Where can we find places to volunteer? Will volunteer places even let us participate because of COVID-19? How can we make an impact while everyone is six feet apart?

Volunteering and Community Service are an integral part to how HOSA chapters globally make an impact in their communities. It is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has created obstacles to participating in more traditional community service activities. However, with a bit of creativity and a drive to get involved, you are sure to find ways to still fulfill HOSA's core value of SERVICE. Consider reaching out to past places you have volunteered and see if they have new ideas for volunteering that follow COVID-19 guidelines. Activities such as delivering arts and crafts to a nearby nursing home may be needed as other modes of interaction are no longer feasible.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED AND STAY INVOLVED OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOSA CHAPTER:

- Become a crisis counselor – receive training to aid in response to COVID-19 anxieties and worries in your community
  https://www.crisistextline.org/become-a-volunteer/

- Online tasks for organizations/businesses (not limited to the following)
  - Scan or edit books for people with reading disabilities on Bookshare
    https://www.bookshare.org/cms/get-involved/volunteer
  - Raise awareness and support for PPE, ventilators, and senior support through Health4theWorld
    https://www.health4theworld.org/get-involved
  - Remotely help veterans and their spouses with career prep through mock interviews or job search advice through Hire Heroes USA
    https://www.hireheroesusa.org/volunteer/
  - Send online messages or letters to nursing home residents and staff through Adopt a Nursing Home Program
  - Volunteer to translate on Translators without Borders
    https://translatorswithoutborders.org/volunteer/
  - Be My Eyes and help people with low vision
    https://www.bemyeyes.com/
  - Send a card to someone undergoing chemotherapy
    https://www.chemoangels.com/angel-pre-app

Remember, in all that you do, use your talents! Whether you enjoy writing, singing, performing, babysitting, or drawing, put your strengths towards a good cause. Have fun with what you put your time and energy towards. Stay involved within your community and reach out to those in a time of need. We are in this together!

More ways to get involved can be found at

HOW HOSA HELPS OUR NEIGHBORS

Now, more than ever, blood and platelet donations are needed to save the lives of those in critical condition. Blood Donation organizations have diligent protocols in place to ensure blood donations are as safe as possible such as sterile collection equipment and enhanced disinfection of surfaces. Consider having a socially distant blood drive for your HOSA chapter! Additionally, there are even more things than blood that you can donate! Due to the pandemic, there may be an increased need for canned goods, hygiene products, used clothing, or masks/PPE in your community. Consider having a donation drive to donate to a local charity organization near you! Every small donation has the chance to make an impact in even one life.

As we have all seen, the COVID-19 pandemic has made us all even more aware of the crucial role healthcare workers play in the health of our society. Consider creating care packages for your school nurse, local fire stations, or even local doctor offices! Writing notes of appreciation will definitely brighten their day. As future health professionals, it is important that we recognize and celebrate the constant work our health professionals do to keep us all safe.

Engaging with new or younger HOSA members does not have to stop just because of the COVID-19 precautions. Consider starting up a virtual big siblings, little sibling program in your HOSA chapter! Here, you can virtually mentor new HOSA members on how they can be the most successful in competition, community service, and leadership development. Making sure that newer members are not isolated in the first exposures to HOSA is a great way to boost morale and teambuilding within your HOSA chapter.

Outside of getting involved in HOSA specific service projects, members can find individual volunteer opportunities. Staying connected with each member’s community in this way will provide the opportunity to learn more about the community members serve on a more individualistic level and to learn new skills and passions members may have not discovered yet.
This time a year ago, we could have never imagined the world we currently live in. One year ago, we would not have thought that our only way to communicate with each other would be through video calls, emails, or in some cases, a window. However, this has quickly become a new “normal” for now. While different and new, we as HOSA members have the opportunity to take advantage of this new “normal” and make the best of it, as HOSA members always do.

