

# Resources for Schools with Woodworking and Related Technology Programs



**Association of Woodworking & Furnishings Suppliers®** (AWFS) is a 101-year old, California-based trade association for the secondary wood products manufacturing industry serving the residential and commercial markets. AWFS offers an Educational Institute membership which, for a nominal fee, provides complimentary access to the AWFS Fair and its educational programs. AWFS is also involved with SkillsUSA California, offering support for the regional and state competitions and is host to the WorldSkills Qualifying Cabinetmaking Trials at the AWFS Fair. [www.AWFS.org](http://www.AWFS.org).

## Programs of AWFS:

- **AWFS®Fair** is a national biennial trade show held in odd-numbered years in Las Vegas, Nevada for the woodworking supply and machinery manufacturers industry catering to cabinetmakers, furniture makers and others manufacturing wood products, as well as to educators who attend the show. All teachers receive free entry to the AWFS®Fair, reduced prices on the Teacher Track seminars designed expressly for educators and the opportunity to network with industry professionals. A highlight of the show is the AWFS-sponsored Fresh Wood Student Woodworking Competition. [www.AWFSFair.org](http://www.AWFSFair.org)
- **College of Woodworking Knowledge (CWWK)** is the educational seminar program of the AWFS®Fair, featuring over 50 seminars on industry topics such as software and technology, techniques and application, handcrafted furniture, cabinet and millwork and more. Each seminar is taught by experienced professionals within the industry. The SMART (Special Machinery and Relevant Technology) seminars take place on the show floor and focus on machinery and technology topics. All seminars are open to educators; the Teacher Track seminars are geared specifically to educators teaching woodworking in the educational setting. [www.AWFSFair.org](http://www.AWFSFair.org)
- **Fresh Wood Student Woodworking Competition** is the biennial student competition of the AWFS®Fair, showcasing the best of student woodworking talent across North America. It is open to high school and post-secondary students. Competition finalists, their projects and their teachers are brought to the AWFS®Fair in Las Vegas for the crowd-pleasing and artful display, final judging and accolades from industry. The Best of Show winner takes home a wood sculpture designed by renowned craftsman, Sam Maloof. AWFS produces a 4-color book of the student work after the show. For full information and to see previous competitor's work, go to: [www.AWFSfair.org](http://www.AWFSfair.org) and look under Attendees for "Competitions." The *Fresh Wood* book is available on amazon.com.
- **WoodIndustryEd.org** is a resource web site created for teachers, students and industry professionals. It contains a data base of high schools and colleges with wood technology programs as well as industry companies that offer training. Students interested in continuing a wood program after high school can search the data base to find two-year, four-year and technical colleges with wood programs. There is a career section with links to numerous job listings. The site includes information on scholarships, competitions, industry associations and events, and more. Visitors can research the various trade organizations to gain information about the industry. [www.woodindustryed.org](http://www.woodindustryed.org)

# Resources for Schools with Woodworking and Related Technology Programs

**International Woodworking Fair (IWF)** is a national biennial trade show for the woodworking industry held in the even-numbered years in Atlanta, Georgia. The show features Design Emphasis, a woodworking competition for post-secondary students, as well as an RTA competition for students in WoodLINKS programs. [www.IWFAtlanta.com](http://www.IWFAtlanta.com)

**SkillsUSA** provides leadership training to students and instructors in the career and technical education sectors. With three levels of skill and leadership competition, SkillsUSA encourages growth through participation in the leadership and skill activities to enhance classroom learning. SkillsUSA is committed to meeting the needs of students, educators and business and industry, and dedicated to helping its members develop solid technical, leadership, and employability skills. It supports and rewards the efforts of its members through professional development and recognition programs. SkillsUSA is pro-active in developing mutually beneficial relationships with business and industry. Go to [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org), or for the SkillsUSA California state organization, [www.skillsusaca.org](http://www.skillsusaca.org)

**WoodLINKS USA** is an industry-education partnership that assists schools in providing relevant, broad-based career education to high school and post-secondary students. WoodLINKS is helping to build and maintain a strong, skilled workforce so that U.S. manufacturers can remain competitive in today's challenging economic environment. It offers introductory and advanced wood products manufacturing courses with skill sets directly transferable to jobs. Schools that join this national group can expect the following: curriculum guidelines; assistance with forming partnerships and securing support from local industry; teacher in-service opportunities; potential donations from industry suppliers; access to skill standard certification; complimentary membership with Association of Woodworking & Furnishings Suppliers which allows teachers free access to an industry trade show and educational seminars designed for wood teachers and more. [www.woodlinksusa.org](http://www.woodlinksusa.org)

**Woodwork Institute (WI)** has programs intended to promote education in the trade of architectural millwork by helping educators and school administrators develop an effective curriculum, and by providing financial aid to students of the trade through the C.E. Bernhauer, Jr. Scholarship Foundation. The group assists California school administrators in developing curriculum that will prepare students for successful careers in the architectural millwork industry. Woodwork Institute facilitates the donations of raw materials to schools for student use, such as lumber, plywood, high pressure laminate, etc. The Institute also donates copies of the *Architectural Woodwork Standards* for classroom use. [www.wicnet.org](http://www.wicnet.org)

**Woodwork Career Alliance (WCA)** is an industry organization responsible for the development, publication and assessment of the industry-approved *Woodwork Manufacturing Skill Standards*. These unified standards of tool skills and evaluations serve as a comprehensive, industry-accepted guideline of operational procedures by which to measure performance and results produced by woodworking professionals and students in training. The assessment program consists of skill and knowledge tests that allows participants to demonstrate their competency in wood technology skills. [www.woodworkcareer.org](http://www.woodworkcareer.org)

Prepared by the Association of Woodworking & Furnishings Suppliers® Education Dept.  
Commerce, CA, 323.215.0303, [nancy@awfs.org](mailto:nancy@awfs.org)

