

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Arkansas Students Honored at National SkillsUSA Championships for Skilled Work Force

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Students from Arkansas high school and college technical education programs won the nation's highest awards at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. Industry leaders representing over 1,100 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions recognized the students for their demonstrated excellence in 94 hands-on occupational and leadership contests, such as robotics, criminal justice, aviation maintenance and public speaking. All contests are designed, run and judged by industry using industry standards.

Top student winners received gold, silver and bronze medallions. Many also received prizes such as tools of their trade and/or scholarships to further their careers and education. The SkillsUSA Championships is for high school and college-level students who are members of SkillsUSA.

In addition, high scorers in the contests received Skill Point Certificates. The Skill Point Certificate was awarded in 86 occupational and leadership areas to students who achieved a high score defined by industry. The SkillsUSA Championships have been a premier event since 1967. The Skill Point Certificates were introduced in 2009 as a component of the SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System.

The following students received both medallions and Skill Point Certificates from your area:

Team F (consisting of Ramie Bise, Elisandra Bueno, Allie Kelley, Haley Owens), from University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (Fort Smith), was awarded the College/Postsecondary Gold medal in Health Knowledge Bowl.

Team F (consisting of Kyla Hyatt, Daniel Romo, Benjamin Truong, Sarah Peary), from Western Arkansas Technical Center (Fort Smith), was awarded the High School Bronze medal in Health Knowledge Bowl.

Sebastian Bossarte, from Van Buren and a student at University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (Fort Smith), was awarded the college/postsecondary silver medal in Computer Programming.

Chyanne Hawkins, from Greenwood and a student at University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (Fort Smith), was awarded the college/postsecondary bronze medal in Nurse Assisting.

Josh Helms, from Hot Springs and a student at Arkansas Career Training Institute (Hot Springs), was awarded the college/postsecondary bronze medal in Screen Printing Technology.

Jered D Otts, from Benton and a student at Greater Little Rock Area JAC (Little Rock), was awarded the college/postsecondary silver medal in Plumbing.

Team B (consisting of Tammy Hardin), from College of the Ouachitas (Malvern), was awarded the College/Postsecondary Gold medal in American Spirit.

The following students are Skill Point Certificate recipients from your area:

Sierra N Karambellas, from Ashdown and a student at Ashdown High School (Ashdown), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in First Aid-CPR.

Ryan Weng, from Bauxite and a student at Pulaski Technical College Saline Co Career Center (Bauxite), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Collision Repair Technology.

Team E (consisting of Dalton Madding, Ashley N Bronson, Dillon M Maxwell, Shelby E Styron), from Cabot High School (Cabot), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Broadcast News Production.

Jennifer Riley, from Camden and a student at SAU Tech Career Academy (Camden), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Medical Terminology.

Team Q (consisting of Jimmy Wisdom, Ben Stone!), from Cave City School (Cave City), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Television (Video) Production.

Shane A Holloway, from Conway and a student at Conway Area Career Center (Conway), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Carpentry.

Michael Caleb Imboden, from Conway and a student at Conway Area Career Center (Conway), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Automotive Refinishing Technology.

Kevin Crawford, from Eureka Springs and a student at Eureka Springs High School (Eureka Springs), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Plumbing.

Logan Reding, from Eureka Springs and a student at Eureka Springs High School (Eureka Springs), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Electrical Construction Wiring.

Team Q (consisting of David Havel, Brett Sutton), from Western Arkansas Technical Center (Fort Smith), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in 3-D Visualization and Animation.

Megan Stephenson, from Ozark and a student at Western Arkansas Technical Center (Fort Smith), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Preschool Teaching Assistant.

Markus Watkins, from Valley Springs and a student at North Arkansas College (Harrison), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Cabinetmaking.

Robert Hertter, from Marshall and a student at North Arkansas College (Harrison), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Collision Repair Technology.

Dylan E Thomas, from Prim and a student at Arkansas State University-Heber Springs (Heber Springs), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Welding.

Freddie Wilson, from Hot Springs and a student at Arkansas Career Training Institute (Hot Springs), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Extemporaneous Speaking.

Holly Hardin, from Trumann and a student at Arkansas State University at Marked Tree (Marked Tree), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Cosmetology.

Michael W Worch, from Melbourne and a student at Ozarka College (Melbourne), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Culinary Arts.

Loretta Rester, from Benton and a student at Pulaski Technical College (North Little Rock), was

awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Automotive Refinishing Technology.

Dwayne L Miner, from Lavaca and a student at Arkansas Tech University - Ozark Campus (Ozark), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration.

Hunter Martin, from Quitman and a student at Quitman High School (Quitman), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Cabinetmaking.

Team G (consisting of Matt McDonald, Maddie O Poellot), from Springdale High School (Springdale), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Video Product Development.

Iris Y Mancia, from Springdale and a student at Career Academy of Hair Design-Springdale (Springdale), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Cosmetology.

Team AR (consisting of Hayley N Reynolds, Rachel E Billingsley, Lauren M Webb), from Springdale High School (Springdale), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Crime Scene Investigation.

Sammy Townsend, from West Fork and a student at Springdale High School (Springdale), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Culinary Arts.

Hayden Goodman, from Warren and a student at SEACBEC (Warren), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Power Equipment Technology.

Christopher L Wells, from Eads and a student at MSCC Technical Center (West Memphis), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Aviation Maintenance Technology.

"Over 5,900 students from every state in the nation came to compete in the SkillsUSA Championships this week," said SkillsUSA Executive Director Tim Lawrence. This is the SkillsUSA partnership at its best. Students, instructors and industries are working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce and every student excels. These students prove that career and technical education expands opportunities."

According to the U.S. Department of Education, students who take three or more career and technical education (CTE) programs in high school are more likely to attend college and stay there to graduate. In fact, 79% of CTE concentrators enrolled in postsecondary education within two years of high school graduation. And, students in CTE programs have a higher-than-average high school graduation rate. The average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 90% compared to an average national freshman graduation rate of 74.9%.

Industry support of the SkillsUSA Championships is valued at over \$35 million in donated time, equipment, cash and material. All contests are run and judged by industry experts using industry standards for employment. Contests assess hands-on, employability and academic skills. Over 1,700 industry judges and technical committee members participated this year.

The SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System was developed as an extension of the SkillsUSA mission and supported by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The System recognizes students for excellence in occupational training; it assesses and documents the entry-level technical proficiency and cumulative experiences of candidates. For more information about the SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System, visit [www.workforcereadysystem.com](http://www.workforcereadysystem.com).

SkillsUSA helps students discover and grow their career passions. As a nationwide partnership of students, instructors and industry working together, SkillsUSA works to ensure America has a skilled workforce. It helps every student excel. The nationwide career and technical education (CTE) student organization serves more than 320,000 high school, college and postsecondary students and their

instructors in technical, skilled, and service occupation instructional programs. CTE is learning that works for America. SkillsUSA has the active support of more than 1,100 corporations, trade associations, business and labor unions at the national level. Over 10.5 million people have been annual members of SkillsUSA since its founding as The Vocational Industrial Clubs of America in 1965. SkillsUSA programs teach leadership, citizenship and character development to complement technical skill training. The organization emphasizes respect for the dignity of work, ethics, workmanship, scholarship and safety.

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