**Volume 11 | March 2021**

# WISCONSIN PAGES

WISCONSIN BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS of AMERICA
Giving Purpose to Potential

# CONGRATULATIONS!

**Great job Wisconsin!**

We Conquered Our Challenges and had a successful 2021 Wisconsin State Leadership Conference! Overall we had students register for a total of 144 competitions with 118 students receiving awards and 73 total National Leadership Conference Qualifications. Pretty impressive for a first ever fully virtual conference. You can view results, the conference survey and other info at https://wisconsinslc.bpa.org/

Special thanks to the students, advisors, WTCS and WI BPA Leadership Team for being willing to try something new. Looking forward to our adventures with a first every virtual National Leadership Conference. Please be sure to watch for upcoming communications from the National Center about the details for Virtual NLC. Please be sure to keep entering your Torch Awards, participating in BPA Cares where you can and review opportunities to get involved in NLC.

Again, great job everyone and congratulations! Thank you!

*Kind Regards,*
Dianne Carroll
Wisconsin Business Professionals of America | State Director
BPA National Board of Trustees Representative
Phone: 715.803.1490 | Email: carroll@ntc.edu

SLC 2021

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

# Amazing Advisors

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO WI BPA AND HELP TO MAKE 2020 - 2021 A SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR STUDENTS.

## Current WI BPA Chapter Advisors

**Blackhawk Technical College:**
- Joel Schleusner

**Chippewa Valley Technical College:**
- Kelly Childs

**Lakeshore Technical College:**
- Gordy Rosploch
- Julie Meyer

**Madison College:**
- Jeff Quinlan
- Theresa Laws-Dahl
- Dan O'Brien

**MidState Technical College:**
- Sharon Behrens *(2021 Advisor of the Year)*

**Northcentral Technical College:**
- Dianne Carroll
- Carrie Heckendorf

**Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College:**
- Brenda Kretzschmar

**Wisconsin Virtual Chapter:**
- Dianne Carroll

## The Classroom Educators Advisory Council

*The Classroom Educators Advisory Council (CEAC) serves as a liaison between Business Professionals of America advisors and its Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to promote the objectives of the Business Professionals of America programs, establish and monitor effective Workplace Skills Assessment Program (WSAP) competitive events, serve as a clearinghouse for suggested improvements and changes pertaining to competitive events and ensure that their State Association is informed of currently adopted Workplace Skills Assessment Program guidelines.*

**Thank you to our WI CEAC Representatives:**

**Gordy Rosploch - Lakeshore Technical College**

**Dan O'Brien - Madison College**

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March 15, 2021

Dear Wisconsin BPA Member and Spring Leadership Conference (SLC) participant,

Thank for attending the "Conquering Our Challenges" 2021 Spring Leadership Conference held February 25-26, 2021. Due to the current pandemic's travel restrictions on all 16 Wisconsin Technical Colleges, we hosted our first completely virtual conference. We hope you enjoyed the conference.
2020 was a leap year, year of the Rat, the year that brought the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a year filled with unforeseen challenges. The pandemic led to worldwide travel restrictions, which required flexibility on the part of all the Wisconsin Association Business Professionals of America stakeholders. Welcome 2021! Things can only get better!

We did it! Wisconsin Association Business Professionals of America members, state officers, advisors, and alumni "conquered our challenges" navigating the 2021 Spring Leadership Conference.

Students competed in up to five events (four competitions, only one could be judged, and interview competitions (Interview Skills or Advanced Interview Skills) were bonus events plus as many of the Open Events as they had time to complete over five timeslots from Thursday, February 18 through Monday, February 22, 2021.

The State Officer Team kicked off the Opening General Session of the 2021 State Leadership Conference for Business Professionals of America - WI Association on February 25th with a stellar lineup which began with Dr. Margo Keys, the Vice President of Student Services at Chippewa Valley Technical College where she is responsible for leading the Student Service division of the college. Next, our State Director, Dianne Carroll shared important information and updates about this year's conference. Followed, by State Vice President Lisa Kleman presented on the Tap Fair and how to log points in the Torch Resume, while assisted by John Lucas Guimaraes, Post-Secondary Vice President, National BPA Officer Team.