Some of you may be asking the same question, “How does this new virtual world impact HOSA?” The simple answer is that during this time, we have an opportunity to create new connections that we did not think were possible before. This is a perfect time for every member of HOSA to expand their connections throughout their chapters. In this article, we will discuss just a few ideas to get you started in building connections with other members just like you.

The easiest step you can take to staying involved in HOSA virtually is by following our Twitter and Instagram pages @hosafhp and following us on Facebook. Social media is a key factor in communication and staying up to date with activities and news coming from HOSA Headquarters and your Executive Council. Be sure to follow your state officers and charter association pages in order to stay “in the know” about what is happening in your region. Engage with your state officers and ask them what plans they have for this HOSA year and how you can get involved.

Another way for you to stay involved is to check in with your fellow chapter members, state officers, and your advisors. Schedule a Zoom game night, Facetime about fond HOSA memories, or just send a text checking in on those around you. Throughout history, healthcare professionals have come together during difficult times to support and comfort one another. As future health professionals, we have the power and responsibility to do the very same thing. Reach out to those around you in your HOSA family and stay connected, even if it is through a screen.

A great way to stay involved in HOSA is preparing for your competitive event. If you are new to HOSA or have not competed before, do not worry! Visit www.hosa.org and select the “Competition” tab. Here you will find all the resources you need to get your competitive side active as you prepare to “take home the gold”. For those who have competed before, take review your guidelines and start studying and preparing! There are many online resources available to help you study. Try virtually studying with a friend! This is a great way to test your knowledge while strengthening your connection with a fellow chapter member. Online learning resources are also a great way to get connected with your local teams and state officers. For example, Kahoot! is a great team building platform to quiz your teams and to get connected in a safe way.

HOSA starts with you, the members. So, the best way to stay involved in HOSA this year is to focus on the members of your local chapters. Encourage new members to join Zoom calls and discuss their goals in healthcare. Create a mentorship program between seasoned HOSA members and members who are just beginning their HOSA journey. Get your chapter to write thank you cards to healthcare workers in your community. Most of all, check in on each other. Mental health during periods of uncertainty is very important. Be sure to check on others as well as yourself to make sure we are all staying happy and healthy.

While this is not how we may have envisioned our HOSA year beginning, the opportunities to make an impact on those around us are limitless! HOSA members always lift each other up when we need it the most. Today, we encourage you to reach out to someone and make a difference. We challenge you to help someone else unlock their potential. Once you do that, you will begin to see yours unlock as well. All in all, we want you to know there are endless ways that you can stay involved in HOSA this year. If there is any way that your Executive Council can help you stay involved or get connected, feel free to reach out via social media and email. We would love to help you Unlock Your Potential this HOSA year!
The COVID-19 pandemic has brought forth massive changes in our everyday lives, giving rise to a wide spectrum of emotions and new experiences in a virtual setting. Each of us has experienced this change at different magnitudes, meaning adaptability is imperative. Whether it is finding ways to commit to online school, work, or even maintaining relationships with friends or family, the connecting point for us is finding a new way to live. But we are not alone. Every institution in society has been affected, from Fortune 500 companies to healthcare facilities, to HOSA. Perhaps we can take inspiration from the ways in which these large establishments have adapted under great duress.

BUSINESS UPDATE: WHAT COMPANIES ARE DOING DIFFERENTLY DUE TO COVID

T3 EXPO: T3 Expo shifted gears from hosting trade show/corporate events, to transforming its convention facility to a hospital. Despite the 75% decrease in revenue, effective leadership turned the scenario in their favor by being open-minded and getting prepared for the changing times.  
 
TULTEX: Tultex redirected their production efforts to creating reusable face masks instead of continuing with standard apparel production. This same company pivoted during WW2 to produce military garments in times of need. They have adapted again and produced nearly 2 million washable face masks primarily for healthcare workers.  
 
TESLA: Tesla recognized the shortage of ventilators during the COVID times and set out to address this shortage. The automaker repurposed the tablet-like center display along with other auto parts to build lifesaving breathing machines.  

