



July 29, 2011

Dear Governor Sandoval:

Students from Nevada career and technical education (CTE) programs were nationally recognized recently for their excellence in occupational preparation and for their employability skills so highly sought by American employers. CTE is learning that works for America. That means excellent high school graduation rates among CTE concentrators (90%); higher college completion (70% staying in postsecondary or transferring to 4-year programs) and preparation of America's workforce essential for high-skill, high demand and high-paying occupations.

These national SkillsUSA Championships gold, silver and bronze high school and college/postsecondary medalists and Skill Point Certificate recipients are tremendous individuals who will build the communities and economy of Nevada. **Your office may wish to recognize these students as well.** A list of student home addresses will be emailed to your office upon request.

Following is the news release sent to newspapers in your state after the 47<sup>th</sup> annual SkillsUSA Championships Awards Ceremony. In all, over 5,700 students competed representing every state and several territories during the national Championships. There were 94 hands-on and leadership contests.

The SkillsUSA Championships builds genuine business-education partnerships all across the country. SkillsUSA estimates that 10,000 local-and state-level contests are held annually. Contests are designed, managed and judged by industry using industry standards to assess student mastery of technical, academic and employability skills. That's good for the workforce; it's good for the communities; and, it is consistent with the emphasis on industry certification in the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

**You have a direct influence on the future of America's Champions at Work.**

SkillsUSA is one of nine well-known and well-regarded career and technical education student organizations recognized as integral to the curriculum under the Perkins Act. Federal funding for CTE was cut in FY'10 and more are proposed in FY'11. I hope you will continue to support and build your state's high school and college CTE system. America must have a skilled workforce. CTE is an essential part of how and where we prepare those workers and often where workers go to retrain. CTE really is learning that works for America. Please continue to invest in Nevada future through CTE.

To receive student home addresses, please have a staff member contact Tom Holdsworth, at [tholdsworth@skillsusa.org](mailto:tholdsworth@skillsusa.org) or Jane Short at [jshort@skillsusa.org](mailto:jshort@skillsusa.org). Further information about SkillsUSA is available at [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org).

Thank you, and congratulations for your state's winners.

Sincerely,

Timothy W. Lawrence  
Executive Director  
SkillsUSA

cc: Mike Pointer, Nevada SkillsUSA State Association Director  
Michael Raponi, Nevada State Director of Career and Technical Education

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

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Students from Nevada 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. The SkillsUSA Championships have been a premier event since 1967.

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, for the fifth year, 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 Skill Point Certificates were introduced in 2007 as a component of the SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System.

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

Connor Stidham, from Las Vegas and a student at College of Southern Nevada-Henderson (Henderson), was awarded the college/postsecondary gold medal in Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration.

Frank W Robinson, from Las Vegas and a student at Northwest Career & Technology Academy (Las Vegas), was awarded the college/postsecondary bronze medal in Building Maintenance.

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

Nathan J Richner, from Boulder City and a student at Boulder City High School (Boulder City), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Technical Drafting.

Team C (consisting of Brian Knight, Mike Alexander, Garret Browning), from Carlin High School (Carlin), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Welding Fabrication.

Michael Ruesch, from Henderson and a student at Foothill High School (Henderson), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration.

Connor Kerbrat, from Las Vegas and a student at Southeast Career Technical Academy (Las Vegas), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Food and Beverage Service.

Tara Silvaggio, from Las Vegas and a student at Southeast Career Technical Academy (Las Vegas), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Cosmetology.

Ashley Yamagata, from Las Vegas and a student at Southeast Career Technical Academy (Las Vegas), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Nurse Assisting.

Jeremy L Sabina, from North Las Vegas and a student at Northwest Career & Technology Academy (Las Vegas), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Commercial Baking.

Queen Canimo, from Las Vegas and a student at East Career & Technical Academy (Las Vegas), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Culinary Arts.

Richard Carroll, from Las Vegas and a student at Southeast Career Technical Academy (Las Vegas), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Collision Repair Technology.

Katie Short, from Las Vegas and a student at Southeast Career Technical Academy (Las Vegas), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Pin Design.

Team D (consisting of Tiffany Cook, Evelyn Gonzalez, Maria Quiros), from Southeast Career Technical Academy (Las Vegas), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Promotional Bulletin Board.

Team C (consisting of Josette Ramos-Ryan, Leslie Castillo), from Southeast Career Technical Academy (Las Vegas), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Nail Care.

Team D (consisting of Iris Medina, Weslie Robles), from Southeast Career Technical Academy (Las Vegas), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Esthetics.

Johnny A Collom, from Mesquite and a student at Virgin Valley High School (Mesquite), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Cabinetmaking.

Abigail L Tate, from Dayton and a student at Douglas High School (Minden), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in T-Shirt Design.

Megan H NyBlom, from Minden and a student at Douglas High School (Minden), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Screen Printing Technology.

Patrick S McEnulty, from Las Vegas and a student at College of Southern Nevada-N. Las Vegas (North Las Vegas), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Automotive Service Technology.

Katherine M Connelly, from Henderson and a student at College of Southern Nevada-N. Las Vegas (North Las Vegas), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Residential Wiring.

Mike McGaffey, from Reno and a student at North Valleys High School (Reno), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Sheet Metal.

Heather Mundy, from Reno and a student at Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Commercial Baking.

Andrea Garrett, from Reno and a student at Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Culinary Arts.

Team L (consisting of Hunter Rand, Dallas Debard, Delana Pennington, Justin Crespo), from Academy of Arts, Careers & Technology (Reno), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Broadcast News Production.

Malinda M Bolien, from Reno and a student at Sierra Nevada Job Corp Center (Reno), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Nurse Assisting.

"Over 5,600 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 Lawrence, recent survey data says that 75 percent of these students will go on to higher education. Included in that number are 40 percent who will be attending college and working at the same time. Of those graduating from school, 76 percent plan to work in the field for which they've trained.

"They're the employees industry wants to hire and promote," Lawrence said.

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 is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. SkillsUSA serves more than 300,000 students and instructors annually and has served more than 10.5 million members since it's founding in 1965. The organization has more than 17,000 sections and 54 state and territorial associations.

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