”

Currently, almost 25% of MRC units permit youth membership. Youth can engage with the MRC through partnering with an existing MRC unit, joining an MRC unit that allows youth membership, joining a Junior MRC unit or forming their own Junior MRC.

HOSA students and other youth have participated in numerous MRC activities, both as members and as partners. Examples of these activities include:

- Teaching fun exercises
- Creating Public Service Announcements on disasters and other topics
- Serving as “victims” in local emergency drills
- Assisting at flu clinics by escorting clients, and providing a child play area
- Teaching proper hand washing techniques

At HOSA’s National Leadership Conference in June, MRC representatives will serve as judges and the National MRC Partnership winner will be announced. The purpose of the event is to initiate and/or grow a partnership between a
local chapter of the Medical Reserve Corps and HOSA. Last year’s first-place winner met their goal of becoming officially registered as the first Junior MRC in the state of Texas. To support the MRC’s mission, the students participated in a range of activities including participating in a hospital preparedness drill to train nurses in the case of a disaster, decorating an MRC float for a parade, and providing first aid at school activities, as well as setting up an information booth and Facebook page. To learn more about the MRC Partnership program, go to: http://www.hosa.org/natorg/sectb/index.html

Another opportunity that HOSA students can take part in is the HOSA Internship in the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General (OSG). For a short period of time, interns are able to experience first-hand the mission of the OSG and work alongside members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHS CC). HOSA interns shadow OSG staff and take on a project that directly benefits the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Following the internship, participants will have the opportunity to present their experience during a symposium at the HOSA National Leadership Conference.

The 2012 HOSA/OSG Interns are:
July 16-20, 2012
Advisor: Brooke Nacua, Hawaii
Advisor: Cynthia Soroaka, California
Student: Hayley Owen, Arizona
Student: Bianca Patel, North Carolina
Student: Miranda Terrell, Nevada

August 13-17, 2012
Advisor: Paula Holstein, West Virginia
Advisor: Patricia Preston, Kentucky
Student: Brittney Bradford, Louisiana
Student: Hugo Quezada, Texas
Student: Stephanie Tsai, Texas

Due to the tremendous number of applicants and the high quality of those received, the MRC/OSG made the decision to increase the number of interns for both sessions. Congratulations to all!

There are many ways that young people can become involved with the Medical Reserve Corps. For more information, go to www.medicalreservecorps.gov, www.facebook.com/medicalreservecorps or contact MRCcontact@hhs.gov.
Any student that is a HOSA member and graduating from high school or completing their postsecondary/collegiate program is eligible to become a HOSA Lifetime Alumni member. The HOSA, Inc. Board of Directors has made this opportunity available FREE to help strengthen the organization and keep former members connected. Membership provides the following benefits:

- Create professional networking opportunities
- Stay current with news through the HOSA E-Magazine
- Conduct workshops
- Serve as judges at state and national leadership conferences
- Serve as a mentor to a HOSA member
- Be involved in state and national activities where needs exist

The Board of Directors has offered additional incentives for members and advisors that recruit the most alumni members:

- HOSA Advisors – HOSA will provide the advisor who recruits the largest number of alumni members between February 1, 2012 and May 15, 2012 will receive a 2012 NLC registration waiver. Your seniors or previous students who go to www.hosa.org and sign up to be a HOSA alumnus will help you win. All they have to do is to put your name in the recruitment referral line as you were the person that recruited them. (If there is a tie on the number recruited by an advisor, the winner would be chosen by a drawing.)

- State Officers – HOSA will provide a Washington Leadership Academy registration scholarship to each state officer for 100 NEW alumni members per officer that are recruited. All the graduating seniors or previous HOSA members have to do is to put your name in the recruitment referral line when they register at www.hosa.org.

- The state officer that recruits the most alumni over 100 will receive a registration waiver to the WLA plus all travel expenses.

It is now time to help the alumni division grow. Remember, in order to be a part of this recruitment campaign, the alumni members must be new. If they have previously registered as an alumni member, their additional membership will not count towards your award recognition.

Activate your FREE Alumni Membership Today!