HEALTHCARE UPDATE: WHAT HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ARE DOING DIFFERENTLY

ICU PROTOCOLS: Hospitals have updated ICU procedures to resemble those of special biocontainment units in attempts to accommodate the influx of COVID patients. ICU workers are monitored immediately after PPE removal to ensure the virus does not spread. Extra layers of protection are used even for minor procedures. To reduce procedures with a high risk of exposure, such as ventilation, health professionals have developed alternatives; instead of intubating critical patients, doctors are now opting to deliver oxygen through nasal passages and airtight masks.  
 
OUTPATIENT CARE: Physicians have largely shifted to tele-medicine to consult with non-emergent patients. Instead of having patients come into the office and risk COVID exposure, health care facilities are now providing virtual services, so that patients can interact with physicians in the safest, most convenient way possible.  
 
COVID TRIAGE: With limited space in hospitals and a high risk of transmission, health administrations have had to think outside the box - literally. Parking lots, hotels, medical offices, and even cruise ships are being considered as alternative triage locations for infected patients. These facilities would be used solely to treat respiratory illnesses associated with coronavirus, in attempts to flatten the curve and increase response time.  

HOW HAS HOSA ADAPTED?  
Clearly, adaptation is key to success in the Era of New Normals. So how has HOSA adapted? HOSA held its first Virtual International Leadership Conference (VILC) in June of 2020, an initiative that challenged our leadership in ways we could not have anticipated. HOSA developed a VILC website to create an environment where members could interact with expo presenters, advisors, and other members, as well as watch the Executive Council on the grand stage LIVE! Though circumstances were less than ideal, we had a total of 7,300 members in attendance!  

What is next in the virtual environment? HOSA is hosting the virtual Global Leadership Academy, another first of its kind, and is actively working to increase social media presence, as well as broader online communication network with HOSA members. It is an incredible, one-of-a-kind year for HOSA: Future Health Professionals!  

The importance of adaptability is not exclusive to large institutions. In your own lives, we encourage you to keep an open mind, a compassionate heart, and a willingness to give up your comfort to revamp your lifestyle. Here are a few tips on adjusting to the new normal:  

• Recognize that this situation is uncertain yet temporary. It is perfectly okay to feel a little lost, confused, or even “out of it” during these times. When you feel like you are losing your drive, or unsure of things, be sure to reach out for help! The biggest mistake is ignoring those feelings instead of addressing them. Think about who you want to be in both the short and long run. Reawaken your passions and regain that drive to stay on track with your bigger career and life goal(s).  
• Technology can be frustrating and troublesome especially given the given the current times. Be patient with how you approach this new digital format. Test your technology before you need it. Explore software that can make online learning and socializing fun (see: Netflix Party). With a little creativity, you will find yourself capable of better digesting content through new teaching and learning styles and using technology to your advantage.  
• Things can easily get out of hand when this newfound freedom and self-responsibility to attend classes and work is all on your shoulders. To stay on track, set a routine! Map out your days to the hour to make sure you are optimizing your time to balance physical and emotional health, academics, social connections, and stress relief! Write down all of your daily tasks, assignments, deadlines, etc., for the upcoming week. Organization is key!  
• Create a dedicated workspace! With our usual workspace being in a classroom setting, sometimes it is hard to focus and be productive. Create a separate workspace away from your bed or couch to focus and get your work done.  

We hope you stay safe and productive this year! Good luck!
UNLOCK YOUR LIFE-SAVING POTENTIAL!

THOUSANDS OF PATIENTS WITH BLOOD CANCERS AND BLOOD DISEASE LIKE LEUKEMIA AND SICKLE CELL ARE SEARCHING FOR THEIR LIFE-SAVING MATCH.

YOU CAN HELP!
Get your chapter involved in the 2020-2022 HOSA Service Project with Be The Match®.

