

**April
2020**

VILC 2020



Sricharan Pusala
State President

Change Through HOSA

ignite an unyielding, passionate flame for healthcare. Daring to take this initial step to join an organization that boldly stood as the pipeline of health professionals into the healthcare industry was a decision that changed my life.

In retrospect, hearing such words from past State Officers would always seem cliché. However, in a lot of situations, it isn't until you complete your journey that you truly understand. This is no different. After completing my journey in Florida HOSA, I can attest to such feelings expressed. Feelings of immense gratitude, immeasurable growth, and pride for the organization we are a part of.

The more time you spend with people, the more you begin to build a certain affinity towards their personality, character, and interests. Spending these last 5 years

Five years ago, a decision to sign my name on a piece of paper, enclose \$60 in a neatly sealed envelope, and convince my parents to let me join this career technical student organization, was exactly what kick-started my HOSA journey. Registering for a competitive event on my advisor's desktop as she excitedly encouraged me to choose an event to compete in was the spark that would

in this HOSA family has cultured in me practical healthcare knowledge, technical skills, and the mindset needed to one day serve as a physician and inspire individuals around me towards a purpose. Florida HOSA, you have given me purpose for the last 5 years. You've accepted me into this global family and sculpted me into who I am today. You've selected me to serve you for the past 2 years alongside impeccable teams. You've truly changed my life and left a positive impact on me that I will forever cherish and remember. I believe HOSA has the power to renovate and refine our lives while providing us with the technical skills to heal others' lives. HOSA is a testament to positive change at the highest level. A change that I've seen fostered in myself and those around me. Thank you, Florida HOSA!

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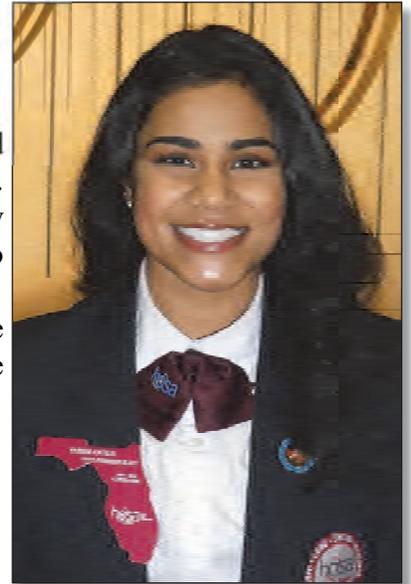
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Your New State Officers!!!

Without the 2020 State Leadership Conference, it seems Team 19 never had the opportunity to properly say farewell to our outstanding members and advisors. Our team has tried to serve Florida HOSA honorably this past year, but it is now time to say goodbye. Even in turbulent times, Florida HOSA works diligently to make sure that this organization forges through the fog into the future.

Just as a phoenix rises from its ashes, Team 20 has risen to help carry on the Florida HOSA legacy. It gives me great pleasure to introduce your new State Officers:

- Your State Parliamentarian - Keyshawn Davis from USF!
- Your State Southern Vice-President Secondary - China Simpo from Flanagan High School!
- Your State Northern Vice President PS/C - Joshua Hanlon from UCF!
- Your State Northern Vice-President Secondary - Neha Dantuluri from King High School!
- Your State President-Elect - Rhea Pitale from Middleton High School!
- And I am honored to be your new State President!



Varsha Katoju
State President - Elect

The members of this team come from diverse backgrounds and training them to work together is crucial for their success. The New Officer Conference (NOC) will inform Team 20 of the ins-and-outs of being a Florida HOSA State Officer. The new team will be put through team-building activities to get to know each other, and even themselves, on another level. They will practice speeches and be informed of various rules, policies, and etiquette. After taking this opportunity to understand each other and this organization, Team 20 will be better prepared to serve you next year. We are truly excited for the new State Officer Team to be able to meet our wonderful members and advisors! This new year brings many unknowns, but I am confident in knowing that the members of Florida HOSA are strong and ready to take on the future together!



Neha Dantuluri
Northern VP, Sec.

Thank you, Advisors!

Vince Lombardi once said "Individual commitment to a group effort: That is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." Although we were unable to have the 2020 State Leadership Conference, I want to extend a special thank you to our advisors! From your impact on the members of Florida HOSA to the State Officers, your commitment to this organization will never go unnoticed. Whether it was FLDA or your Regional Conference, your support of this organization is simply phenomenal! Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to uplift, motivate, and guide our members. Thank you for believing in us and encouraging us in innumerable ways. But most importantly, thank you for changing something within us. Your tireless effort and enthusiasm to aid future health professionals motivates us to work harder than ever before. In truth, you are the wheels that keep driving this organization towards tomorrow. Florida HOSA would not be what it is without you!

As we step into the future, let's not dwell on what did not happen, but instead reminisce on the lessons learned and countless memories we have shared this past year. It has been an honor serving you all! And remember, what feels like the end is often the beginning.



