

# **SkillsUSA Minnesota State Leadership and Skills Conference March 27-29, 2009**

Minnesota state colleges captured gold, silver and bronze medals for 208 college division students at the SkillsUSA Minnesota 2009 State Leadership and Skills Conference, March 27-29, at the Sheraton Hotel in Bloomington. The competitions focused on technical skill demonstration in 70 competitive events, with over 600 college students from 24 campuses of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Minnesota High School students captured gold, silver and bronze medals for 171 high school division students. The competition focused on technical skill demonstration in 70 competitive events, with over 300 students from 29 high school campuses.

SkillsUSA Minnesota is a leadership organization for students in career and technical programs in high school and college. Students participate in leadership and skills competition at local, state and national levels where they build and reinforce technical skills, self-confidence, work attitudes and communications skills. The contests were held in the following nine career and technical education cluster areas: arts and communication; construction; health services; legal and protective services; hospitality; human services, manufacturing; science, engineering and technology; and transportation.

67 of 70 first-place college division and 45 of 53 high school division first-place medalists are eligible to advance to the National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City, Mo., June 22-26. The top four colleges, with students winning first place medals, were Alexandria Technical College (18), Century College (11) MSCTC- Wadena (6), South Central College- North Mankato (6). The top four high schools, with students winning first place medals, were Kennedy High School (13), Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative (9), Century High School (8) and Dakota County Secondary Technical Center (6),

More than 500 Minnesota businesses were involved in the conference and provided 12 contest host sites; medalist prizes totaling over \$312,000; 500 contest judges; and many volunteers. The Minnesota Association of SkillsUSA was honored to have as our Key Note Speaker for the Conference, Lillyan Hoyos, The Stanley Works and YDF Board Members of SkillsUSA Inc.. Snap-on Tools received the 2009 Industry Partner of the Year award. College Advisor of the Year for 2009 was presented to Jeff Fischer, South Central College- North Mankato. High School Advisor of the Year for 2009 was presented to Ed Burns, Cambridge-Isanti High School.

Ms. Jennifer Leff, Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative was regonized as Region IV Advisor of the Year and is a Finalist for National Advisor of the Year.

Students from the following colleges competed and medaled at the state conference: Alexandria Technical College, Anoka Technical College, Century College, Dakota County Technical College, Dunwoody College of Technology, Hennepin Technical College, Hibbing Community College, Lake Superior College, Minneapolis Community and Technical College, MSCTC- Detroit Lakes, MSCTC- Moorhead, MSCTC- Wadena, Minnesota West Community and Technical College- Canby, Ridgewater College, Pine Technical College, Riverland Community College, St. Cloud Technical College, Saint Paul College, and South Central College, Southeast Technical College.

Students from the following high schools/technical centers competed and medaled at the state conference: Alexandria Technical College, Anoka High School, Austin High School Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative, Cambridge-Isanti High School, Century High School, Champlin Park High School, Dakota County Secondary Technical Center, Dakota County Technical College, Dakota Ridge High School, Duluth Secondary Technical Center, Dunwoody College of Technology, Intermediate District 287- Brooklyn Park, Intermediate District 287- Eden Prairie, John F. Kennedy High School, John Marshall High School, Luverne High School, MSCTC-Wadena, NE Metro #916, Red Wing High School, Riverland Community College- Austin, Roseau High School, St. Cloud Technical College, St. Francis High School, St. Paul Career Pathways Academy, Saint Paul College, Secondary Technical Educational Program, Wayzata High School and Wright Technical Center.

Mary Messimer, Perkins High School to College Transitions/Tech Prep Program Director, Dr. Suzanne Nordblomm, Dean of Engineering & Construction Technology, South Central College, Jim Mecklenburg, Project Lead the Way Program Director, Minnesota Center for Engineering & Manufacturing Excellence Dr. Marlys Bucher, Carl Perkins -Secondary CET Improvement, Minnesota Department of Education, Emily Saed, Executive Director, Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations, Dan Smith, Adult and Career Technical Education Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Education, Anne Danielson, Grants Administration Service Learning Administrative Support, Minnesota Department of Education, participated in the three-day conference by judging contests, providing information at the TECHSPO, and working behind the scenes.

Joann Simser, Interim Director Program Collaboration a, Minnesota State Colleges & Universities, office of the Chancellor, Dr. Cecilia Cervantes, President of Hennepin Technical College and Dr. Ronald Thomas, President of Dakota County Technical College, Dr. Randy Zitterkopf, Executive Director of Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative School presented medallions to the college & high school winners at the awards ceremony. Ms. Messimer represents Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and Dr. Marlys Bucher represents Minnesota Department of Education on the SkillsUSA Minnesota Board of Directors.