Design has always been a key passion of mine; that is what encouraged me to enroll in my career center’s Graphic Design and Video Production class. I first participated in SkillsUSA in the T-shirt Design competition, where I earned a gold medal. From that moment on, SkillsUSA began to instill confidence in my abilities and the motivation to reach higher for my own development. This confidence led me to run for state office; my hope is to serve SkillsUSA and its membership because of how much I have benefited from participation. My leadership and confidence, among many other characteristics, have grown immensely from this experience.

Career and technical education has allowed me to become more confident in the skills I possess, while continuing to learn new ones in my desired field. I have learned a variety of programs and design methodologies, as well as best practices for presenting my design to a potential client. This knowledge puts me ahead of other students because I am able to speak about my designs and the path to their creation. CTE allows students to study their passions, while providing them a strong foundation before stepping into college, the workforce, or whichever environment moves them closer to their career goal.

After graduating from high school, I plan to attend Illinois Wesleyan University. My major is undetermined at this time; however, I plan to incorporate design and film into my career path. SkillsUSA has prepared me for my future by improving my design skills along with a variety of personal and professional skills. Today, I am comfortable in front of people and I know I am capable of doing anything I set my mind on; this is all because of the lessons I learned in SkillsUSA.