



c r e a t o r s o f



## Facilithon Program FAQ's

### **What is the FM Pipeline Team and The Facilithon?**

The FM Pipeline team is an activated group of facility management volunteers and fellows that created, publishes and fosters national growth of the Facilithon program. The Facilithon program includes a SkillsUSA competition in facility management and the "1 in 30" marketing program which activates students toward participation in the competition and its career field.

### **Why do the FM Pipeline Team and The Facilithon exist?**

There is evidence of a great need for qualified facility managers. The limited data available shares that a high percentage of current facility managers will retire in the next 10 years, while an influx of new facility management positions continues to grow beyond the available candidates. While a number of groups are fostering educational programs to address this skills gap, a suitable pool of activated, interested students is necessary to sustain programs of these sorts, as a program without a qualified enrollee base is likely to fail.

### **Who is SkillsUSA?**

SkillsUSA is the nation's fastest-growing career technical student organization. With over 400,000 members in high school and colleges in 2019, SkillsUSA creates students with skill and career vision through sharpening of personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics. SkillsUSA students have not only a superior graduation rate, they're coached to be job-ready the day they leave school.

### **How does the Facilithon Program work?**

The SkillsUSA Facilithon competition tests a student's ability to thrive in a facility management environment through a 50 question common-sense quiz, a 10 minute FM role play and the FM Challenge, an emergency scenario that the student has to react to immediately. Students that do well in the Facilithon represent excellent facility management candidates for FM college programs to enroll and employers to recruit. These students are true aces, likely to rise to the top in their career.

### **What does the marketing program do?**

The "1 in 30" marketing program shares the facility management career message with students and instructor advisers. This unique marketing program focuses on student's attributes rather than competencies and reminds educators that regardless of their curriculum, one or more students in any class of 30 can become an ideal facility manager, whereas 1 in 6 SkillsUSA students are excellent candidates for this career path. The marketing program uses presentations and action figures to permanently share this message with instructors.

### **Who runs The Facilithon?**

The FM Pipeline team works with local professional organization chapters and sponsors who provide the volunteer base to run the Facilithon competition in their SkillsUSA state. SkillsUSA affords a uniquely local outcome to those partners, as a high percentage of their students return home after completing their formal education. The FM Pipeline team 501 (c)(3) plans to provide funding to offset their costs, ensuring chapter monies are dedicated to the students through scholarships.



**Where do scholarship dollars go?**

FM Pipeline Team helps manage scholarship funds by tracking students and their studies. Scholarships made through the FM Pipeline Team are earmarked for facility management-related coursework and funds are dispersed to student financial aid offices upon presentation of qualified enrollment paperwork.

**How does an employer interface with The Facilithon?**

Employers gain access to our students through economic and volunteer contributions to the Facilithon program. It's important that employers get to know their candidates early to ensure they're as skilled as possible when they're ready to be hired. By fostering a student's education, the employer has a track record and relationship with that student unavailable elsewhere.

**How does a College institution interface with The Facilithon?**

Facility management-related college programs are wise to join the FM Pipeline team as partners to bring students into their classes through scholarships volunteers and literature support. Given students, professional organizations and employers are already in the mix, higher educational institutions are well-advised to join, strengthening their relationship with all three.

**How do we connect to the FM Pipeline Team?**

There are two places to find out more information, including [www.fmpipeline.org](http://www.fmpipeline.org) and communicating directly with our team by contacting co-directors Jim Zirbel (608) 800-2775 [facilithon@gmail.com](mailto:facilithon@gmail.com) or Carolyn McGary (303) 656-8353 [wonderwomanmcgary@gmail.com](mailto:wonderwomanmcgary@gmail.com) .