



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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State Superintendent of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

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Governor Kay Ivey
President

ALABAMA HOSA EXCELS AT
49TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Jackie Zeigler
District I

Montgomery, Ala. – Alabama HOSA made a remarkable impact at the 49th Annual HOSA International Leadership Conference (ILC), held in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 17–20, 2026.

Tracie West
District II



A total of 344 attendees represented 49 local chapters from across the state.

The international conference welcomed 15,000 participants—including members, advisors, judges, and guests—and was energized by this year’s theme, “Champions of Change” as *HOSA- Future Health Professionals* celebrated its fiftieth anniversary.

Alabama HOSA is one of the six founding states of the organization and performed well at the ILC, wrapping up the membership year with:

Kelly Mooney
District III
President Pro Tem

- Three members received international-level scholarships
- Fifteen earned scholarships at the state level
- Among 13,900 competitors, Alabama celebrated **35 Top 10 finalists**, with 16 placing in the Top 3 internationally bringing home **4 gold, 8 silver, and 4 bronze medals**.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

These students competed alongside peers from 55 chartered associations, including chapters outside the United States like Canada, China, Korea, Puerto Rico, Turkey & Vietnam.

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V

**Featured in the photo above is the 2026-2027 Alabama HOSA State Officer team at the 49th Annual International Leadership Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.*

Marie Manning
District VI
Vice President

Alabama had finalists across all membership divisions: middle school, secondary, and post-secondary/collegiate. Alabama also had 326 recognition event winners in a variety of events including *Healthcare Issues Exam, Barbara James Service Award, America’s Blood Centers and HOSA Blood Drive, Health Literacy, Hilarity for Charity, HOSA Happenings, HOSA Service Project, and America Red Cross Volunteer*. (View the full list of winners [here](#)).

Allen Long, M.D.
District VII

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Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

ALABAMA HOSA AT RECENT INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Several Alabama leaders were honored with international special awards:

- **Mrs. Lee Patino** (Troy University) – Educational Excellence
- **Mrs. Teresa Hamby** (Winston Career Academy) –Secondary Advisor of the Year
- **Miss Destiny Keith-Watkins** (South Talladega County), Former Alabama HOSA President – Outstanding HOSA State Leader

HOSA–Future Health Professionals is an international organization dedicated to preparing students for careers in health and biomedical sciences. With over 200 chapters and 11,690 members across Alabama, HOSA connects students, educators, and health professionals to promote leadership, technical skill development, and career readiness.

Internationally, HOSA’s global organization with over 370,000 members provides 100 health-related competitive events and extensive leadership opportunities.

Since 1976, HOSA has served as a critical talent pipeline for the health industry, with overall employment projected to grow much faster than average for all occupations in the next several years with 1.9 million openings projected each year.

For more information on HOSA’s International Leadership Conference, visit [2026 International Leadership Conference Highlights](#)

Need more information on Alabama HOSA- contact State Advisor, Becky Cornelius, at rcornelius@alsde.edu.

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