

# NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## NEWS RELEASE

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## 34 NEBRASKA STUDENTS RECEIVE NATIONAL SkillsUSA AWARDS

Thirty-four Nebraska students recently received national SkillsUSA Top Ten awards.

Those students were among 175 Nebraska students and advisors who attended the 46th National Leadership and Skills Conference, sponsored by SkillsUSA, June 21 - 25 in Kansas City.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together helping students excel and to ensure America has a skilled workforce. More than 5,600 students from 54 states and territories competed in 93 occupational and leadership skill areas.

SkillsUSA programs also help establish industry standards for job skill training in the classroom.

Nebraska's Top Ten Award winners are:

### **First Place**

- Mike Toczec and Sydney Wells of Papillion LaVista High School - Mobile Robotics Technology
- Chris Waszgis of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – Postsecondary Residential Wiring
- Morgan Hansen of Syracuse High School – Welding Art Sculpture

### **Second Place**

- Elise DeMaranville, Justine Heatley and Bridget Murphy of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – Postsecondary Community Service
- Erin Parisien of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – Postsecondary Medical Math
- Alex Koehler, Andrew Sorsen, Zachary Bruick, Carl Heinicke and Emily Thraikill of Seward High School - High School Quiz Bowl

### **Third Place**

- Richard Schutt of Southeast Community College, Lincoln - Postsecondary Firefighting
- Jackie Michals of Lincoln North Star High School - Job Interview
- Brandon Gunnick, Nathan Heath, Austin Kay and Mitch Sapp of Wayne State College, Wayne – Postsecondary TeamWorks

### **Fourth Place**

- Connor Smith of Papillion LaVista South High School – Customer Service
- Andrew Reuss of Papillion LaVista South High School – T-shirt Design

### **Fifth Place**

- Ross Johnson of Northeast Community College, Norfolk – Postsecondary HVACR

- Mackenzie Frei and Rob Kasel of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – Postsecondary Television/Video Production

**Eighth Place**

- Jared Cape of Central Community College, Hastings – Postsecondary Diesel Equipment Technology
- Austin Mann, Travis Poppe, Cody Schieffer and Deryk Wortmann of Crofton High School – TeamWorks

**Ninth Place**

- John Petska of Sutherland High School – Computer Maintenance Technology
- Luke Gillespie of Bellevue West High School – Mobile Electronics Installation
- Alex Meitl of Mid-Plains Community College, North Platte – Postsecondary Technical Drafting

**Tenth Place**

- Dominic Pederson of Crofton High School – Masonry
- Gregory Bauer of Fairbury High School – Power Equipment Technology

SkillsUSA is a national student organization that serves trade, industrial, technical and health occupation students in high schools and college/technical schools. It provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. It builds and reinforces self confidence, work attitudes and communication skills. The association emphasizes total quality at work, high ethical standards, superior work skills, life-long education and pride in the dignity of work. SkillsUSA also promotes understanding of the free enterprise system and involvement in community service activities.