



The Value of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA): A National Perspective

Quick Facts:

- HOSA is a student-led Career and Technical Organization totally focused on preparing future health care professionals.
- HOSA has 47 (soon to be 49) state affiliates.
- Nationwide there are 130,000+ HOSA high school, college, and alumni members.
- The US Department of Education (DOE) endorses HOSA, and **all** state affiliates are endorsed by their DOE.
- Twenty-five (25) of the 47 HOSA State Advisors are employed directly by the state DOE; several other states have DOE oversight through grants.
- The healthcare industry is a major economic driver in nationwide, and particularly in Massachusetts; at the top of high demand, high wage, and high-skilled occupational areas.
- Dr. Regina Benjamin, U.S. Surgeon General was the the keynoter at the 2011 HOSA National Leadership Conference (NLC), and addressed nearly 7000 students.
- At the NLC, HOSA's Hero Award was presented to Daniel Hernandez, a 20-year-old HOSA alumni credited with saving the life of Congresswoman Gabrielle Gifford in Tucson, AZ, January 8th, following a public shooting.
- HOSA's curricular resources are free and on-line; other career and technical student organizations charge for similar materials.
- HOSA offers 58 healthcare industry endorsed competitive events; they are utilized throughout the academic year as instructional resources.
- HOSA's Competitive Events Program includes four events specifically designed for students with disabilities.
- HOSA members are eligible for national scholarships through industry partnerships.
- The US Surgeon General's office hosts summer internships in Washington, DC for HOSA members annually.
- HOSA has close working relationships with AHECs in various states. Florida HOSA, the second largest HOSA state association, is managed by an AHEC in concert with the Florida Department of Education. Similar relationships exist in Massachusetts, Montana, Alaska, Louisiana, and South Dakota. Other states are considering AHEC partnerships because of the aligned missions between the organizations.
- HOSA has launched a series of studies to demonstrate the synergistic benefits of the Health Science/HOSA partnership and retention results in the healthcare industry pipeline when students are involved in HOSA chapter activities.
- Dr. Jim Koeninger, Executive Director of HOSA, is currently the Chairman of the National Coordinating Council of Career and Technical Student Organizations.
- HOSA, Inc. has a Washington, DC office that provides an economical ongoing presence in our nation's capital.



HOSA's structure and philosophy:

- Chapters are modeled like small learning communities where students hold meetings and work as a team to develop a business plan of action that includes **career exploration and development, community service**, and activities that promote effective **leadership**.
- Chapter, State, and National Officer Teams serve as peer leaders, building and demonstrating the professional skills needed in today's workforce.
- Conferences are akin to learning labs where health science skills and knowledge are recognized through the Competitive Events program and professional behavior is refined.
- The National Healthcare Foundation Standards are used to establish rubrics to evaluate student performance in the competitive events program.
- HOSA uses awards and recognition in the same manner that the healthcare industry identifies "outstanding employees" as models.