My adventure in SkillsUSA began when I had the great opportunity to attend my local career center my junior year of high school. My teacher and SkillsUSA advisor strongly promoted the SkillsUSA Illinois L.E.A.D., so I made the decision to attend. During the opening ceremony, it was easy to see myself reflected in the state officers on stage. This likeness was all it took to convince me to run for a state officer position. SkillsUSA has not only developed me into a better person; it has also allowed me to connect with and invest in those around me - within the organization and beyond.

Career and Technical Education has already helped myself out a whole lot. It has helped me understand different aspects of criminal justice that I never knew, or would ever think about learning. Allowing high schoolers to attend these vocational schools can really benefit them in the long run. It can open doors for them that would never be opened if they didn’t have prior training in their respected career field. I want to help promote all of these vocational schools around Illinois, so that more student have the opportunity that I have.

After I graduate high school, I plan to apply for an Army ROTC scholarship and attend a public 4 year university. I plan to major in Criminal Justice studies while concurrently pursuing an Emergency Medical Services certification. I would enjoy working in a public safety role, whether that be Law Enforcement, or EMS. I intend to continue to volunteer within CTE programs in my community any way possible. SkillsUSA has taught me some very important leadership and teamwork skills that I will bring with me anywhere and everywhere I go for the rest of my life.