The remainder of Thursday, February 25, 2021 was dedicated to students, advisors and alumni participating in judged events; Open Event and Merit Scholar testing; Torch Award Points (TAP) Fair; FREE Microsoft Certiport Certification Testing; and BPA Cares Activities. Additionally, everyone was invited to participate in one of three professional development workshops. We also hosted a fun and interactive social event with Disney Bounding, Virtual Escape Room and Disney Leadership KaHoot.

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Friday morning activities included event run-offs, free Microsoft Certiport Certification Testing, Torch Award Ceremony Rehearsal, and the opportunity to attend a workshop present by BPA Alumni. The moment all participants had been waiting for, The Awards Ceremony, finally arrived.

Please go to https://wisconsinslc.bpa.org/ to view the Award Ceremony video.
Please go to https://bpa.org/wisconsin/ to see the complete list of winners.

Congratulations to everyone who participated. See you at the virtual National Leadership Conference April 26 through May 9, 2021.

Please visit the BPA Member Gateway at https://members.bpa.org/member-login/ to get more information about additional leadership and professional development opportunities available through the National Headquarters of BPA. Additionally, you can explore the bpa.org website to review information about the competitions and the National Leadership Conference to be held virtually April 26 through May 9, 2021 in Orlando, Florida.

Feel free to contact me kwillis@madisoncollege.edu, if you have any questions or require additional information.

Have a joyous spring.

Sincerely,

Katrina V Willis
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
State President, Wisconsin Business Professionals of America

# NATIONAL BPA OFFICER TEAM UPDATE

*National Post-Secondary Vice President John Lucas Guimares from Massachusetts is the designated Wisconsin National Officer Contact for the 2020-21 school year. The Wisconsin State Officer Team looks forward to collaborating with the National Officer Team to keep our members informed of upcoming events and opportunities available through the National Office of Business Professionals of America. John Lucas has shared the following updates with Wisconsin BPA:*

**The National Officer team are currently reviewing Ambassador level Torch Resumes, but we want more! The deadline to submit and get recognize at NLC is March 25!**

There are **National Scholarships** that members can apply for, including the National Officer Team Scholarship! This year our Officer team worked really hard to raise money and we exceeded our goals so there's a lot of funds that can go directly to members. More information on that here: https://bpa.org/students/scholarships-and-awards/

There is the **Student of the Year Award** outstanding members can apply for! You'll earn at $1000 scholarship if you are selected for this award! More information: https://bpa.org/students/bpa-cares/student-of-the-year-award/

Also save the date for the **2021 National Leadership Conference (NLC)**, General Events will still occur May 5 through May 9! However, WSAP competitive events and opens will run earlier on April 26th through May 6th! More info will be coming out on March 15th on this link:
https://bpa.org/nlc/

And the election for the **2021 - 2022 National Officer Team** will occur on April 22 through April 30! You can learn more here: https://bpa.org/students/run-for-national-office/

Coming Soon!

# WI BPA WEBINARS

***Join us for FREE Wisconsin BPA Webinars to help you prepare for NLC***

***Sessions held via Zoom***

**Wednesday, March 24, 2021 7pm**

***TORCH AWARDS/BPA CARES***

***CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

**Wednesday, April 7, 2021 7pm**

***PREPARING FOR NLC 2021***

***CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

**Wednesday, April 21, 2021 7pm**

***Merit Scholar Prep***

***CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

# Dates To Remember

***2021 BPA VIRTUAL National Leadership Conference (NLC) will be held Spring 2021 - April 26th through May 9th***

BPA Cares (Service Learning & Special Recognition) DUE March 25

BPA Torch Awards - DUE March 25

BPA Scholarship Applications - DUE March 28

BPA Student Certification Series - DUE April 1

BPA Cares (Professional Awards) DUE April 1

BPA National Leadership Conference Registration & PreSubmit Deadline DUE April 1

# Operation "Capture the Cup!"

## The Professional Cup Award

*(Outstanding State Participation)*

**Purpose**

To encourage state associations to become actively involved in promoting participation in the BPA Cares Award Program by the local chapters and to recognize states with active participation; and to recognize outstanding state participation in BPA programs.

