Dear Graphic Communications Teachers/Students:

Congratulations on placing at the Regional SkillsUSA competition! The state contest is an exciting time for the contestants, and the Printing & Imaging Association of Georgia (PIAG) is honored to be a part of it.

This year's Graphic Communications competition will take place at two locations. The first half of Georgia's 2020 SkillsUSA Graphic Communications Competition will begin at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 12 at the Georgia World Congress Center with the interviews & a presentation about offset printing from Errol Moebius, the Director of Print Media Center for Heidelberg USA. (check SkillsUSA GA Conference app for location at GWCC)

Heidelberg USA will host the second half of the competition on Friday, March 13 beginning at 8 a.m. Students are required to attend both days. Students who are unable to attend either day of the competition will forfeit their eligibility. Following are things to know as well as important information that I will need from you as soon as possible.

Important Information
1. Each student should bring his/her/their own computer with proper design software in order to complete the prepress challenge. Should this present a problem, please reach out to Ian Webb at ian@piag.org.
2. The bus will depart at 6:45a.m. (see app for location).
3. Any dietary restrictions must be reported to Ian Webb at ian@piag.org by Wednesday, March 4. Any restrictions sent after this date are not guaranteed to be provided.
4. All students, advisors, and chaperones that will be attending at Heidelberg must be provided to Ian Webb at ian@piag.org by Wednesday, March 4. This information is used for security credentials to enter the Heidelberg headquarters.

Can advisors come to the competition?
Advisors may escort their students to the interview location at the GWCC on Thursday, but they are not permitted to sit in on the interviews. Advisors may come to Heidelberg on Friday, March 22. Lunch is provided for contestants and one advisor on Friday.

Pre-Press Test and Requirements
Each student should bring a Mac or PC laptop computer to the competition for the pre-press portion of the event. The industry standard software packages that are acceptable are as follows: Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, and Illustrator. We strongly recommend InDesign. Mac and PC software versions of acceptable software listed are strongly encouraged to be used during this competition. Students must supply their own legal copies of the software to be used if they are using their own computers. Students and advisors should be sure the machines operate while not connected to the school network. You will not have internet access available in the competition area. Please be prepared for potential problems. Trial versions of Adobe products may be downloaded from the corporate website. http://www.adobe.com/products/creativesuite/design/trial/?promoid=BONQA. Please consult your school system or technical administrator for assistance with loading the software packages. Students are required to load the fonts used for the pre-press portion.

Does my contestant need to submit a resume?

Yes, a resume for your contestant should be emailed from the advisor to PIAG at ian@piag.org. Contestants will be interviewed at the Georgia World Congress Center on Thursday, March 12. The students may bring their resume on the day of competition; however, they are usually nervous and often forget. Points will be deducted during their interview if a resume is not emailed by the advisor prior to the competition or brought with the contestant to the GWCC.

What areas of the will be judged?
The students compete in the following categories: Pre-press, offset press, finishing, digital print, and oral assessment.

If you have any questions about the 2020 SkillsUSA Graphic Communications competition, contact me at (678) 816.1166 or ian@piag.org.