

June 29, 2010

Joint Operating Committee
Erie County Technical School

Dear Directors:

Yuliya Avatyuk (Health Assistant Graduate) and I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your allocation of funds to allow us to participate in the SkillsUSA National Competition in Kansas City – June 21 through June 26. The experience was a “once in a lifetime” opportunity that we both loved.

The excitement began when we landed in Kansas City with our fellow PA competitors. Our airplane had a hydraulic failure and, as a precaution, we evacuated on the runway through the emergency exit by jumping off the wing. The students loved it; the advisors – not so much. But, we were all safe and had something “thrilling” to talk about the rest of the week.

The competition experience itself was wonderful. It featured a massive expo with the latest technology, employment opportunities and instructional material. We were able to attend workshops and meetings on the future vision for Technical Education in the U.S. We were treated to an ice cream social and an evening at an amusement park, and had the chance to network with other advisors, delegates and competitors.

The opening and closing ceremonies were impressive and extremely well organized. Yuliya competed in the category of “Medical Math” by taking a 2.5 hour test on Thursday. She placed tenth of twenty-one competitors. I was very proud of her – she was poised and professional throughout the entire week; truly an excellent representative of the Erie County Technical School.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to learn and to make lifelong memories. We are very grateful for your belief in and support of us.

Sincerely,

Elaine Shaffer