WIN PRIZES! For every dollar raised and new member added to the Registry, your chapter gets closer to awesome prizes, including a trip to tour our Coordinating Center and Biorepository in Minneapolis!

Visit BeTheMatch.org/HOSA to get started.

OUR MISSION: Be The Match saves lives every day by connecting the world’s largest and most diverse registry of donors (22 million) with patients who are a genetic match.

YOUR MISSION: Unlock your life-saving potential! We are excited to partner with your chapter to deliver hope and help to patients and their families.

SEARCHING FOR A MATCH AND A CURE

When Briana was a pre-teen, she often would wake up at night with intense stomach pain. After visiting the hospital, she was diagnosed with aplastic anemia. Doctors said she would need a blood stem cell transplant.

Without a fully matched donor in her family, Briana turned to Be The Match. Fourteen years later, she’s still waiting to find a match.

As an African American, the likelihood of Briana finding a matching donor is only 23%. Currently, there aren’t enough African American donors on the registry to help African American patients.

Today Briana, 26, continues to live life the best she can as a mother, daughter, student and photographer. “I’d like to work in family counseling with a goal to work for the school system,” she says. “But more importantly, I just want to be around for my son.”

The reality is, Briana is sicker than she’s ever been. She battles debilitating pain due to her illness and is constantly at doctor appointments. Briana needs to find a match—soon.

“Blessings come in so many different forms,” she says. “A stranger could come and save my life.”

BE THE MATCH®

CHANCE OF FINDING A MATCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Matched</th>
<th>Overall Match Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>46%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DISRUPT THE DISPARITY: not everyone has an equal chance of finding a match

• RECRUIT: Patients are more likely to match with someone of their same ethnicity, which is why it is crucial to grow and diversify the registry. You can help by educating your community on the need for more donors and inspiring them to join the registry. All it takes is a simple cheek swab.

• FUNDRAISE: $100 adds one new potential life-saving donor to the registry. Every dollar you raise helps grow the registry, provide grants to patient families, and fund research to make transplant safer and more available to all patients.
How 9 CEOs got into Healthcare

Justin Birmele
CEO, ADVENTHEALTH WINTER PARK (FLA.)
Healthcare was always a topic at our dinner table. My parents are both nurses. My mom was in the operating room, and my dad was an emergency department nurse. I was born in the hospital where they were both in nursing school. My brother and I grew up immersed in the environment. In fact, we used to walk to the hospital a few blocks away after school and hang out. As a kid I thought it was the coolest place ever. Clearly times have changed, and hospitals aren’t really the ideal environment for after-school child care. But it really spurred my passion. More importantly, it gave me a front row seat to watching how my parents care for the community. They taught me to always do more than is expected because it always matters in connection with others.

Roxanna Gapstur
PHD, RN, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF WELLSPAN HEALTH (YORK, PA.)
In high school, I had a defining moment with science when a new biology teacher arrived. This individual was charismatic and engaged students in advanced concepts which went beyond general scientific learning in most high schools at the time. He eventually went on to be the director of the Minnesota Zoo. The content he shared spurred my own interest in science, including immunology, genetics and the scientific method. I eventually attended nursing school and connected to the intellectual and relationship challenges inherent in healthcare. After I became a nurse, my first job was on the bone marrow transplant unit at the University of Minnesota, alongside professionals who pioneered stem cell transplants. It was a constant reminder of “finding a better way” to improve the health of populations with certain kinds of diseases. It was also exhilarating to be on the cutting edge of science.

Robert Garrett
CEO OF HACKENSACK MERIDIAN HEALTH (EDISON, N.J.)
I was a political science major in undergrad, and I had some familiarity with the healthcare business, but I was on a different track. However, that path changed after I spoke with a family friend, Sister Mary Jean Brady, who was a hospital administrator at Mercy Hospital in Rockville Centre, N.Y. She spoke to me about healthcare and some of the challenges in the industry. I was so intrigued about what she had to say. She also offered me an internship with the facility. During the internship I rotated through major departments and worked directly with Sister Mary Jean to learn about hospital administration. Through the internship, which was a life-changing experience for me, I was able to see what servant leadership was about, how a hospital really works and how they help the community. I was sold after that experience. I never looked back.