Go to www.hosa.org, click on the alumni registration link and take full advantage of HOSA’s Free Lifetime Alumni Membership!
Twenty-four HOSA Practical Nursing members and three instructors from Southern Oklahoma Technology Center (SOTC) participated in a training/evaluation event. Members worked with a multitude of area emergency response teams preparing for and assisting with a simulation of a mass causality disaster involving a large jet liner, at the Ardmore Airpark.

This opportunity allowed SOTC students to visualize the importance of simulation, training and evaluation of skills within a controlled environment. HOSA Nursing members simulate patient care skills in the classroom setting prior to caring for patients in the acute care setting. Yet, this simulation allowed members to participate in a large scale event geared to improving skills required to save lives in a disaster setting. Members were acting as injured passengers but often found themselves evaluating the care given to them and others around them from a medical perspective. Holly Woods, SOTC PN HOSA member stated, “We (SOTC nursing students) were able to pick out the most important tasks today!” Referring to identifying which patients should be treated first. Woods continued with, “I am happy and proud to be an SOTC student; all of us feel that way.” Jamie Trivitt (SOTC PN HOSA Student from Marietta) states, “I was honored to be asked to participate in an event this big. We really had a good time and learned a lot from witnessing all that goes into disaster preparation.” “I would like to participate in the next event to see the results of further training”
The Midnight Run, a student-led project where HOSA members bagged lunches that were later taken to a shelter to feed the homeless. There were approximately 50 lunches made and distributed in total. This experience can be related to East Haven High School’s motto, “Explore, Empower and Achieve”, in many ways. As the Committee Chair of this project, along with two of my classmates, Angelica Coppola and Angelina DeMarco, this project allowed us to explore our town. We had to ask many businesses to see if they would donate food or supplies. The Midnight Run empowered HOSA members because they were “in charge”. From planning the event to actually making the lunches, the students did all the work. Lastly, this was a great achievement for our HOSA chapter. Not only did we make more lunches than the year before, but we also made more than we has originally predicted. Therefore, we achieved our goal and helped many homeless people at the shelter. None of us would have been able to experience this if it wasn’t for Medical Career Fundamentals. The Midnight Run was an opportunity to not only feed many people who wouldn’t have eaten otherwise, but it also taught us a great deal of responsibility.

-Briana Amendola
Not only has being a HOSA President helped me to sharpen my problem solving skills, it has also made me into a more well-rounded individual. Saying that you have “leadership qualities,” and actually being a leader are two different things. This experience has made me realize that in order to be a leader you need to be confident, but also have teamwork skills in order to get other people’s feedback. Our HOSA chapter is faced with different issues, tasks, and problems each day. I have tried to make it my priority to keep everyone happy but also have a successful year, getting as much accomplished as possible. Although I am pleased with our success so far, there is always room for improvement.

HOSA has also helped me explore, empower, and achieve. I have gained so much experience in learning how to collaborate new ideas for fund-raising and being able to work effectively with others. Taking on the responsibility of President as a sophomore has enabled me to explore what each person wants to gain out of HOSA and what they thought would lead to success. A lot of the opportunities HOSA gives us are individually driven.

I learned that if I empower myself to study for a test for ten minutes longer, then maybe others will too. HOSA helped me mainly with achievements. It felt so good to see our fund-raisers in action after knowing how much time and effort each and every HOSA member put into making it happen. Even when I worked at the school blood drive, I had such a feeling of achievement after it.

All in all, HOSA brings out the best in every member. HOSA members learn to think for the whole group and not for themselves. They enter the World having a better and more open head on their shoulders. HOSA made me realize all of the opportunities I have in life, and made me want to accomplish and explore as much as I can on a daily basis.

-Jenna Gaudioso
Whether you are newly diagnosed or have been living with type 1 diabetes (TID) for a long time, JDRF is committed to improving the lives of every person affected by the disease. We aim to accelerate the progress of research to provide better treatments, prevention, and ultimately a cure for TID. We hope that you will enjoy reading about two exciting areas of research that have the potential to bring us closer to our goal.

Advancing eye protection

Almost 80 years ago, two doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota discovered the first diabetes-related complication: eye disease. Their groundbreaking research was published in The New England Journal of Medicine. Since the very beginning of JDRF, more than 40 years ago, we've been funding research to help treat and prevent diabetic eye disease. For example, we supported the work of the doctors who were the "pioneers" in surgery to treat this complication. And we won't stop, because diabetic eye disease is the leading cause of blindness and impaired vision in people with TID.

