

## **NJDOE News**

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## New Jersey Vocational Student Organization Leadership Council Celebrates Vocational-Technical Education Week

The New Jersey Vocational Student Organization (VSO) Leadership Council will meet today with leaders from business, industry, and government as one of the activities in celebration of Vocational-Technical Education Week. The meeting is being sponsored by the New Jersey Business & Industry Association, 102 West State Street, Trenton, NJ.

The meeting is designed to include all the state presidents from New Jersey's Vocational Student Organizations and serve as an opportunity for student leaders to increase their VSO awareness and share the accomplishments of their respective organizations.

"Vocational education is vital to our efforts in promoting a variety of educational opportunities for students throughout the state of New Jersey," said Commissioner of Education William L. Librera. "The Department wholeheartedly supports the Vocational Student Organization Leadership Council's efforts and willingness to meet and share their success stories with each other."

Vocational Student Organizations are an integral part of vocational-technical education instructional programs. They promote leadership, personal growth and career success among their members. VSOs serve to instill in their members the values and ideals of citizenship, volunteerism, patriotism and cooperation. Seven VSOs serve more than 37,000 youth in New Jersey through membership in DECA; Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA); Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA); National FFA Organization; Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA); SkillsUSA; and Technology Students of America (TSA).

The VSO Leadership Council, comprised of the presidents from each of the seven organizations, was formed three years ago to provide an opportunity for the leaders to work together and learn about their respective organizations. The state presidents meet quarterly to discuss current events and activities in their organizations. Recently, the leadership council officially voted to work together on a community service project to benefit the building of a Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick.

For more information about this week of events, please contact the Department of Education Public Information Office at (609) 292-1126.