Saju George
REGIONAL CEO, OVERSEEING ONTARIO, CALIF.-BASED PRIME HEALTHCARE’S MICHIGAN HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL GROUPS
The opportunity to make a meaningful difference in people’s lives, especially during difficult times. My exposure to family members who struggled with some healthcare experience is what inspired me to pursue a career in healthcare as a physical therapist. I practiced as a clinician for many years. My passion grew as I learned more about the industry and how we all come together to better care for the patients.

Paul Hiltz
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF NCH HEALTHCARE SYSTEM (NAPLES, FLA.)
My relative, Sister Grace Marie Hiltz, when I was a kid was CEO of Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati. In those days, we’d go visit her, we would walk through the hospital, and I thought it was a fascinating place to work with all the different kinds of people. It made me want to work in a hospital.

Philip Ozuah
MD, PHD, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF MONTEFIORE MEDICINE (NEW YORK CITY)
As far as I can remember, I’ve always wanted to be a doctor. Growing up in West Africa, I was drawn to medicine, to relieving suffering and to enhancing the welfare of humanity. That is my calling in my life – from when I started medical school at a very young age – and my career has been even more meaningful and fulfilling than I had envisaged.

Cliff Robertson
MD, CEO OF CHI HEALTH AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS FOR CHICAGO-BASED COMMONSPIRIT HEALTH’S MIDWEST DIVISION (OMAHA, NEB.)
When I was in fifth grade, I went to my uncle’s medical school graduation, and he took me on a tour through the anatomy lab, where I was fascinated by the human body. From that moment on, I was interested in becoming a doctor. As I progressed through high school and college, I realized that in addition to my love of science, I also wanted to help people.

Terry Shaw
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF ADVENTHEALTH (ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLA.)
I always loved our organization’s mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ and culture of serving people. This is very near and dear to me, and I have dedicated my entire 30-plus year career to this. The way I got into healthcare is an interesting story, but here is the short version: When I was going through college, AdventHealth, then Adventist Health System, would get one finance intern. And when the student who was originally supposed to go was unable to, my professor extended an invitation for me to go instead, and I accepted. It was a fantastic experience.

I went back again the next summer, and when I graduated, I was offered a job. I have been with the organization ever since. I always tell people that I didn’t pick healthcare, but healthcare picked me. I am so thankful for that.

Daryl Tol
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLA.-BASED ADVENTHEALTH’S CENTRAL FLORIDA DIVISION
I have great parents. My mom was a nurse, and my dad was a pastor. They emphasized working for a purpose, and I saw the life-changing (and saving) impact that could make. As a young adult, I shadowed and learned a lot from my now-father-in-law, who was a hospital administrator.
What Should YOU Know REGARDING A PROTECTION FACE MASK IN ORDER to Stay Safe

SCIENTISTS TESTED 14 TYPES OF MASKS AND HERE IS WHAT WORKED AND WHAT DIDN’T!

WELLNESS, August 2020

As over 20 million across the globe have been diagnosed with COVID-19, scientists from Duke University took a look at face masks to see which ones work best in slowing the spread of coronavirus. In their study, they looked at 14 masks including N-95s, N-95s with valves and surgical masks to see how effective each was in keeping droplets from getting out.

“It was mainly focused on the technique, a simple technique to visualize these droplet emissions and the effects of masks,” said Dr. Martin Fisher, an associate research professor from Duke University.

While they found that not all masks are created equal, the experiment confirmed that most face covers cut down the transmission of those droplets.

Right now, the CDC says the blue surgical masks and the white N95 respirators are in “critical supply,” and should be reserved for healthcare workers and other first responders.

