

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

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52 NEBRASKA SkillsUSA STUDENTS RECEIVE NATIONAL TOP 10 AWARDS

Fifty-two Nebraska students received national SkillsUSA awards during competition June 20-24 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Overall, 205 students and advisors from Nebraska attended the 47th National Leadership and Skills Conference, sponsored by SkillsUSA.

More than 5,700 students from 52 states and territories competed in 94 occupational and leadership skill areas. SkillsUSA programs help to establish industry standards for job skill training in the classroom.

Top Ten Award Winners are:

- **First Place**
 - Dan Murphy of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Telecommunications Cabling
- **Second Place**
 - Lane Cerney and Tayler Howell of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Television/Video Production
 - Ryan Boetger of Southeast Community College, Lincoln - College/Technical Firefighting
- **Third Place**
 - Austin Kay of Wayne State College - College/Technical Cabinetmaking
 - Andrew Beckman of Northeast Community College, Norfolk – College/Technical HVACR
 - Kevin Sturm of Southeast Community College, Milford - College/Technical Major Appliance and Refrigeration Technology
 - Chris Waszigs of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Residential Wiring
 - Lucas Boshart, Ryan Dauel and Brandon Vernon of Southeast Community College, Lincoln – College/Technical Welding Fabrication
- **Fourth Place**
 - Madison Doughty, Peter Lopez, Ross Rasmussen, Carlos Romero, Ronald VanDonk, Charlie Wilkinson and Nick Wilkinson of North Platte High School – High School Opening and Closing Ceremonies
 - Zachary Bruick, Carl Heinicke, Shane Sloup, Emily Thrailkill and Bryce Van Velson of Seward High School – High School Quiz Bowl
 - Alex Hansen of North Platte High School – High School Sheetmetal

- Elise DeMaranville, Zach Pechacek, Mike Walding and Andrew Wike of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical TeamWorks
- **Fifth Place**
 - Luke Gillespie of Bellevue West High School – High School Mobile Electronics Installation
 - Josh Thom of Central Community College, Hastings – College/Technical Drafting
- **Sixth Place**
 - Theresa Gase and Christain Sundquist of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Mechatronics
 - Justin Criss of Northeast Community College, Norfolk – College/Technical Sheetmetal
- **Seventh Place**
 - Richard Jensen of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Industrial Motor Control
 - Jessica Cook, Emily Heerten, Kasina Heerten, Kelsi Mizner, Jessi Snyder and Tressa Vigoren of Keya Paha County High School - High School Chapter Business Procedure
- **Eighth Place**
 - Travis Bankson, Keith Faimon and Beau Toben of Central Community College, Hastings – College/Technical Automated Manufacturing Technology
 - Dean Amundson of Southeast Community College, Lincoln – College/Technical Motorcycle Service Technology
 - Johnny Kamprath and Tristan Penland of Seward High School – High School Web Design
 - Christy Bowers of North Platte High School – High School Welding Sculpture
- **Ninth Place**
 - Jordan Johaneck of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Photography
 - Chloe Langford of Papillion-La Vista South High School – High School Preschool Teaching
 - Jake McDonald and Thomas McDonald of Columbus High School – High School Mechatronics
- **Tenth Place**
 - Matthew Greenwood of Mid-Plains Community College, North Platte – College/Technical Plumbing

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce and to help each student excel. 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. SkillsUSA 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.