Letter from the President

Dear Oklahoma HOSA Members and Advisors,

The new academic year is now in full swing as the 2011-2012 Oklahoma HOSA Executive Council’s term is slowly drawing to a close. Since the last newsletter, a few of your state officers were given the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. in September for Washington Leadership Academy to learn more about how to effectively lead, connect with HOSA state officers from around the nation, meet with staff of Oklahoma’s congressmen, and experience the vibrant history that has shaped the United States of America. For many of us, it was our first time to visit the capital of our country and we couldn’t have asked for a better experience. In October, we will begin passing the torch to a new group of passionate state officers through the interview and selection process, and Fall Leadership Conference will be a time of memories and excitement for all that the new team can accomplish.

It is inspiring to see the enthusiasm of new members and the fresh faces that will have amazing opportunities through HOSA. My HOSA journey and many of the state officers’ journeys are ending, but many of your journeys are just beginning. My advice to you would be to experience HOSA with no regrets. Be as participative as you can be in your chapter, compete in all of the events you are able to, and meet all the future health professionals in this organization that you can. You can make a difference in this organization-you can bring about incredible change. Speaking with your state officers or becoming a state officer is one of the best ways to do so! Being involved in HOSA has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. It has pushed me to leave behind my comfort zone and do things I never thought possible. I was able to go to places I had only dreamed of going to, meet people who have influenced me and made me a better person, and develop a greater passion for the medical field. This, too, can be your story!

I wish all of you the greatest success in HOSA and in your future pursuits. Thank you for giving the state officer team the opportunity to serve you this year. We had an incredible year and cannot wait to see where this incredible organization goes in years to come.

Regards,

Abigail Jebaraj
State HOSA President
WLA Experience

From September 15-18, a few of your state officers travelled to Washington D.C. for Washington Leadership Academy (WLA), an annual meeting for state officers around the nation. The conference was divided into themes: Know Thyself, Know Thy Country, and Know Thy Industry. By exploring these categories, we were able to learn more about our leadership styles and how to work as a team, learn about our country’s history and visit the memorials, and explore the history of medicine and the future of healthcare through speaking with our country’s leaders.

As a part of WLA, the state officers were able to visit two of the Smithsonian museums, the memorials near the National Mall, the National Museum of Health and Medicine, the National Institute of Health, Arlington Cemetery, National Archives, and the offices of our congressmen. Additionally, we explored the life of Abraham Lincoln through several museums near Ford’s theatre and the house where he passed away.

Some of the highlights included watching the changing of the guard ceremony and our National President David Kelly and National President-Elect Antonio Hernandez laying a wreath on behalf of HOSA at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, going on a twilight tour to the different memorials, participating in a scavenger hunt around the memorials with officers from other states, and getting the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view the “fifth page” of the Constitution, which had never been displayed to the public before at the National Archives and is signed by George Washington. We truly experienced the history of our country that week.

On the last day, we met with the staff of four congressmen and were able to share with them about our organization, how it has influenced us as members, and how it is relevant to legislation. We discovered that HOSA relies on Perkins funding, which was being debated at the time. Additionally, we were able to speak with them about the Medical Reserve Corps, a partner of HOSA, and the proposed changes that would move it from the Office of the Surgeon General. We were able to see the importance of the relationship between healthcare and the government.

We made strong friendships with our fellow HOSA officers from other states and learned how their state associations worked. We saw places we had only ever seen in history textbooks or films. We were able to spread the word about our organization with people from tourists to the staff of our country’s leaders. WLA summed up in one word: amazing.

Abigail Jebaraj
Oklahoma HOSA State President
WLA Experience

That’s a wrap for Washington Leadership Academy! I think I can say for the four state officers who were privileged to attend that this was the best WLA in history, with over one hundred and twenty state officers in attendance.

I have never been to our Nation’s capital before, yet I felt at home with my HOSA family. We brought back leadership skills and team building exercises. We also met with our congressional representatives and senators to discuss furthering our career tech organizations in Oklahoma. National HOSA even set up private tours of the National Museum of Health and Medicine and the National Museum of American History. Plus, we enjoyed a twilight tour of the West National Mall. All of the Oklahoma HOSA members enjoyed many wonderful experiences. Although our trip lasted only four days, the memories we created will last a lifetime.

Rikki Weidner
Oklahoma HOSA State Parliamentarian
Welcome From National HOSA

What can you say to excite the members of an organization of over 138,000? What can you say to excite students who have been awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships, traveled to some of the country’s most thrilling cities, and networked with people from across the world?

This is only the beginning.