According to the Duke experiment, here is a ranking of the six most commonly used masks among the 14 masks researchers tested.

**NECK GAITERS**

Just like bandanas, these popular and fashionable face coverings among runners prior to the pandemic, don’t provide much protection.

Gaiters, which are known for being made of fleece, were found to release a lot of little particles from the wearer and created more tiny droplets than speaking without a mask.

“This mask breaking down big droplets into you, multiple little droplets,” said Fisher. “These little droplets could be problematic because they have an easier time being carried away by air. So they might travel for the distance as opposed to just dropping down to the floor. So, this was problematic.”

**FITTED N95 MASK**

Duke University researchers found that fitted N95 masks, which have a sealed fit around the wearer’s mouth protects the wearer and others around them well.

**SURGICAL MASKS**

According to the study, disposable surgical masks (nonwoven, 3-layer) may seem flimsy, but they are engineered to catch droplets. Doctors say that if you want to be extra safe, add a face shield on top of the surgical mask, which is what they do when they aren’t dealing with a high risk COVID case.

A face shield should never be used to replace a mask.

**COTTON / POLYESTER MASKS**

Researchers found that cotton and polyester masks are a hit or miss. While wearing one will protect you, experts say that more layers are generally better, especially if they are a combination of different materials in different layers (cotton/ polypro blend). And what’s really important is how well it fits and whether there are big gaps.

**VALVED MASKS**

Valved masks were banned from several airlines, and rightfully so. According to the study, researchers found that valved masks allowed droplets to escape through the valve.

“It protects you, the wearer, but it doesn’t protect other people if by chance you have the disease and you don’t know,” said Dr. Eric Westman, an associate professor of medicine at Duke University. “We were very surprised to see how many particles came out of the valve.”

**BANDANAS**

While many have been using bandanas as a face mask alternative, researchers found that it offers very little protection.

**WHAT’S IMPORTANT IN A MASK?**

What’s important to think about when picking a mask? Experts say the key is to pick one that you will wear – one that fits snugly and one that you will keep on and not fidget with. Above all, they say that any mask is better than no mask.
Health with heart.

Yes, we serve millions of people in thousands of locations across the country. But what really matters is the size of our heart. Because every day, in every way, we are passionate about helping people on their path to better health.

We are proud to support HOSA-Future Health Professionals.

Virtual Alumni Homecoming Reception
November 5, 2020 at 7:00 PM CST / 8:00 PM EST!

Bring a HOSA Alumni friend to join the fun and provide input on the 2021 Alumni goals! Please RSVP for this exciting session by clicking the link below or visiting hosa.org/rsvp

RSVP

We look forward to "seeing" you then!

HOSA Future Health Professionals has partnered with GEICO to save you even more on car insurance with a special Alumni Association discount. For your free rate quote, visit GEICO, call 1-800-368-2734, or visit a local GEICO office to find out how much you could save today! GEICO.com/org/HOSA
MEET THE TEAM!
YOUR 2020-2021 HOSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

JAKE KELLEY
PRESIDENT

Career Aspirations: Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Fun Fact: He is a licensed pyrotechnician and a train conductor, and in his free time he likes to drive around back roads taking in the beauty of his home state, Tennessee.

SRICHARAN PUSALA
PRESIDENT-ELECT

Career Aspirations: Physician leader in a hospital
Fun Facts: He loves to dance Bollywood, Bhangra, Hip-Hop, and lots of fusion. He enjoys playing tennis and basketball and studying finance, the market, and business.

EMILY HATHCOCK
POSTSECONDARY/COLLEGIATE VICE PRESIDENT

Career Aspirations: U.S. Surgeon General
Fun Facts: She loves to watch planes land in her free time and cannot function without caffeine.

LJ PASION
EASTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

Career Aspirations: ER Physician or Trauma Surgeon
Fun Facts: She is ambidextrous and grew up playing basketball, football, field hockey, and soccer with her brothers.