Staying Involved With HOSA as a Postsecondary Member

It Doesn't Have To End This Way!

Class of 2020, my love and support goes out to each of you for the way your senior year has gone. I know for many of you the State Leadership Conference was going to be a highlight of your senior year, but unfortunately, the pandemic made it impossible. Many of you may be saddened thinking that your HOSA years are now over and how the memories have ended so abruptly - but they don't have to! Florida HOSA has Postsecondary/Collegiate chapters throughout the state at various colleges and universities. By becoming a member of these chapters, you would have the opportunity to compete, attend conferences, and make many more years of lasting memories. If you end up going to a college that doesn't have a HOSA chapter like I did, there is no need to worry. All you need to do is get 5 other members and an advisor in order to successfully start a chapter. If you are interested in starting your own chapter visit the

Brandon Shadeed
Northern VP, PS/C

Florida HOSA website at www.flhosa.org/resourcespublications/starting-a-chapter/.

Florida HOSA is lucky to have an association that is an affiliate - the Florida HOSA Alumni & Professional Association (FHAPA). After college, many people think that their HOSA journey will come to an end, but with FHAPA, you can stay involved with Florida HOSA. There is a \$10 membership fee, and being a part of FHAPA will give you the chance to network with other alumni, volunteer at regional and state conferences, or even present a workshop.

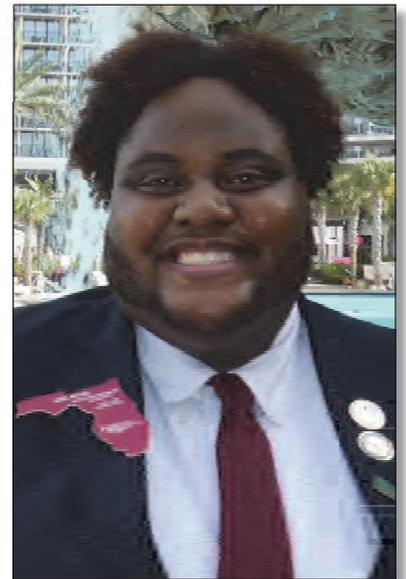
Once again, Class of 2020, Florida HOSA doesn't want your HOSA journey to end. While this may be a big challenge, we are confident we will see all of you on the other side!



HOSA Service Project Support

Hello again, Florida HOSA! Did you know that 43 children are diagnosed with cancer daily? Although we may not all have experienced it first hand, cancer in children is fairly prevalent and is the number-one leading cause of death by disease among children today. Our HOSA Service Project for the past two years has been in collaboration with the National Pediatric Cancer Foundation (NPCF), a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to research and clinical trials to find less toxic, more effective treatments for childhood cancer. For more information on the National Pediatric Cancer Foundation, check out www.nationalpcf.org/ or @pediatriccancer on Instagram!

Florida HOSA, with your contributions to the HOSA Service Project, you have served greatly - and not only on the monetary front. How you may ask? Together we have raised awareness with various challenges and Spirit Day posts, we have spread facts about the NPCF and childhood cancer to share others, and although we may not have met at SLC this year, through efforts like the Penny Wars, we have raised over \$11,000 to give to the NPCF! Thank you all for your support; we are excited to see what you all can do for the next HOSA Service Project!



Noel Michel
Southern VP, Sec.

HOSA Year In Review



Joshua Hanlon
Parliamentarian

may not have been able to attend the 2020 State Leadership Conference due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, but it is important to remember we are all in this ride together. As we wait for our ride to continue, we hope that you remain in your seats at all times! Whether this was your first year or what you think is your last year in HOSA, we hope that you continue to support HOSA. See you soon friends!

The 2019 - 2020 year has been a true rollercoaster ride of emotions! In the summer of 2019, we were strapping up for the best ride yet. However, while we were excited to begin the rollercoaster, they hit us with an unexpected drop in August due to Hurricane Dorian. If not for the resilience and optimism of Florida HOSA and our members we could have kept our eyes closed for the rest of the ride, but we didn't! Because of this we got to experience some of the best Fall Leadership Conferences celebrating the National Pediatric Cancer Foundation and electing Regional Leaders. While you were hard at work, so were your State Officers at the Washington Leadership Academy where we prepared to serve you better. It was almost as if our rollercoaster was rising so fast we couldn't see the tracks in front of us. In a blink, it was November 15th and the Fall Leadership Development Academy began where "Spreading Leadership throughout the Galaxy" was our theme. As we rose and rose, our twelve regions all across Florida commenced their Winter Leadership Conferences. Suddenly, it was as if our ride just stopped abruptly, pausing for what seems like an eternity. We