**Eligibility**

Any state association in the Middle Level, Post-secondary or Secondary Division that has active participation in the BPA Cares Award Program.
An application is not required for this award. This is award is given directly from the National Center to the state meeting the criteria described below.

**Ranking**

Each state association's ranking will be determined by:

- The association's percentage of chapters participating in the following BPA Cares Award Programs:
  - Service Learning Awards Program (all awards in this category are eligible)
  - Marketing and Public Relations
  - Chapter Activities Award of Excellence
- The total number of chapters participating in the BPA Cares Award Program within the state.
- The association's percentage of members receiving their Ambassador Torch Award.
- The total number of members receiving the Ambassador Torch Award within the state.
- The association's percentage of chapters meeting the criteria for the Membership Explosion Award.
- The total number of chapters meeting the criteria for the Membership Explosion Award within the state.
- The association's percentage of chapters earning the **Quality Chapter Distinction.**
- The total number of chapters earning the **Quality Chapter Distinction** within the state.

The ranking in these eight (8) qualifications will determine eight (8) point values which, when added together, will constitute a final ranking. The state association who receives the best overall rank will receive the Professional Cup. In the event of a tie, the award will be given to the state association with the highest divisional increase in the percentage of membership over the previous year.

# Operation "Capture the Cup!"

## The Professional Cup Award

*(Outstanding State Participation)*

**Qualification Period**

Activities completed between April 2, 2020 and April 1, 2021 (11:59 PM ET) can be counted towards this award.

**General Information**

Chapters may complete more than one activity to equal the total number of hours/dollars. Activity descriptions cannot exceed 500 words in total.

Activities may include but are not limited to volunteering, training and/or contributing to blood drives, clothing drives, food drives, humanitarian aid and disaster relief assistance, or local community shelters.

All activity descriptions must include title, organization benefiting from the project, date project completed, location of the project (if applicable), and description of the project.

**Recognition**

The award will be presented on-stage during the National Leadership Conference. It will consist of a plaque for the state association to keep and the Professional Cup trophy with the state association's name and the year it was won engraved on a 10-year engraving plate. The Professional Cup trophy will be in the winning state association's possession for one year starting from the last day of the National Leadership Conference until the next National Leadership Conference, where it will be presented to the next winning state association.

After the tenth year, the trophy will be retired and presented to the state within each Division who won the award the most times during the ten years.

# BPA Cares

**VIEW THE BPA CARES HANDBOOK ONLINE:**
HTTPS://BPA.ORG/STUDENTS/BPA-CARES/

## Service Learning Awards Program DUE MARCH 25

- Community Service Award
- Environmental Action/Awareness Award
- Safety Awareness Award
- Service Learning Individual Award
- Special Olympics

## Special Recognition Awards Program DUE MARCH 25

- BPA Marketing and Public Relations Award
- BPA Merit Scholar Award
- Chapter Activities Award of Excellence
- Recruiter of the Year Award
- Membership Explosion Award
- Social Media Award
- The Professional Cup

## Professional Awards Program DUE APRIL 1

- Advisor of the Year Award
- Emerging Advisor of the Year Award
- Emerging Professional of the Year Award
- Hall of Fame Award
- Outstanding Service Award
- Student of the Year Award

# BPA Scholarships

*Application Deadline - March 28, 2021*

**Business Professionals of America is proud to partner with organizations in an effort to award various scholarships and awards to students each year. For many years, the generous support received by partners and donors has helped to make BPA students' goals of pursuing higher education a reality for both Secondary and Post-secondary level members.**

**To learn about and apply for the scholarship opportunities available to members of Business Professionals of America, please access the appropriate division scholarship applications which can be found online at: members.bpa.org/scholarships-and-awards.**

**Scholarships include:**

- **Sherrell Wheeler Scholarship**
- **Tomorrow's Business Professionals Scholarship/ National Officer Team**
- **National Technical Honor Society Scholarships**