Recently, JDRF formed a new partnership with KalVista Pharmaceuticals, a company in the United Kingdom, to investigate new treatments for diabetic eye disease. One of the founders of this company, Edward Feener, Ph.D., associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and Joslin Diabetes Center, has been supported by JDRF in the past. Previously, Dr. Feener found that a high level of an enzyme called plasma kallikrein—pronounced "ka-li-KREE-in," or just "pK"—in the eyes of people with diabetic eye disease was responsible for damaging vision. Now, JDRF is teaming up with KalVista to investigate potential blockers of pK (referred to as plasma kallikrein inhibitors). The company is planning to investigate a number of possible drug candidates that can stop pK from doing damage. Their studies will begin this year, and if one or more of the candidates shows promise, it will be a great step forward in JDRF's quest for treatments to stop or delay the progress of diabetic eye disease.

Biomarkers brain trust

Another priority area of research for JDRF is biomarkers for TID. Biomarkers are measurements that potentially can identify the stage or progress of a disease, or assess a person's response to a particular therapy. In December 2011 in New York City, we convened our first conference on biomarkers, "Identification and Utilization of Robust Biomarkers in Type 1 Diabetes." We brought together scientists from different areas of expertise, including medicine, immunology, beta-cell biology, and biotechnology to address the best way to move the field of biomarkers research forward.

In understanding this research, it's useful to know that TID is a heterogeneous disease—meaning that although it is a single disease, it can have distinct differences from person to person on the molecular level (involving some of the tiniest particles in the body). It is these differences that help to explain why the development and progression of TID can vary among individuals. Biomarkers for TID could address these differences and provide significant information for experts to use to track TID—from identifying people at risk for the disease, to analyzing the progression of the disease, to evaluating the effectiveness of treatments. JDRF is encouraged about the results of the conference. “By hosting this conference, we now have a better understanding of the gaps in the field and the ways in which we can attempt to fill them—hopefully as a combined effort among some of the best talent around,” says Simi T. Ahmed, Ph.D., JDRF's scientific program manager of immune therapies.

To find out more about TID research, or how to get involved with JDRF in your community, visit www.jdrf.org.
The wife of Vice President Joe Biden stressed the importance of community colleges and the key role they play in America’s future. Pedro presented a speech on how Reading Muhlenberg CTC and HOSA-Future Health Professionals prepared him for his career in the area of medicine. His dream is to become a cardiologist. He is a two-time HOSA gold medalist in physical therapy.
Palatka’s HOSA program in Illinois, led by Treva Dunning, visited the Orange Park campus for one of the most interactive tours we have had on our campus yet. Since the students were used to being around medical instruments, there was no hesitation upon stepping right up and volunteering to have themselves weighed, their blood pressure taken, or act as a live diagram for where injections meant to be distributed on patients.

Considering the school was almost an hour away, we were limited on the amount of time we could spend with them. So we focused our time on two programs in particular: Pharmacy Technician and Medical Assisting.

When the students visited Ms. Valerie Thomas’ Medical Assisting lab they were absolutely blown away by the amount of interaction we provided throughout this tour. She kept them involved by asking both her and the high school students medical trivia questions like, “What is considered a healthy blood pressure?” and even going as far as teaching their Biology teacher Karen Clark something new:

“I always wondered why they pulled back the plunger of a syringe before they administered an injection, now I know it’s so they make sure they’re not hitting a vein.”

They had the opportunity to check their blood pressure, get weighed, and received an in depth explanation on how to properly administer injections on a live patient.

During their time visiting Ms. Shatesha Jackson’s Pharmacy Technician lab they had the opportunity to count pills, and actually inject saline solution into the IV bags. Sarah Thomas, a sophomore commented, “I’ve never done anything like that before, and I thought that was really cool.”

These professors really allowed the students to interact with their equipment, and to feel like a student in their class. The students spent every minute of their half-hour visit to each program asking questions and demonstrating their knowledge in the field as well. They applied what they were learning in their classes, to what we demonstrated in ours.
At the end of the day Palatka’s HOSA program left with smiles on their faces and a better sense of what they wanted to do in their medical careers once they graduate high school. Both Dunning and Clark were pleased with how much the students enjoyed themselves and ended the visit with this comment, “Allowing the students to actively participate in the labs and talk with current students was what students liked the best. Thank you!”