On behalf of the HOSA National Executive Council, welcome to HOSA 2012: Build a Better You! We’re switching things up this year with numerous game-changing ideas that have come directly from our members. Look for these dramatic changes in the coming months, and be sure to prepare for your competitions by noting some of the recent changes to our event guidelines. As the year progresses I encourage you to connect with National HOSA on Facebook, or to join the conversation on Twitter @nationalhosa. I also encourage you to engage your chapter, state, and national officers in conversations about HOSA, networking, or just career-building. The pinnacle event of the year will be next year’s National Leadership Conference, held in Nashville, Tennessee! We’re excited to be bringing things to the next level in all that we do. If you have an idea for us, please contact us at hosa.org. Also visit the website to look for new and innovative ways to get involved. Oklahoma HOSA has always set the bar for what our state associations can accomplish. Continue this by celebrating this year with HOSA: Build a Better You!

David Kelly
National President
HOSA: Future Health Professionals
SOTC’s Volunteers for a Real World Scenario!

Twenty-four HOSA Practical Nursing Students and three instructors from Southern Oklahoma Technology Center, (SOTC) were given a unique opportunity to go beyond the classroom, and participate in a mass casualty disaster drill involving a large jet liner at the Ardmore Airpark. This gave the students the chance to use their skills outside the Acute Care setting that they were used to, and allowed them to improve on the skills required to save lives in a disaster setting. A part of the simulation that the students focused on was identifying which patients to be treated first based on the severity of their injuries. Several students stated that they were honored to participate in an event of this magnitude. They all stated that they had a great time and learned a lot from witnessing all that goes into disaster preparation.

SOTC HOSA members were taught service-based learning and focusing on community service as a priority. The students all agreed that it was a memorable experience, and now have a better understanding of the massive effort it takes to prepare for these events. After participating in the simulation, one student (Jamie Trivett) said she would love to participate in the next event to see the results of further training.

Matthew Orsburn
Oklahoma HOSA State Treasurer
Hello Oklahoma HOSA!

As the school year begins, I had the privilege of visiting Pontotoc Technology Center to talk with their students about CareerTech Student Organizations including HOSA. While I was there, I was truly astonished at the professionalism, enthusiasm, and the deep love of HOSA that the students and faculty had. PTC has an extraordinary HOSA chapter that hosts community events and activities to not only raise money for Cystic Fibrosis, but also raise awareness. The students are eager and passionate about how to achieve all that HOSA offers. I had the opportunity to share with the students my personal HOSA testimony of how it has impacted my life. Moreover, I was truly inspired when many of the students took the first step into their future by coming up to me and asking how they too can become a state officer. It is astonishing to me how one person’s story can impact and motivate another to achieve success. Overall, I walked away understanding more about my personal life story. I learned that my story will continue to grow throughout my life. It has no deadline, no due date, and no final grade. It is unique to me and I have truly inspired a generation. I challenge everyone to develop their own personal story and share it with as many people as possible. You never know who you will inspire.

Thank you so very much to the amazing staff at Pontotoc Technology and the brilliant, motivated students that made this possible!

Raquel Domann
Oklahoma HOSA State Reporter

Alumni Corner

A member of HOSA from 1989-1991, Andrea Pogue knows the impact that HOSA can have on students’ lives. Originally from Pontotoc Technology Center in Ada, Pogue had the opportunity to compete in Parliamentary Procedure, CPR/First Aid and Outstanding HOSA Student, for which she was recognized nationally in Orlando in 1999. She is now a registered nurse, finds time to share her HOSA testimony as a public speaker, and she is now serving on the National ACTE Board. She encourages all students to take every opportunity HOSA has to offer… you will not regret your decision!
HOSA member, Brooke Harris being recognized for LPN Student of the Month!!!
Letter From the Editor

To my fellow Oklahoma HOSA members,

What a year it has been! Your state executive council have been honored to represent you during the past year. However, in just a few short weeks, we will be welcoming a new state officer team. I can reassure all of you, you are in very good hands. Your state executive council has met with, interviewed, and slated the best, most passionate candidates. These candidates will represent you very well in the year to come. Reflecting on the past year, your state executive council has broken ground on many different projects. We welcomed the Oklahoma HOSA Facebook Page, continued to connect with our members with the HOSA Heartbeat, networked with members from across our state, and watched as one of our very own, David Kelly, become National HOSA President. Our last project is to unveil the Oklahoma HOSA Recruitment video at Fall Leadership Conference. None of this would have been possible if it had not being for the drive and passion of Oklahoma HOSA members. You are the backbone of our outstanding organization. On behalf of your 2011-2012 Oklahoma HOSA State Officer Team, thank you for your passion for healthcare and love of HOSA!

Do not miss the welcoming of the new state executive council and the unveiling of the Oklahoma HOSA Recruitment video at Fall Leadership Conference 2012!

It has truly been my honor to report to our members in the past year,

Sincerely,

Raquel Domann

Oklahoma HOSA State Reporter
See you at
Fall Leadership Conference!

October 16, 2012

www.okhosa.org