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TRENHOLM STATE & SKILLSUSA NATIONALS

by Ken Scott, SkillsUSA Director

Another year has passed into the history books in the domain of SkillsUSA state (April 27-29, 2011) and national competitions (June 19 – 24, 2011). As you've heard by now, we did considerably well at the state challenge in Birmingham, bringing home seven Gold and Silver medals, respectively, one Bronze medal, and 1st Place for SkillsUSA Chapter Membership. On June 19 at 10 p.m., we loaded ourselves and our equipment on the bus and departed for Kansas City, Missouri. The trip took a minimum of 15 hours as we arrived with very little meaningful REM sleep. We arrived at our destination shortly after 1 p.m. on June 20. We unloaded our stuff, registered, and made sure we all knew where and when we needed to be on Tuesday as the competitions began—with variations from orientations to actual sessions beginning on June 21.

The actual competitions occurred on June 21 through June 24, with final scores and sessions concluding on Friday, June 24. Some sessions required individuals to attend a mandatory orientation, followed by specific times of hands-on skills demonstrations that ranged from the majority of time on Tuesday through Thursday, with some work to be concluded on Friday, including any final debriefings of the competitors. The week culminates with the awards ceremony on Friday night at 6 p.m., normally concluding at 9 p.m. or shortly after. Subsequent to the Closing Awards ceremony, state meetings occur to provide certificates and notifications of the success and placements of the competitors.

Out of the total contingent of students, parents, employers, and sponsors, the total attendance at this year's competition exceeded 16,000 people. Of those, there were over 5,000 students competing in 93 areas of concentration and related SkillsUSA areas. These concentrations included 3-D Visualization and Animation, Action Skills, Advertising Design, Automotive Service Technology, Basic Health Care Skills, Community Service, Culinary Arts, Computer Maintenance Technology, Cosmetology, Food and Beverage Service, HVAC and Refrigeration, Electronics Technology, Internetworking, First Aid/CPR, Practical Nursing, Related Technical Math, Pin Design, Outstanding Chapter, and Robotics Automation and Technology. If you would like a complete listing, please contact me. Trenholm State competed in the following areas: Automotive Service Technology, Television (Video) Production, Technical Computer Applications, and Advertising and Design. Of these four areas, we placed in the Top Ten in two of them.

While we did not win a national —medall in 2011, our goals for 2012 are to renew our efforts and recruit heavily in the student body of the college as well as in the advisor area. Our student-competitors did an outstanding job this year in competing against people from all over the United States and its territories (Virgin Islands for example) in placing in the top ten. These competitions are workforce structured and create a formidable level of intensity to compete effectively and successfully. I commend our students for their efforts and their successes. A top ten finish in this type of national forum is impressive, particular when you consider that you and or your team did better than a majority of those competing against you/your team.

I would like to thank Brittany Anderson, Rosa Miles, Don Greer, Chris Roquemore, Deborah Griggs and Beverly Ross in various capacities for the success of this year's SkillsUSA state and national outcomes. It is this type of support and dedication that ensures the success of the SkillsUSA competitors as they prepare and compete.

Finally, let me encourage all faculty and staff to congratulate our SkillsUSA students in their efforts. We may be the educational facilitators that educate, train, and prepare the students to compete; it is the individual student who must be ultimately responsible for his or her success – 4 under significant pressure to perform to industry standard. Success in this realm is not achieved lightly, and I would ask every employee at the college to support SkillsUSA in 2011-2012 as he or she has time and motivation to do so!