



Alabama Association SkillsUSA

Alabama Alumni Association of SkillsUSA

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DATE: August 11, 2008
TO: Alabama SkillsUSA Members, Advisors, Industry Partners, Supporters, and Alumni Members
FROM: Brian Terry, Chair, Public Relations Committee
Alabama Alumni Association SkillsUSA
SUBJECT: Alabama SkillsUSA 2008 Year in Review

The National SkillsUSA Conference has ended and the final results are in. Your support and tireless effort has made this a highly successful year. I'm pleased to provide these words of thanks and a recap of the collective accomplishments of Alabama SkillsUSA, the partnership of students, educators, and industry.

Technical Education and Alabama SkillsUSA Highlights

Great things are happening in Technical Education. During the last year a new Course of Study was developed that will empower teachers to drive program improvement. A Plan of Instruction is in development that will not only provide a tool for improved teaching and learning but will also provide the documentation needed to facilitate articulation with our Community College cohorts. The Early College Enrollment Program holds great promise for keeping students engaged and in school. It is interesting to note that 69 of the 79 courses currently approved for statewide articulation are Technical Education courses.

Alabama Technical Education teachers are doing their part to keep students in school. According to 2006-07 data, 50% of Technical Education students are classified as Concentrators. Despite the fact that we experienced a 20% drop in enrollment during that period we had a 10% increase in Concentrators. In fact, approximately 1/3 of all Career and Technical Concentrators come from among our ranks yet we make up only 13% of the Career and Technical student population. Due to your efforts, the graduation exam pass rate for Technical Education students has risen to 92%. We must, as educational leaders, continue along his path to improved student achievement.

Credentialing efforts continue as Technical Education explores new opportunities to document student achievement. Thirty-eight new teachers have achieved trainer status, are authorized to teach the OSHA 10-Hour Course, and issue that credential. As our Youth Safety Alliance grows, so will our influence in making Alabama a safe place for all to live and work.

With strong articulations and the Early College Enrollment initiative in place, great opportunities are available to Alabama students. At present Alabama SkillsUSA is considering ways to promote the value and importance of these milestones. The future is indeed bright for Technical Education in Alabama.

Alabama SkillsUSA Conference, Championships, and Career Expo

The Alabama SkillsUSA Conference was held in Birmingham, Alabama and was a great success. There were over 3000 attendees, including 1108 students from 54 high schools and Career and Technical Centers and 16 Community College campuses that competed in 30 Technical and 15 Leadership development contests. Approximately 370 chapter advisors, alumni, industry volunteers, and Alabama Department of Education staff facilitated the event. Long-time supporter State Farm Insurance sponsored our Opening Session and supplied awards for all leadership contests. Our Awards Ceremony was underwritten by our partnering friends from Alabama Power. We were honored to have Post-secondary Chancellor Bradley Byrne address our Association and share his views of the prosperous Alabama he envisions. We were reminded of the role Technical Education plays in turning those dreams into achievable realities. Chancellor Byrne concluded by personally congratulating state winners as he and the leadership team awarded medals.

The complete list of all State Conference Gold, Silver, and Bronze winners is available to you at www.skillsalabama.org under the heading "State Winners 2008."

Special recognition was given to Alabama SkillsUSA professionals; Mr. Greg Dudley of Albert P Brewer High School and Mr. Kenny Allen of Wallace Community College-Selma. Mr. Dudley and Mr. Allen were named Advisors of the Year for High School and College respectively. Many of you are well aware of the many contributions these advisors have made to our association. Among them, Greg for driving program improvement as Technical Chair of our Welding Education Team and Kenny for his SkillsUSA Chapter leadership at Wallace-Selma, our most active college chapter.

The **Alabama SkillsUSA Championships** for 2008 featured a number of new contests. For the first time Alabama students competed in CNC Milling, CNC Turning, and Automated Manufacturing. These additions were made possible by a number of new industry partners, dedicated advisors, and the attention to updated technology generated by our associates who represent CARCAM at participating colleges statewide. Technical Contests continue to anchor our championships as industry professionals evaluate student performance.

One group of industry professionals was singled out for special recognition. Wayne J. Griffin Electric, Inc. has, for many years, developed, conducted, and evaluated performance in both our Residential Wiring and Industrial Motor Control Contests. Griffin Electric, known for its commitment to employee training and education, both initiates and contributes to numerous workforce development programs nationwide. Alabama is fortunate to benefit from their expertise. Under the leadership of Mike Boike, Griffin Electric professionals again executed exemplary contests. Representing Griffin Electric, Mr. Boike was recognized for his outstanding service to Alabama SkillsUSA as we expressed our special thanks to Griffin Electric and Mr. Wayne J. Griffin whose vision and dedication makes it all possible.

