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Florida Students Honored at Annual SkillsUSA Workforce Development Event

Leesburg, Va. (Grassroots Newswire) June 24, 2021 -- Career and technical students from Florida won some of the nation's highest awards at the 2021 SkillsUSA Championships, held virtually from June 14-24, 2021. More than 3,700 students competed at the national showcase of career and technical education. The SkillsUSA Championships is the largest skill competition in the world.

Students were invited to the event to demonstrate their technical skills, workplace skills and personal skills in 107 hands-on competitions including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance and public speaking. Industry leaders from 650 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions planned and evaluated the contestants against their standards for entry-level workers. Industry support of the SkillsUSA Championships is valued at over \$36 million in donated time, equipment, cash and material. More than 1,000 industry judges and technical committee members participated this year. Due to the pandemic, contests were conducted locally at schools or industry sites nationwide, with proctors supervising events and judges evaluating the students' work.

More than 1,100 gold, silver and bronze medals were presented to students. Many winners also received industry prizes, tools of their trade or scholarships.

The following students received a SkillsUSA Championships medal from your area:

Samantha Lockhart, from Bradenton and a student at Manatee Tech College (Bradenton), was awarded the college gold medal in Electrical Construction Wiring.

Taylor Sicard, from Bradenton and a student at Manatee Tech College (Bradenton), was awarded the college bronze medal in Job Skill Demonstration A.

Katherine Vreman, from Parrish and a student at Manatee Tech College (Bradenton), was awarded the high school silver medal in Commercial Baking.

Doug Chancey, from St Petersburg and a student at Pinellas Technical College-Clearwater (Clearwater), was awarded the college silver medal in Barbering.

Ito Simon, from Gainesville and a student at Santa Fe College (Gainesville), was awarded the college bronze medal in Plumbing.

Emily Attard, from Weeki Wachee and a student at Withlacoochee Technical College (Inverness), was awarded the college gold medal in Job Skill Demonstration Open.

Hezekiah Mithcell-Marr, from Lakeland and a student at Sleepy Hill Middle School (Lakeland), was awarded the middle school bronze medal in Job Skill Demonstration OPEN.

Naomae Harmon, from Lakeland and a student at Sleepy Hill Middle School (Lakeland), was awarded the middle school silver medal in Pin Design.

Team G (consisting of Kendra Feliciano, Sofia Tarno), from Coral Reef Senior High School (Miami), was awarded the High School Silver medal in Community Action Project.

Elena Banet, from New Port Richey and a student at Marchman Technical College (New Port Richey), was awarded the high school bronze medal in Nail Care.

Christina Walden, from Niceville and a student at Northwest Florida State College (Niceville), was awarded the college gold medal in Early Childhood Education.

Carlos Aranda, from Orlando and a student at Orange Technical College - Mid Florida Campus (Orlando), was awarded the college bronze medal in Telecommunications Cabling.

Mirleur Polynice, from Orlando and a student at Orange Technical College - Mid Florida Campus (Orlando), was awarded the college gold medal in Residential Commercial and Appliance Technology.

Diego Hernandez, from Orlando and a student at Orange Technical College - Mid Florida Campus (Orlando), was awarded the college silver medal in Internet of Things - Smart Home.

Blaze Menendez, from Orlando and a student at Orange Technical College - Mid Florida Campus (Orlando), was awarded the high school bronze medal in Diesel Equipment Technology.

Amelia Moore, from Pensacola and a student at Pensacola State College (Pensacola), was awarded the college gold medal in Photography.

LaTeisha Hughes, from Pensacola and a student at Pensacola State College (Pensacola), was awarded the college gold medal in Esthetics.

Hunter Fain, from Mayo and a student at Big Bend Technical College (Perry), was awarded the college silver medal in Welding.

Savannah Dawson, from Port Charlotte and a student at Charlotte Technical College (Port Charlotte), was awarded the college silver medal in Dental Assisting.

Samantha Quinto, from Orlando and a student at Orange Technical College - Winter Park Campus (Winter Park), was awarded the high school silver medal in Medical Terminology.

Hannah Punongbayan, from Orlando and a student at Orange Technical College - Winter Park Campus (Winter Park), was awarded the college gold medal in Medical Terminology.

"More than 3,700 students from every state in the nation participated in the virtual 2021 SkillsUSA Championships," said SkillsUSA executive director Chelle Travis. "This showcase of career and technical education demonstrates our SkillsUSA partnership at its finest. Our students, instructors and industry partners work together to ensure that every student excels. This program expands learning and career opportunities for our members."

The SkillsUSA Championships is held annually for students in middle school, high school or college/postsecondary programs as part of the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. The national, nonprofit partnership of students, instructors and industry is a verified talent pipeline for America's skilled workforce that is working to help solve the skills gap.

About SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is a nonprofit partnership of education and industry founded in 1965 to strengthen our nation's skilled workforce. Driven by employer demand, SkillsUSA helps students develop necessary personal and workplace skills along with technical skills grounded in academics. This SkillsUSA Framework empowers every student to succeed at work and in life, while helping to close the skills gap in which millions of positions go unfilled. Through SkillsUSA's championships program and curricula, employers have long ensured schools are teaching relevant technical skills, and with SkillsUSA's new credentialing process, they can now assess how ready potential employees are for the job. SkillsUSA has members nationwide in high schools, colleges and middle schools, covering over 130 trade, technical and skilled service occupations, and is recognized by the U.S. departments of Education and Labor as integral to career and technical education. We have served nearly 13.8 million members since 1965. For more information: www.skillsusa.org.

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