ADDISON SOERENSEN
CENTRAL REGION VICE PRESIDENT

Career Aspirations: Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
Fun Facts: She loves tamales and is obsessed with decorating for the holidays. She once broke her face in five places playing powder puff football.

SHREYA SHRESTHA
WESTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

Career Aspirations: Physician with a possible concentration in cardiology
Fun Facts: She is Nepali and a proud owner of a minivan named Eleanor. She has watched New Girl three times through and is passionate about the environment and HOSA.

AARON CASTILLO
POSTSECONDARY/COLLEGIATE BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Career Aspirations: FDA Commissioner
Fun Facts: He loves to bake and is considering attending pastry school. His favorite Starbucks drink is a vanilla sweet cream cold brew.

JENNIFER OKOLO
SECONDARY BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Career Aspirations: Career focused in Medicine, Public Policy, and Ethics
Fun Facts: She is a barista, former dancer and volleyball player, and writes to her pen pals in Egypt and the UK in her free time.
Hello HOSA-Future Professionals, I hope you are all doing well! My name is Varsha Katoju and I am the 2020-2021 Florida HOSA President. Florida HOSA was confronted with unprecedented circumstances this March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Like many others, we had to cancel our State Leadership Conference. I was devastated, and so was my past state officer team. We knew how much SLC meant to our members and we could not deliver on our promises. Nevertheless, as a phoenix rises from the ashes, Florida HOSA has turned another cheek. We knew that COVID-19 would prevent members from seeing each other safely at any conferences that we planned to host in the 2020-2021 school year. Therefore, as the rest of the world was finding a virtual alternative to events, we did as well. We took advantage of our Florida HOSA Instagram account (@flhosa) and created the Monthly Focus Initiative. This initiative strives to encourage members to focus on a different topic of relevance each month and create social media posts with their chapter to educate their communities about the monthly focus topic. For the past three months, chapters from all around the state have posted information to educate their communities about the Florida HOSA monthly focus topic. In July, we asked our members to focus on National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month. In August, we asked them to focus on National Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month. This month, we asked them to focus on National DNA, Genomics, and Stem Cell Education Month. We have seen amazing creativity and initiative from our members. Each month, the chapter that has the highest number of posts about the monthly focus receives a shoutout on the Florida HOSA Instagram and the Florida HOSA website. Not only has Florida HOSA seen increased engagement with our members via social media, but we have also seen other state associations create monthly awareness topic posts. We will continue to release monthly focus topics for the rest of the 2020-2021 school year and we hope that they continue to bring valuable information to our HOSA-Future Health Professionals Community!
HELPING STUDENTS LAUNCH THEIR HEALTHCARE CAREER WITH CERTIFICATION

Participating in CTE health science programs opens up opportunities for a wide variety of students. As students have already chosen the healthcare path, you can accelerate their career-readiness by allowing them to pursue certification. When students graduate with credentials next to their name, they can move forward with confidence, are able to move forward to provide clinical support as part of a patient care team, manage administrative tasks critical for a successful healthcare business, and more.

CTE health science programs can also help college-bound students create a pathway to success. Earning an accredited national industry credential through a CTE program creates a competitive edge for students, strengthening their college applications. Additionally, CTE programs are good for schools. In 2020, NHA conducted a self-reported study with CTE programs across America and results revealed that students involved in CTE had higher graduation rates.

You can make a difference in the lives of our future healthcare heroes. Learn how today at: https://info.nhanow.com/ctesuccess

The HOSA International Leadership Conference includes:

- Exciting general sessions
- Exhibits presented by health organizations and associations
- Competitive events focused on leadership, professional and technical skills
- Annual business of the international student organization of HOSA by the voting delegates
- Educational Seminars & Workshops presented by professional partners that provide information about current health care issues
- An opportunity to meet people from across the globe with similar career goals
- Fun, excitement, recognition, and opportunity for all HOSA members!

LEARN MORE at HOSA.org