The following day, OP held Clay County’s HOSA Advisory Board meeting on our campus as well. There were a total of 9 attendees, including three colleges (St. John’s River College, Virginia College, and Fortis) one high school senior, three teachers and a Clay County School Board representative.

Topics up for discussion were the events our local high school HOSA members have participated in, how well their students are doing, election of both President and Vice President for their advisory board (Rachel Walker was voted in as Vice President), and of course the upcoming FL State HOSA Competition.

To take this one step further, we are asking a few of our instructors to help out with the judging, especially our own Jayson Parshall who himself was once the secretary of the Regional HOSA Advisory Board. In fact, he ran into his old high school HOSA director who is currently retired and subbing for Orange Park High School, during this meeting.

We here at the OP Campus want to increase our community awareness, and HOSA is an excellent opportunity to start building these relationships. Especially now that we have two active members in HOSA, we are looking forward to this wonderful partnership and revamping our own HOSA Chapter here on the campus.
Glendale Union High School District Health Careers Education students sent a very special wish to all the troops. The support and patience you demonstrate with these students, as well as the education you assist to provide, is very much appreciated. Working with the VA staff not only teaches the students patient care, but reminds them to be compassionate and respectful of our veterans. Thanks to each of you for all you do.

To show some of their appreciation, the HCE students, with the leadership of Mr. Robert Newcomb, Health Careers Education CTE Instructional Aide, enthusiastically joined the Culinary Club at Thunderbird High School to bake cookies for Major Travis M. Fulton and his troops in Afghanistan. A combined group of 40 students baked 40 dozen (480 cookies). That’s 3 boxes totally 16 pounds! The Snickerdoodles, Peanut Butter and Oatmeal cookies were mailed in time to be enjoyed by the troops for Thanksgiving.

The photo shows the chapters working together to create a memory for themselves and for the soldiers in Afghanistan.
Greetings from the home front.

There are not ever enough words to tell you how much we appreciate your service to our country.

We are often amazed by and always proud of the men and women that continue to risk their lives so the others may know the freedom we often take for granted. Thank you for your dedication, loyalty, fearlessness and determination. You do make a difference. Our hearts and prayers are with each of you.

The picture enclosed is of the group of students that wanted to send you a taste of home to show you their appreciation for you effort. There were two different school organizations that participated in our “Cookie Festival”. One of the groups was from the Culinary Club and the other was from a class known as HCE, which stands for Health Careers Education.

We hope you enjoy this very small token of our gratitude. We are thinking of you and wish you a safe journey home.

Sincerely,

Linda Boothe and Joanne Michael  Culinary Teachers
Rhonda Sykes RN  HCE Teacher
Robert Newcomb  Assistant Culinary/HCE

Thunderbird High School
1750 West Thunderbird Road
Phoenix, AZ 85023
Before the bus departed the Uniformed Services University of the Health Professions n Bethesda, Maryland on September 21, an e-mail was already sent hoping to secure the speaker for NJ HOSA’s Fall Leadership Conference in November. Dr. Margaret Calloway, Associate Dean for Recruitment and Admissions, seemed to be a gem that New Jersey’s membership would appreciate.

Unfortunately, Dr. Calloway had a previous commitment but was more than enthusiastic to make the trip for State Leadership Conference in March. On March 17-18, over 650 members converged on Cumberland County College’s campus in Vineland, NJ to participate in 43 competitive events, scholarship interviews, campus tours and campaigning.

Upon Dr. Calloway’s arrival, an extended hand was brushed away in exchange for a warm hug. While waiting to present to the membership, Dr. Calloway spent some time in competitive events headquarters. Amidst the organized chaos, she sat there shaking her head with a big smile. We hope that she was impressed with our operation as much as we were impressed with hers.

