

# HOSA at the NASSP Conference

By Jan Rodriguez, National HOSA Post-Secondary Board Representative

**School administrators often ask me, “What is HOSA?”  
My answer is “The organization your students interested in the medical field were looking for.”**

For HOSA members it is second nature to promote this wonderful organization to those who are unaware of its benefits. We know that we can talk about HOSA for hours and hours. I was given the opportunity to do just that. I represented HOSA members around the country with Mrs. Sheila Carlton from Tennessee this past February at the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) conference in beautiful San Diego, California. Aside from the great location, this conference was a great experience for me and a wonderful way for HOSA to be promoted. Throughout the conference I was given the opportunity to talk to school principals from all over the country about what we do, and the benefits of having HOSA in their school. Most individuals I spoke with seemed initially interested in our organization, however, when hearing the benefits that their students can enjoy, they became intrigued.

It became apparent to me that there are some schools that would start HOSA if they knew about it. Principals seemed surprised to find out that we are the only CTSO directly geared towards the medical field. While talking to them they were in awe to find out about our partnership with the Medical Reserve Corps, and our contributions to Autism Speaks. Speaking about our organization made me realize more and more that as a group, we are on the direct path to educational and professional greatness.

We strive for membership increases and strive to be known and heard. This conference takes us one step closer to just that. After the conference I felt a sense of accomplishment knowing that after the NASSP conference, HOSA is closer to becoming a household name. Thank you HOSA members for making this possible, for it is because of your dedication to learning today that makes us serve tomorrow.



**Sheila Carlton, Chairman, HOSA Inc. Board of Directors, and Jan Rodriguez, HOSA National Officer, prepare to work the booth at the NASSP convention in February 2009.**