

Good Afternoon -- I am William James, the State President-Elect of Oregon HOSA: Future Health Professionals--a Career and Technical Student Organization for students interested in pursuing careers in the health industry. HOSA is a growing organization, statewide and nationwide, with over 138,000 members across the country.

When I first became a member of HOSA, my career goal was to become a veterinarian. However, once I was exposed to other medical fields rather than just those I see on my family ranch, I now want to be a trauma surgeon. Job shadow opportunities provided to me by HOSA has literally changed the course of my life for the better. It has put me in a position where I can reach a point of self-actualization at the apex of my potential.

Being part of HOSA has exposed me to different aspects of healthcare. Through HOSA, I managed and administered a community blood drive with the American Red Cross. The Red Cross complimented our HOSA members, stating that our event was the best blood drive they have seen organized at a high school. Through HOSA, we learn how to manage tasks and teams. We also learn how to think quickly on our feet to solve challenges, which helped us deliver a successful blood drive.

At the Oregon Leadership Institute, students from different Career Technical Student Organizations were asked to deliver a demonstration representative of their career area. A group of HOSA members and I led a CPR/First Aid lesson to the audience of 500 plus students and teachers. This ended up being a very valuable experience for everyone, including myself and fellow presenters. Schools can teach the mechanics of public speaking, but HOSA provides us with opportunities to incorporate our career goals and practice our presentation skills in real life settings.

To maintain organizations such as HOSA, much of the funding comes directly from the pockets of student members, which is a giant inhibitor for many of our students to participate. Funding for Career Technical Student Organizations is an investment in the future leaders and health care workers in Oregon. It is an investment in the educators who spend their own time and resources in order to create opportunities through HOSA for their students. We do not want to see students limited to just class lectures, but rather incorporate classroom lessons in the field through hands on learning experiences. HOSA is the answer. CTSOs are the answer. Thank you for hearing my testimony as a humble representative of Oregon HOSA: Future Health Professionals.