HOSA’s 2.4 million alumni are key to a successful capital campaign! Having served as Executive Director since 1983, I believe that HOSA members and alumni deserve a headquarters to energize the 250,000 future health professionals and their advisors and recognize the pipeline of future health professionals who are preparing themselves to be the next generation of health providers that will protect us so capably from the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. We will always remember 2020 for the sacrifices made by this nation’s and the world’s healthcare providers. Alumni in the health professions should be proud of the monumental job of always protecting your patients.

In 1976, the Constitutional Convention held in Arlington, Texas, less than twenty miles from the current location of the HOSA Headquarters in 2020, resulted in the decision to establish a career and technical student organization to serve health and biomedical science students exclusively. The largest industry in most states is the health industry and is vital to the health and healthcare of each community, state, and nation.

In 2026, HOSA-Future Health Professionals will gather in Dallas, Texas for the 48th Annual HOSA International Leadership Conference. The significance of 2026 is that we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of HOSA-Future Health Professionals. The original name was Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) except the term “Occupations” was replaced with a more appropriate description of those that complete a portion of their journey to be called “Professionals.” HOSA is a global organization and not restricted to the USA. International membership includes Canada and China and is expected to increase in 2020-2030 and beyond.

HOSA alumni have experienced the value-add that their involvement in HOSA brought to their personal and professional life. They remember their Health Science instructor and HOSA chapter advisor. Alumni members remember the hours of preparation in and out of the classroom to participate in chapter activities and competitive events. They remember the pride when the planning expended in conducting a community service project resulted in a positive accomplishment for those benefiting from their chapter's dedication and commitment. The smiles on the faces of the seniors in the nursing home each time we arrived and conducted a program for them. Those intergenerational experiences benefited you as a HOSA member as much as eliminating a day of loneliness for those who had no family. You probably remember the hours of study and preparation to participate in district competition to seek recognition for your chapter and school and the pride you felt to be called to the stage as a member of the Top Ten Finalists.

We learned to work together on fundraising projects to pay affiliation fees so everyone could be a member of HOSA. Each of us took turns in leading a project and high performers were recognized for their contributions. Some loved fundraisers while others disliked fundraisers but found them essential to fueling the organization's plan of work. In the real world we had similar experiences. Some love and some disliked projects. Regardless, by taking responsibility for projects, we learned to lead and learned to help others and ourselves to be better team members. We helped dictatorial leaders to be more human and it was obvious that we learned more than we realized.
Once we entered the real world, we realized that HOSA was a leadership learning lab. It was a safe lab because we could make mistakes and refine our approach to improve our results. We developed skills, we practiced those skills, we refined our skills, and we achieved more than ever thought possible. We moved from a “me” to a “WE” leadership style and were amazed at how much more could be accomplished when everyone felt ownership of the project. Together, we accomplished.

The same was true with CPR First Aid—we learned best practices in the classroom, then, we developed an awareness of the skills, we practiced, practiced and practiced as if a life depended on us and refined our skills knowing a life, one day, would depend on our skill set.

As a HOSA member, we recognized the value of classroom learning, the chapter meetings since we were in charge of what we wanted to accomplish, we were appointed, assigned or elected to various roles, we practiced, and we represented the chapter at various events, we developed our skills and demonstrated them in competition to seek recognition, we helped each other, together, we realized we could achieve more.

REMEMBER—together—we could do most anything! We did well at the State Leadership Conference! We did well at the International Leadership Conference! HOSA alumni were not surprised when the first responders did well against COVID-19. We were ready—we developed, we were practiced, we have refined our skills to be the best we can be individually and together.

The reason the HOSA, Inc. Board believes that HOSA Alumni are crucial to the Capital Campaign is because you have developed, practiced, and refined your skills, and you know that future health professionals who are currently members of HOSA need the same opportunities you had as a member of HOSA. In the HOSA International Leadership Center for Future Health Professionals, there will be an Alumni Room which will recognize the Alums who invested in the Capital Campaign.

Be an ALUMNI INVESTOR!

WHAT CAN HOSA ALUMNI DO?

1. **Register** as a HOSA Alumnus so we can stay in contact.
2. Share this information with other HOSA alumni.
3. **Invest** in the HOSA International Leadership Center for Future Health Professionals

   Special recognition will be given to ALUMNI INVESTORS who invest $1,000 or more!
   (Range: $10, $25, $50, $100, $250, $500, $1,000, etc.)

Thank you for investing in HOSA-Future Health Professionals!