



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SkillsUSA Washington gains final approval from council for the First Youth-Focused Statewide Apprenticeship Program in Washington History

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SkillsUSA Washington is proud to announce the approval of Washington State's first-ever youth-focused statewide apprenticeship program, this 8,000 hour approved program was designed to prepare high school and college students for careers as journey level diesel technicians. This historic milestone marks a significant step forward in providing young people with access to high-quality training, industry certifications, and real-world experience in the heavy equipment and diesel technology fields.

This groundbreaking program was made possible through the collaboration and support of key partners, including **RDO Equipment Co.**, **The Pape Group**, the **Youth Workforce Development Foundation (YWDF)**, and the **Association of Equipment Distributors (AED) Foundation**. Their commitment to addressing the workforce needs of the heavy equipment industry and investing in the next generation of skilled technicians has been instrumental in bringing this initiative to life.

We also extend our deepest gratitude to the **Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (LNI)**, **State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)** and then **Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council (WSATC)** review committees/board and council for their thorough review, thoughtful consideration, and ultimate recommendation to approve this program.

"This program represents more than just training—it's a pathway to a future full of opportunities for Washington's youth," said Karmen Warner, Executive Director, SkillsUSA Washington. "By connecting students with leading employers and equipping them with essential skills, we are empowering the workforce of tomorrow. SkillsUSA Washington is so very proud of its members. We are on a mission to be able to make their experience through our program worth so much more!" Here's to paving the way for our youth in a critical and growing field—today's youth, tomorrow's workforce.

About SkillsUSA Washington

SkillsUSA Washington is dedicated to preparing students for careers in trade, technical, and skilled service occupations by providing them with leadership and technical skills. Through innovative programs like this apprenticeship, we aim to empower students and build a stronger, more skilled workforce for Washington State and beyond. SkillsUSA is America's proud champion of the skilled trades.

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