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

— Maya Angelou



Florida HOSA Foundation Scholarships

Florida HOSA State Officer Award - \$1,000

Eklia St-Leger
William H. Turner Tech.
Advisor: Brenda Lainez

Julia Eby - \$800
Gainesville High School
Advisor: Janine Plavac

Kaliyah Graham - \$800
Deltona High School
Advisor: Brandy Meadows

Sapna Maharaj - \$800
Palm Beach Gardens High School
Advisor: Robert Bean

Joan Melendez - \$800
Bellevue High School
Advisor: Sara Glisson

Dr. Etta McCulloch Award - \$1,100
Postsecondary
Daniel Zuniga
Florida State University
Advisor: Maria Whyte

OUTSTANDING ADVISORS OF THE YEAR

Florida HOSA greatly appreciates the time and effort each advisor puts forth every year to see our members succeed. Indeed, Florida HOSA would not be one of the leading State Associations it is today without its talented and caring advisors. Because our members also recognize the impact advisors have on students' lives, many of them nominated their advisors for these awards. While each Florida HOSA advisor is certainly deserving, our Outstanding Advisors this year are:

Outstanding Postsecondary Rookie Advisor:

Emlyn Anderson
Indian River State College

Outstanding Middle School Advisor:

Patricia Smith
Lake Weir Middle School

Outstanding Secondary Chapter Advisor:

Lema Gilliard
MAST @ Homestead

Thank you for all that you do!

THE 2020 FLORIDA HOSA HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER AWARD

This prestigious award was given to two extraordinary people this year.

Pat Hird was the HOSA Chapter Advisor at Flanagan High School for more than 20 years and has been instrumental in helping at both regionals and states in multiple facets. From running events and conference management assistance to handling other issues that arise, Pat is always willing to jump in and support the organization and its members. She may have retired, but she still has not let go of HOSA (thankfully) as she has agreed to be the volunteer Treasurer for the Florida HOSA Foundation.

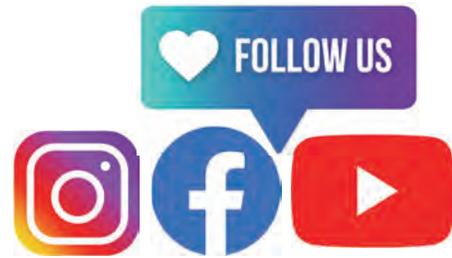
Angela Mates is the Postsecondary Regional Advisor for the Sunset (6) Region of Florida HOSA serving on the Florida HOSA Board of Directors since 2013 and assisting on several committees. She has faithfully volunteered as the SLC Courtesy Corps Coordinator since 2015 and prior to doing so, served as an Event Manager. Angela has also worked diligently to grow the membership of the Sunset Region by more than 150%!

Florida HOSA would like to extend a very sincere and heartfelt "Thank You" for their loyal support to our organization and its members! We truly appreciate everything each of you have done for us!

Virtual ILC Info.

The 2020 ILC will be virtual this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Please use this link for more information on Global/National HOSA's website: <http://www.hosa.org/node/721>. Since the Florida HOSA, Inc. Executive Committee made the very difficult decision to cancel the SLC, members will not be able to participate in the regular competitive events (e.g., Pharmacology, Medical Reading, Nursing Assisting, CERT Skills, Job Seeking Skills, HOSA Bowl, etc.); however, Secondary/Postsecondary members can participate in as many of the National Geographic Learning Academic Testing Center tests as they would like (\$10 per test) since these are not considered "regular" competitive events. Here is a link to the Academic Testing Center information: <http://ilc.hosa.org/ATC>. The guidelines for these tests can be found towards the bottom of the Competitive Events Page on the Global/National HOSA website: <http://www.hosa.org/guidelines>. If members would like to compete in the National Geographic Learning tests, when registering, the tests can be found by clicking on the "Register for Competitive Events" button on each individual's registration page. The tests will begin with "ATC" for "Academic Testing Center" (e.g., "ATC-Allied Health Statistics" or "ATC-Anatomy & Physiology").

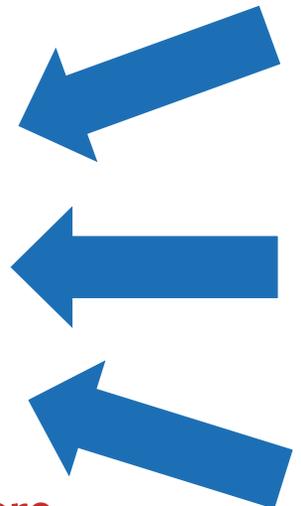
The ILC Registration Information Page can be found here: <http://ilc.hosa.org/Registration>. The registration fee is \$40 per person and the registration deadline is May 22nd. Conference registration is non-refundable. Substitutions are only allowable until 11:00 PM EDT (10:00 PM CDT) on Friday, June 12, 2020. Please be sure to read all ILC information on Global/National HOSA's website very thoroughly and carefully.



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