# TORCH AWARD PROGRAM

## Why Participate?

- Demonstrate the qualities of leadership and professionalism
- Interact with business leaders, civic organizations and communities
- Learn positive ways to impact the areas where you live
- Grow through the nine pillars of the program

**Hope | Faith | Love | Cooperation**
**Knowledge | Service | Leadership**
**Friendship | Patriotism**

BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS of AMERICA

### LEVELS OF TORCH

*bpa.org/torch-awards*

# Torch Awards

*By Lisa Kleman*

Did you attend The 2021 Wisconsin Stated Leadership Conference? Well if you did, let me tell you, you had a wonderful opportunity to earn Torch Points. Here are some codes for the Torch Points that you can enter into your Torch Points Resume for just attending and participating in events and the T.A.P. Fair (which is still available at www.wisconsinslc.bpa.org)

## LEADERSHIP

100's Leadership:
#135 Completing the Student Certification Series Level One
#140 Help you BPA Chapter participate in the National Quality Chapter Distinction Award: https://bpa.org/quality-chapter-disdinction/
#145 Completing the Student Certification Series Level Two

## SERVICE

#205 Participate in a Pledge Against Distracted Driving
#211 Volunteer and/or participate in a Fundraiser walk for a Charity Cause

## COOPERATION

#301 Participate in a Torch Award Ceremony
#325 Click the "Follow" button on BPA's official Instagram page: @bpanational
#327 Click the "Connect" button on BPA's official LinkedIn page: http://www.linkedin.com/company.business-professionals-of-america
#328 Add BPA's official SnapChat account: @national_bpa
#335 Click the "Like" button on BPA's official Facebook page: www.facebook.com/businessprofessionalsofamerica
#336 Click the "Follow" button on BPA's official Twitter page: @national_bpa
#342 Subscribe to the National BPA YouTube Channel: http://www.youtube.com/c/BusinessProfessionalsAmerica/featured
#345 Click the "Follow" button on all of the BPA Post-Secondary National Officer's official Twitter pages: @BPAPSPres @BPAPSVicePres
#350 Click the "Like" button on the Wisconsin BPA Facebook page: http://www.facebook.com/wisconsinbpa
#350 Click the "Connect" button on the Wisconsin BPA LinkedIn page: http://linkedin.com/company/bpawi

# Torch Awards

*By Lisa Kleman*

## KNOWLEDGE

#401 Explain the parts of the BPA emblem and their meaning to an advisor or BPA alumni member
#405 Explain the significance of the Torch Ceremony to an advisor or BPA alumni member
#410 Participate in a BPA nationally approved competitive event, individual or team, at state level
#411 Place in a BPA nationally approved competitive event, individual or team, at the state level
#414 Attend a workshop at a BPA Leadership Conference
#422 Study the current guidelines for the BPA Cares Awards in the BPA Cares Awards Handbook
#423 Take the Wisconsin State BPA Merit Scholar Test
#434 Take a certification exam from Certiport
#435 Achieve a certification from Certiport
#442 Watch the Torch Awards Intro Video

## FRIENDSHIP

#505 Attend a BPA State Leadership Conference
#519 Attend a social event with another BPA Chapter

## LOVE, HOPE, FAITH

#620 Attend a professional play or musical, music concert, or recital, dinner theater, ballet or other dance performance, poetry, etc.

## PATRIOTISM

#718 Visit an art museum, natural history museum, or similar facility
#720 Take virtual tour of a historical building or area
#724 Participate in an activity that supports US Military or US Military families

