



by Whitney O'Neal,
National HOSA Region II
Vice President

National Officer Speaks at CTE Public Hearing

On September 25, 2007, there was a Career and Technical Education forum, public hearing, held in Memphis, Tennessee. At this hearing, I was asked to speak from personal experience on the importance of career and technical classes within the secondary level. There was a diverse group of individuals attending the forum. The attendees included individuals who are involved in Career and Technical Education, representatives from secondary and technical education, and representatives from industry. I was invited so that they might see how these classes affect students in high schools who want to pursue careers that deal with career and technical classes.

I was the last asked to speak and I addressed the Health Science aspect of Career and Technical Education. I had prepared an outline and knew exactly what I was going to say. I explained the importance of these classes, and I think I did just that. Some of the information I presented included:

1. Provides students with information concerning the multitude of careers offered in the healthcare industry
2. Helps students to develop their individual interests.
3. Teaches students interpersonal skills.
4. Provides students with the opportunity to become active in a professional organization, Health Occupations Students of America
5. Allows students to articulate with local colleges and earn college credit while in high school at no cost to the student

I expounded on the above points and explained how these classes and HOSA have brought me to where I am today. Without the knowledge, leadership training, and networking I could not have spoken to them with the confidence and poise I was able to convey.

I concluded my speech by stating that Career and Technical Education has played a very important part in my education process. Because of the classes that were offered in high school, I entered college with specific goals that were devised from the information I gained in Health Science classes in high school.

by Alex Edgardo Morales
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Puerto Rico HOSA

Puerto Rico HOSA State Leadership Conference

Being part of the State Leadership Conference is such a great experience. The experience of being with most of the HOSA members and getting to know them and how they work together, plus the experience of interacting with people from other places that probably you have never been to, and getting to know their culture and their tradition. And, most of all, we get to put our own leadership in action with our state partners and the other HOSA members.

At the State Leadership Conference, I was able to put my leadership to work with my parents and interact with other HOSA members.

I recommend attending next year's State Leadership Conference so we can all test our leadership and our skills as leaders and professionals of the health care field. Maybe there are people that tell us not to get involved because it is too hard to reach your goals but I know they are wrong. If a person does his/her best, he/she can reach their career goals and can reach even higher than ever dreamed.

Everyone at the State Leadership Conference has the same beliefs, interests and dreams for success so it is easy to get excited about being with our comrades working together for achievement. Is a state conference really a good experience for a member of HOSA? Guess that you will have to attend yourself to see that it really does make a difference!

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