Her presentation touched on medical careers in the military, opportunities at the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, their Masters in Health Administration and Policy (MHAP) as well as graduate programs in biomedical sciences and the “S2M2: Science, Service, Medicine, Mentoring” summer program. State Affiliates are fortunate that National HOSA fosters such valuable partnerships for them to benefit from. One of our students commented on her evaluation that Dr. Calloway inspired her to pursue her medical career in the military. Mission accomplished!
“Benefits of Further Education in the Healthcare Field”

-Darby Lacey, Montana HOSA Vice-President

The basic mission of HOSA is “to enhance the delivery of quality, compassionate healthcare”. Two words in the HOSA mission stick out in my mind, “quality” and “compassionate.” Everyday HOSA members strive to show their caring side through community service and empathy to their patients in their work related experiences. Nationwide HOSA members are doing great things simply because they are great people!

As Future Health Professionals, a thirst for knowledge and a dedication to competence are essential to deliver a high standard of care. In the pursuit of “Quality”, HOSA members must remain open minded and fluid in their thinking and knowledge. The exciting thing about the medical field is that the knowledge base is ever-expanding and new treatments, therapies, and diagnostic tools are being discovered and refined.

Many HOSA members have a clear career path in mind, which is an excellent place to start. Some students are interested in 2 year degrees or certificates such as emergency medical technicians or surgical technologists. While others are interested in 4 year degrees and beyond! After one attains their degree and works for some time, it is easy to become set in one’s ways and use to performing duties in a mundane manner. Gaining more education is an admirable way to combat this slump because new knowledge is a brilliant motivator. Continuing education units are required for most healthcare careers, and are an easy way to continue learning new things once you have completed your vocational training. Another route is to gain an advanced degree.

For two year degrees, this might mean gaining additional training to move into a more specific field or into a management position. Nursing has endless opportunities for advancement such as gaining a Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing (BSN), and eventually a Master’s of Science in Nursing, which is required to become a Nurse Practitioner. Physicians and other doctorate degree holders can complete a fellowship in a more specific field that would allow them to narrow their practice.

Attending more school can be time consuming, but the benefits of an advanced degree are endless. First of all, it gives you an advantage when applying for jobs as more education is always desirable. While HOSA members don’t enter the healthcare field for the money, a substantial paycheck is still a plus! The national mean yearly salary for an RN is around $64,000, while advanced practice nurses such as Family Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Anesthetists can earn up to as much as $176,000 a year. Finally, an advanced degree gives the health professional more knowledge and insight so that they can provide quality and compassionate healthcare.

I admire the diverse and lofty career goals of all HOSA members, but we must remain open minded about the immense array of career opportunities available. I wish you all nothing but the best of luck in your future endeavors, and remember to never stop learning and growing!
In what years and state(s) did you participate in HOSA?


To what extent did you participate in HOSA (ex. positions, conferences, competitions)?

I participated on the Local, State, & National levels all years through competitive events and holding office. I was privileged to have won events on all levels as well as be elected to President on the Local and State levels and Western Area Vice President on the National level.

What qualities would you say that HOSA gave you that have allowed you to excel in the healthcare workforce?

I have said this frequently throughout my professional career. Without the experience given to me through HOSA, I would NOT have had the educational or professional opportunities that I have had throughout my life.

What was the HOSA experience like during your time as a member?

Truly some of the best times in my life, both in learning to grow and mature with students from around the country, but also the opportunity to learn from some of the best educators at the time in various healthcare fields.

In addition to this, HOSA provided me with the wonderful opportunity to mature in the field of public speaking without fear, a skill which continues to carry me in my chosen field today.

What is your current role in the healthcare workforce?

I currently work in the field of Organ & Tissue Donation and Transplantation through one of only 56 federally designated organ recovery agencies in the country. I, along with one other coworker, administer a 12 month grief recovery assistance program to approximately 500 families per year. This is a not for profit agency; all of our services are offered at no cost to our families.
National HOSA recently announced a membership of over 130,000 in 48 states. What would you say to such a diverse group about the HOSA experience?

Learn as much as you possibly can from your HOSA experience. Take away as much as you can because it will ALWAYS help you in your chosen field of professional life. I would not be where I am and would not have made it through all of my grueling college and graduate school classes without the discipline that HOSA taught me.

What is your HOSA story?

These times were the happiest of my school years. I was lucky to have been able to attend the only program in the country that allowed me only nine months after graduation to sit for my LVN license and therefore have a great footing when beginning college.

The State and National Conferences were always the highlight of each year: getting ready for completion and traveling to a new place was all great fun for a young teenager who hadn’t traveled very much.