# Torch Awards

*By Lisa Kleman*

## Steps to logging your Torch Awards

1. Go to https://members.bpa.org/
2. In the upper middle of your screen you will see a tan box that says - BPA Member Login - Press this button
3. On this page you will see an area to enter your username and password - Each of you should have received your unique member ID and password from your chapter advisors. If you don't have this information, then connect with your advisor or our State Director Dianne Carroll at Carroll.ntc.edu - Make sure to check with Dianne on the email address to address this too!!! Enter your username and password and then click on the login button.
4. On this page, you will scroll down until you see Torch Awards (it is on the second row of links, in blue). Press on Learn more about Torch Awards.
5. On this page please take the opportunity to check out all the different Torch categories and make sure to download (print) the Torch Awards Handbook, it shows up in the middle of the page in a tan box, as there is a lot of vital information in the handbook.
6. After you have downloaded the handbook, click on the button that states Visit our online Torch Awards portal.
7. On this page you will be asked to enter your Member ID and password again - click on the blue Login button
8. You will be required to watch an instruction video the first time you enter the Torch Awards page, but just know that you will get Torch Awards to add to your resume for watching it. The Code for this award is under Knowledge #442
9. On this page near the top, on the blue ribbon, you will see the words Torch Awards - Click on it.
10. On this page you will click on Add Activity.
11. You are now able to see the categories, the available points, the possible points, and any points you have submitted. Click on the desired Category.
12. Find the desired code (either from having selected it already in your Torch Awards Handbook or by reading the descriptions for each code. Click on the arrow on the far-right side of your desired code.
13. Enter your activity date, Enter the description of your activity, Make sure "all descriptions are complete sentences". Instead of beginning with an action verb, descriptions should be written in a full sentence. For example, instead of saying, "Attended a chapter meeting." It should now say "I attended a chapter meeting." Add a photo or document if you would like.
14. Click Submit
15. Once you have submitted all the Torch Awards and have reached the level of Executive, Diplomate, Statesman, and Ambassador, make sure to let your Advisor know that you have completed your Torch Awards Resume.

# Torch Awards

*By Lisa Kleman*

**You did it you entered your Torch Awards, make sure to look through the Torch Awards Handbook for all Torch opportunities, as I am sure you will find out that you can do many of them from the comfort of your own home.**

I know some tasks may take a bit more than that, but the reward you get from making a difference you your life and the lives of those around you, is worth so much more then you will ever imagine and the joy that you make in the lives of others can change the world!!!

## For Advisors:

As your students finalize their Torch Award résumés, there are a few items you need to remember to check before approving them:

1. Make sure "all descriptions are complete sentences". Instead of beginning with an action verb, descriptions should be written in a full sentence. For example, instead of saying, "Attended a chapter meeting." It should now say "I attended a chapter meeting."
2. Make sure that you have included all the required information in the description. For example, if the handbook states to include the name of the presenter at an activity, then that information should be included.
3. Verify that you are not using the same activity in multiple places. Although an activity may meet the requirements in several different categories, it can only be used once in the entire résumé. You may use different activities at the same event though (ex. FLC, SLC, NLC)
4. Make sure the activities submitted are appropriate for the category.

As for advisors, it is your responsibility to verify your students' activities before approving their résumés. Set a due date ahead of the official deadline for them so you have plenty of time to read through their résumés and verify the descriptions are accurate. The earlier the résumés are submitted, the better chance the student has of getting feedback and having the ability to make corrections. No corrections or résumés will be allowed after the official deadline.

***The official deadline for Ambassador Torch Award applications is March 25th***

# IMPORTANT WI BPA DATES:

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Submit BPA Cares (Service Learning & Special Recognition) **DUE March 25**

Submit BPA Torch Awards - **DUE March 25**

Complete BPA Student Certification Series - **DUE April 1**

Submit BPA Cares (Professional Awards) **DUE April 1**

Submit BPA Scholarship Applications - **DUE March 28**

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## https://bpa.org/wisconsin/

bpa / mall

**Check out the new BPA Mall, where you can order BPA items/apparel: https://bpa.org/mall**

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# CONTACT US!


**President Katrina Willis:**
kwillis@madisoncollege.edu

**Vice President Lisa Kleman:**
lmkleman@students.ntc.edu

**WI State Director Dianne Carroll**
carroll@ntc.edu

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## Mission

The Mission of Business Professionals of America is: To develop and empower student leaders to discover their passion and change the world by creating unmatched opportunities in learning, professional growth and service.

## Vision

The Vision of Business Professionals of America is: To be an innovator in Career and Technical Education, providing our members with opportunities for growth through education, competition, community service, and personal development.

## Pledge

We are met in a spirit of friendship and goodwill as we prepare for careers in a world-class workforce. We work together to develop professionalism and leadership through Business Professionals of America and pledge our loyalty to our nation.