



NEWS

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Contact: Dana Nunn 970.248.1868
970.640.0421

WCCC students bring home top honors

Grand Junction, CO – Western Colorado Community College and Mesa County Valley School District 51 students brought back top honors from the 46th annual Colorado SkillsUSA conference at Red Rocks Community College and Warren Technical School in Denver last week.

The WCCC teams brought back three first place awards and one third place award. The five students who took first place at the state competition will travel to Kansas City, MO June 20-25 to compete at the national level.

The Mesa State College/WCCC students who competed in this year's competitions were Logan Locke, Kyle Freud, Garrett Jensen, and Chris Taylor. Locke, Freud and Jensen took first in the state in the Automated Manufacturing Technology category. The contest evaluated three-person teams for employment in integrated manufacturing technology fields of computer-aided drafting/design (CAD), computer aided manufacturing (CAM), and computer numerical controlled machining (CNC). CAD operators construct the part geometry; the CAM operator generates the tool paths; and the CNC operator sets up and machines the part. Plotting is not a scored event; however the contestants must be able to generate a plot file that will be used to send their data to the plotter.

Jensen also placed first in Extemporaneous Speaking, which required contestants to give a three-to five-minute speech on an assigned topic with five minutes of advance preparation. Contestants entered the preparation area one at a time and were given a speech topic. They were judged on voice, mechanics, platform deportment, organization and effectiveness.

Taylor placed third in Automotive Service Technology, an individual event in which Contestants demonstrated their ability to perform jobs and skills based on the task list outlined by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) and the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF). Workstations consist of on-vehicle, simulations, bench and component testing and a written test. Contestants were judged on technical competency, accuracy, quality, safety and ability to follow directions. There are thirteen skill stations including the written test.

School District 51/WCCC students who competed in this year's competitions were Cory DeVore, Palisade High School; Jordan Rossman, Fruita Monument High School; and Zach Padilla, Central High School.

DeVore and Rossman took first in the state in 3-D Visualization and Animation. The world of 3D is rapidly expanding, and career opportunities exist in a wide range of fields – including architecture, games, product and industrial design, civil engineering, and film and television animation. This contest allowed students to step into a real world 3D production environment where creative output must be accomplished within specific timeframes, resources and design constraints. This two-person team event included a preliminary written exam. Contestants must produce high quality images and an animated short subject using 3D computerized images. Students were evaluated on their technical knowledge, production skills and creative abilities – including visual development and storyboarding. They will also have the opportunity to interface with and get feedback from high-profile judges with successful careers in 3D visualization and animation.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. SkillsUSA helps each student excel. SkillsUSA's mission is to help its members become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. It serves more than 300,000 students and instructors annually. The organization has 13,000 school chapters in 54 state and territorial associations. More than 14,500 instructors and administrators are professional members of SkillsUSA. <http://www.skillsusa.org/about/index.shtml>

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2508 Blichmann Avenue

Grand Junction CO 81505

970.255.2600