The **Career Expo**, held in conjunction with our Conference and Championships and coordinated by the Alabama Industrial Development Training Institute (AIDT), was attended by 1200 to 1400 students and over 100 teachers from a five county area. Our guests were provided career information from 42 professionals representing 37 Alabama industries or Trade Associations. "On the Job" film crews were on hand to capture the action as students toured the Expo and Championships. Thank you AIDT leadership and staff, for a job well done.

Events of this magnitude require the combined effort of many. Industry partners, career technical directors, technical deans, advisors, and many volunteers are to be commended for helping make this conference such a success. None of this would have been possible without your commitment, work and support. Thank You!

SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference

The National Conference was held in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 23-27, 2008. Our 203 attendees included 86 student competitors and 9 state officers along with 108 advisors, educators, and parents.

Also, recognition is in order for Alabama's National Education Team and Technical Committee members who worked tirelessly at National this year. They include: Canetha Bristol, Larry Harris, Peggy Jones, Julise Clement, and Kathy Wiginton. Their commitment to professional excellence is highly regarded by National SkillsUSA, and Alabama is fortunate to have such fine representation.

Alabama students competed in 73 contests earning 2 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze medals as they competed against almost 5000 of their peers from 50 states in the largest National SkillsUSA Championships ever. Also, Alabama competitors were national medalists or top 10 finishers in 25 of the 73 contests in which they competed.

A new recognition for competitors this year was the opportunity to earn the SkillsPoint Certificate as part of the SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System. These industry-driven knowledge and skill assessments are in technical areas that correspond to many career clusters and pathways. This certificate is a very valuable addition to the student's portfolio or resume'. Thirty-one Alabama contestants earned this industry recognized credential as they demonstrated their knowledge and skills during competition. This is a tribute to both our students and their advisors. With the emphasis being placed on credentialing and workforce development, look for more information to be released soon about the SkillsUSA Workforce Ready System.

These collective accomplishments are true testament to Technical Education in Alabama and the hard work and commitment of every stakeholder involved in this process. We recognize your contributions; celebrate your achievements, and thank you for your efforts.

Alabama medalists, the school that supported their effort, the advisor that taught and motivated, and the Alabama Contest Chairperson that helped prepare them for the highest levels of competition are as follows:

