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PRESS RELEASE

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For more information contact:
Marie Bruno, Communications Manager
Telephone: 501-682-1701
Fax: 501-682-5117
E-mail: marie.bruno@mail.state.ar.us

2004 TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY SKILLS CHAMPIONSHIPS SETS RECORD FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Nearly 1,400 junior high, high school, and postsecondary students will be competing in the 38th annual **Arkansas SkillsUSA 2004 Championships, Tuesday, April 20, at the Hot Springs Civic and Convention Center (HSCCC)**. The student participation for 2004 is the largest number of students ever registered for the event.

The championships begin at 9:15 a.m. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the convention center's Summit Arena featuring SkillsUSA state officers, Hot Springs city officials, and state officials.

The 1,371 students competing are enrolled in their schools' technical and professional education career focuses/programs of study and are also members of their local SkillsUSA career and technical student organization chapters. They will be competing in 55 events (listed on page three).

SkillsUSA is the national organization serving high school and college students enrolled in training programs in technical, skilled, and service occupations, including health occupations. In addition to skills training, SkillsUSA prepares students for the

(more)

Arkansas SkillsUSA 2004 Championships - 2

workforce by offering leadership, teamwork, citizenship, and character development activities that emphasize high ethical standards, superior work skills, lifelong education, and pride in the dignity of work. SkillsUSA also promotes understanding of the free enterprise system and encourages the development of patriotism through democratic practices in local chapters.

The purpose of the SkillsUSA Championships is to reward students for excellence, to involve industry in directly evaluating student performance, and to keep training relevant to employers' needs.

Employers play a large role in SkillsUSA activities. Besides providing year-round support to local SkillsUSA chapters, over 100 representatives from business and industry throughout the state will be at the 2004 championships, providing an estimated \$1,000,000 in equipment and other in-kind services. Their investments pay off when students who successfully complete technical and professional education programs will have the academic and technical skills they need to fill critical jobs.

On Wednesday, the championships will conclude with an Awards Ceremony and Luncheon in the Summit Arena, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The national championships will be held June 21-25 in Kansas City, Missouri.

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Arkansas SkillsUSA 2004 Championships - 3

2004 Arkansas SkillsUSA Competitive Events

(Winners of events with an asterisk * qualify for national competition)

- *3D Visual/Animation
- *Advertising Design
- *HVACR (Air Conditioning and Refrigeration)
- *Architectural Drafting
- *Automated Manufacturing Technology
- *Automotive Service
Auto Parts Specialist
- *Aviation Maintenance Technology
- *Basic Health Care Skills
- *Cabinetmaking
- *Carpentry
- *Collision Repair Technology
- *Commercial Baking
- *Computer Maintenance
- *Cosmetology
Cosmetology (under 400 hr.)
- *Cosmetology Nail Care
- *Cosmetology (over 400 hr.)
- *Criminal Justice
- *Culinary Arts
- *Customer Service
- *Dental Assisting
Diesel Equipment (Farm)
- *Diesel Equipment (Truck)
- *Electronics Technology
- *First Aid/CPR
Food Processing Technology
- *Food & Beverage Service
- *Global Information Systems (GIS)
- *Graphic Communications
- *Industrial Motor Control
- *Industrial Equipment Maintenance
- *Internetworking
- *Job Skill Demonstration A
- *Major Appliance Technology
- *Marine Technology
- *Masonry
- *Nurse Assisting
- *Related Technical Math
- *Photography
- *Power Equipment Technology
- *Practical Nursing
- *Precision Machining Technology
- *Principles of Technology (PT)
- *Residential Plumbing
- *Residential Wiring
- *Robotic/Automation Technology
- *Technical Computer Applications
- *Technical Drafting
- *TV(Video) Production
TV Anchor/News
- *Web Design
- *Welding (Plate Cutting, Pipe Welding)

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