



The Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations

The Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations (MFSO) was created in 1996 [[Mn State Statute 124D.34](#)] to provide leadership and oversight of the Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) in Minnesota.

Career and Technical Student Organizations support the rigorous academic content of career and technical education (CTE) programs. CTSOs ensure students are meeting industry skill standards and are prepared for employment. They also provide students with a comprehensive framework of leadership, personal and employability skills. CTSOs are considered an integral part of student's CTE program.

Why CTSOs?

- CTSOs help students develop “soft” skills. Each CTSO helps students develop life-long skills such as interpersonal relationships, teamwork, decision making, and setting and achieving goals.
- CTSOs help students develop **leadership skills**. Research has shown that CTSO members are more likely to take active roles in their community.
- CTSOs provide **experiential learning**. Each CTSO utilizes a **hands-on approach to learning**, whether it be leadership training or a competitive event.
- CTSOs provide opportunities for **recognition**. Students are provided a wide range of activities that **showcase their technical skills** in an arena where they can be **recognized by business and industry professionals**.
- CTSOs offer members the opportunity to earn scholarships and other career and education related rewards for participation in leadership and competitive events.

Values

Equity and Access. Facilitating inter-curricular career and technical education, applied learning and leadership opportunities to underserved, nontraditional and special populations through flexible and accessible pathways increasing the chance of program completion.

Inclusion and Representation. Helping CTSOs develop strategies to create a culture of diversity and inclusion within membership. Supporting CTSO structures that actively seek diverse leadership reflecting student and advisor populations drawing on a wide variety of experience and wisdom.

Community Partnerships. Employing forward thinking on building external relationships; creating strong partnerships in education, business and industry aligning with career pathways to meet both student and workforce needs.

Experiential and Applied Learning. Supporting the uniquely defined role of CTSOs to prepare students through real-world experiences and applied learning opportunities aligning with a specific career-pathway, as an effective educational tool.

Classroom Excellence. Recognizing students deserve to have access to high-quality career and technical education programs and be taught by quality instructors who have real-world knowledge in the field they are teaching.



Minnesota Career and Technical Student Organizations

[DECA/Collegiate DECA](#)

The mission of DECA and Collegiate DECA is to enhance the education of all students with interests in marketing, management or entrepreneurship. DECA assists students in developing skills and competencies for marketing careers, while building self-esteem, experiencing leadership, and providing community services.

[BPA/Collegiate BPA](#)

The mission of Business Professionals of America (BPA) is to contribute to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills. BPA provides educational experiences that further develop social intelligence, civic consciousness, leadership skills and self-esteem for its members

[FFA](#)

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) education. By accomplishing our mission, FFA grows leaders, builds communities and strengthens agriculture. The FFA award and degree programs recognizes students for excellence in academics, career development, leadership and community service.

[HOSA](#)

The mission of Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) is to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of all health science technology education students, therefore, helping students to meet the needs of the health care community.

[FCCLA](#)

The mission of FCCLA is to promote personal growth and leadership development through Family and Consumer Sciences education. Focusing on the multiple roles of family member, wage earner and community leader, members develop skills for life through character development, creative and critical thinking, interpersonal communication, practical knowledge, and career preparation.

[SkillsUSA](#)

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA helps each student excel. SkillsUSA's mission is to empower its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens.

Career and Technical Student Organizations are in more than **85% of public school district** career and technical education programs.

Minnesota's CTSOs serve more than **25,000 student members** across the state.

Collectively, the inter-curricular student organizations have more than **600 public school chapters** throughout Minnesota.

From Roseau to Blue Earth and Breckenridge to Stillwater; CTSOs are embedded into classrooms as an **integral part of career and technical education.**