2008 Alabama National Medalists

Computer Maintenance Technology

Christopher Kennedy - Gold

Limestone Career Technology Center, Athens

Ted James, Advisor

Stan Davis, Director

Alabama Contest Chair – Bobby Conrad, Technical Training Aids

Computer Maintenance Technology

Theo Watson - Silver

J F Drake State Technical College

Christine Davis, Advisor

John Ruetter, Technical Dean

Alabama Contest Chair – Bobby Conrad, Technical Training Aids

Electronics Applications

Justin Stricklin - Bronze

Wallace State College - Hanceville

Joe Hendrix, Advisor

Phillip Cleveland, Dean of Instruction

Alabama Contest Chair – Bennie Reeves, ITT Technical Institute

Esthetics

Sung Fredrick – Silver

Ada Serrano

Lurleen B Wallace Community College

Denise Sauls, Advisor

Peggy Linton, Technical Dean

Alabama Contest Chair – Kathy Meyers, Jane Iredale Cosmetics

Masonry

Bradley Wright - Gold

Earnest Pruett Center of Technology

Charles West, Advisor

Monty Gant, Director

Alabama Contest Chair – Butch Wyatt, Alabama Concrete Association

Nail Care

Sandra Blackwell - Bronze

Ashleigh Ford

Gadsden State Community College

Zora Garner, Advisor

Tim Green, Technical Dean

Alabama Contest Chair – Yolanda Washington, OPI

Alabama Top 10 National Finalists

Contestant Name	School/College	Contest
Joey Barrett	Shelby Co. School of Technology	Automotive Refinishing
Christopher Pittman	Gadsden State Community College	Automotive Refinishing
Matthew Gardner	Gadsden State Community College	Cabinetmaking
Karson Cupp	NW Shoals Community College	Carpentry
Randy Brumlow	Madison Co. Career/Tech Center	CNC Milling Technology
Brandon Pruitt	Etowah Career/Tech. Center	CNC Turning Technology
David Herring	Lurleen B Wallace Community College	Computer Programming
Ashley Johnson	Snead State Community College.	Cosmetology
Raychel Bland	Dothan Technology Center	Esthetics
Alexa White	Dothan Technology Center	Esthetics
Charlene Cummerford	Lurleen B Wallace Community College	Extemporaneous Speaking
Johnny Winfrey	Gadsden State Community College	HVAC-R
Johnathan Harris	Gadsden State Community College	Industrial Motor Control
Shane Plott	Calhoun Community College	Internetworking
Apollonia Landrum	Lurleen B Wallace Community College	Job Interview
Alry Wells	Lurleen B Wallace Community College	Job Skills Demo - Open
Jessica Blanks	Etowah High School	Nail Care
Ashley McLaughlin	Etowah High School	Nail Care
Jonathan Williams	Etowah Career/Tech Center	Precision Machining Tech
Curtis Enoch	Earnest Pruett Center of Technology	Team Works
William Huddleston	Earnest Pruett Center of Technology	Team Works
Zachery Ranken	Earnest Pruett Center of Technology	Team Works
Ryan Sanders	Earnest Pruett Center of Technology	Team Works
Joshua Evans	Limestone Career/Tech Center	Technical Computer Apps.
Michael Larzabal	Etowah Career/Tech Center	Telecom Cabling
Jessica Craft	Flomaton High School	Video Product Development
Lauren Holt	Flomaton High School	Video Product Development
Joey Foster	Wallace Community College-Hanceville	Welding
Bonnie Pope	Lurleen B. Wallace Community College	Job Skills Demo - A
Ashley Windsor	Dothan Technology Center	Job Skills Demo - A
Jennifer Huynh	Dothan Technology Center	Prepared Speech

National Skills Point Certificate Recipients from Alabama

Aranda, Renato	Tuscaloosa Center For Technology	Television (Video) Production
Barrett, Joey	Shelby County School of Technology	Automotive Refinishing
Blackwell, Sandra	Gadsden State Community College	Nail Care
Bland , Raychel	Dothan Technical Center	Esthetics
Blanks, Jessica	Etowah High School	Nail Care
Bowling, Tommy	Gadsden State Technical College - Ayers	Residential Wiring
Bradley, Katie	Cherokee County Career & Tech Center	Cosmetology
Chisenall, Jordan	Earnest Pruett Center of Technology	Welding
Cupp, Karson	Northwest Shoals Community College	Carpentry
Enoch, Curtis	Earnest Pruett Center of Technology	TeamWorks
Evans, Joshua	Limestone Career Technology Center	Technical Computer
Ford, Ashleigh	Gadsden State Community College	Nail Care
Foster, Joey	Wallace State College	Welding
Fredrick, Sung	Lurleen B Wallace Community College	Esthetics
Gardner, Matthew	Gadsden State Community College	Cabinetmaking
Gipson, Kenneth (K.T.)	Tuscaloosa Center For Technology	Television (Video) Production

Huddleston, William	Earnest Pruett Center of Technology	TeamWorks
Johnson, Ashley	Snead State Community College	Cosmetology
Kennedy, Christopher	Limestone Career Technology Center	Computer Maintenance
May, Austin	Shelby County School of Technology	Collision Repair Technology
McCormick, Jonathan	Gadsden State Community College	Collision Repair Technology
McLaughlin, Ashley	Etowah High School	Nail Care
Pittman, Christopher	Gadsden State Community College	Automotive Refinishing
Ranken, Zachery	Earnest Pruett Center of Technology	TeamWorks
Sanders, Ryan	Earnest Pruett Center of Technology	TeamWorks
Serrano, Ada	Lurleen B Wallace Community College	Esthetics
Stricklin, Justin	Wallace State College	Electronics Applications
Walston, Theo	J F Drake State Technical College	Computer Maintenance
White, Alexa	Dothan Technical Center	Esthetics
Winfrey, Johnny	Gadsden State Community College	Heating, Ventilation, Air
Wright, Bradley	Earnest Pruett Center of Technology	Masonry

Certificate Count: 31

Congratulations to all of our Alabama Champions!

To you, our supporters and our “champions,” please accept our heartfelt thanks. It is you who make this all possible. Your energy and commitment enable Alabama students to make the most of their education. Your expertise guides their way. Your leadership inspires them to excellence. You are the force that drives Alabama SkillsUSA.

Continue to visit our web site at www.skillsalabama.org to keep up with the latest news about your Alabama SkillsUSA organization or get national information at www.skillsusa.org. Also, Association Director Myron Laurent can be reached directly at 334-353-4522 or by e-mail at mllaurent@alsde.edu. He welcomes your call.

As an Association we are all looking forward to a new school year and the challenges that lay before us. Working together, it will be another very successful one!