



Somerset County Vo-Tech students win national medals and recognition

Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School SkillsUSA Chapter

Members of the Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School SkillsUSA Chapter stand with Troy Dally, senior vice president of Lowes Companies Inc. (far left) , and Tim Lawrence, executive director of SkillsUSA (far right), to accept the national Outstanding Model of Excellence Award in Personal Skills at the 51st annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference held in Louisville. (courtesy photo)

The Messenger-Gazette By The Messenger-Gazette

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At the 51st annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference held in Louisville from June 22-26, students from Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School earned a total of four medals and took home the national Outstanding Model of Excellence Award.

The list of students who received medals is as follows:

GOLD: Medical Terminology - Yesha Parekh (Ringo)

BRONZE: Career Pathways Showcase: Natural Resources/Agriculture/Food - Robert Bender (Hillsborough), Alok Pillai (Hillsborough), Satyakrishna Polavarapu (Bridgewater)

At the conference, the Vo-Tech students were involved in many activities including Models of Excellence finalist interviews, an awards dinner at the Kentucky Derby Museum, and recognition during the final session of the conference in front of more than 50,000 SkillsUSA members and guests. The chapter is also the recipient of a \$2,000 award grant from program sponsor Lowe's Companies, Inc.

"The Models of Excellence program represents the very best in chapter achievement and community involvement," said Tim Lawrence, Executive Director of SkillsUSA. "The Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools chapter defines excellence across the board, serving as a model for other chapters to emulate in strengthening their local programs. Students impacted by a quality chapter not only represent our future workforce, they reflect the future of the communities in which they reside.

"This is a tremendous honor and wonderful reflection of the outstanding SkillsUSA program in your local community."

Achievement for this award is based on student efforts in implementing key workplace skills including personal responsibility, integrity, work ethic and organization in chapter activities.

The hands-on approach of this program actualizes the SkillsUSA mission of empowering members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens.

It also supports the personal, workplace and technical skills outlined in the SkillsUSA Framework for student development and personal growth. Specific characteristics defined within each skills area helps ensure tangible benchmarks for students achievement and chapter programming.

SkillsUSA (www.skillsusa.org) is a not-for-profit association that serves more than 300,000 middle school, high school, college and postsecondary students — and their instructors — in trade, technical and skilled service instructional programs. SkillsUSA partners educators and students with business and industry to help ensure the United States has a well-prepared and skilled workforce.

Nationally, SkillsUSA has the support of more than 600 companies, trade associations and labor unions. SkillsUSA programs teach leadership, citizenship and character development to complement technical skill training. The organization emphasizes respect for the dignity of work, ethics, workmanship, scholarship and safety.

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