But there were some downfalls as well. Just as I encountered so long ago, many of our best and brightest students are coming to the HOSA experience with difficult and high performing classes which are located on Careertech campuses. Unfortunately, due to this they are not always given access to higher performing classes at their high school, due to scheduling of their Careertech classes and other logistical issues. These are decades-long programming issues resulting in a stereotype of the classes that are being taught at Careertech being called “vocational” classes and not representing something of a very high level that will benefit non-trade tracked students. I have continued to speak to students in this situation across the country when invited and I am surprised to find that they are dropping HOSA qualifying classes because of this and taking what I refer to as “filler” classes because of stereotypes. Here we are some thirty years later continuing to lose the brightest students who already know where they’re going and what they want to do in their college course work because of this simple issue.

In addition to this, at this age level many students simply do not want to put up with the teasing of having to go to a Careertech school simply to get the courses that they need. They will choose rather to pay tuition at a very high cost to them or their parents when taking the course later in a college setting. Yes, we could simply rename the programs, but it’s going to take just a little more than renaming a program if we want to see HOSA on the level of FFA. But these are just a few minor adjustments.

There will always be those students who don’t and won’t succumb to this type of stereotyping, but as a former HOSA student I would like to know if there has been a national study done to find out how many students we may be losing because of this one small issue.
Congressional Connections

-Austin Menchaca and Samantha Stiles

The long, narrow corridors of the congressional offices coiled as I meandered through the building. Flags were stationed in every corner and name plaques were plastered on every wall. I finally found the name plaque I had been looking for and took a deep breath before nervously turning the doorknob. After all, it’s not everyday that a seventeen year old gets to meet with his congressman. As the door opened, a man named John Aguilar stood waiting for me.

Mr. Aguilar is a legislative assistant in Congressman Reyes’ office and unfortunately, had the duty of being the bearer of bad news that day. It just so happened that Congressman Reyes would not be in Washington until later that day which meant that my early afternoon flight was working against me. Nevertheless, I sat down with Mr. Aguilar and began to tell him about HOSA-Future Health Professionals. I described to him my duties as a Texas HOSA State Officer and all the opportunities that the organization has to offer. He seemed to be very impressed with my demeanor and the organization. After all was said and done he offered me his business card so that I could contact him in the future. Although my meeting that day didn’t unfold as planned, I appreciated Mr. Aguilar’s time and assistance. I also knew that I would have another opportunity to meet with Congressman Reyes.

A few months later my school invited him to attend our National Blue Ribbon Recognition Ceremony where he entered our school’s accomplishment into the Congressional Record. He also recognized a number of students for their hard work and community service. After shuffling through the crowd, I was finally able to talk to him face-to-face and he apologized for not being able to see me when I had visited his office a few months before. I then presented him with an invitation to our Area Conference in February. Without hesitation, he seemed delighted with the idea and asked me to contact Mr. Aguilar so that we could set up a time for him to speak. The date of the conference approached and sure enough he was there at the Opening General Session.

I will always be thankful to Congressman Reyes for providing me the chance to meet with him and I will always be thankful to HOSA for all the lessons I have learned. I have not only made connections and friends that will last a lifetime, but I have gained the confidence that will help me achieve all of my biggest dreams. My experience as a HOSA State Officer has taught me that the opportunities that life presents to us are much like a winding corridor; sometimes it is hard to see what waits at the end but we will never know unless we take those first steps.
U.S. Representative Glenn Thompson (D-PA) and U.S. Senator Jon Tester (D-MT), among many Congressional staff members, showed their support for Career and Technical Education (CTE) at an event on Capitol Hill.

The event, Beyond the Farm: Integrating Agriculture, STEM, and CTE in the 21st Century, was hosted by NASDCTEc and ACTE with the CTE Congressional Caucus as an honorary host. CTE students from across the nation proudly represented their Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) by presenting projects that show how they are learning relevant, high-demand skills through CTE and CTSOs. The event featured projects from students affiliated with: Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA): Business; HOSA—Future Health Professionals: Health Science; National FFA: Agricultural Science; Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA): Family and Consumer Sciences; and SkillsUSA: Landscaping.

Nae Won, HOSA representative, shared her project on the “Zombie Apocalypse,” including a game created on her laptop for a Public Health Emergency Preparedness competition. The booth also featured information on connecting health science and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) curriculum.