

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[New Mexico, August 3, 2011] – New Mexico students win top honors at the SkillsUSA national championships. The SkillsUSA Championships, held in Kansas City, Mo., took place June 20-24, 2011, as part of the SkillsUSA 46th annual National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC), a showcase of career and technical education students. During the week, more than 5,600 outstanding career and technical education students from across the nation—all state contest winners competed hands-on in 96 different trade, technical and leadership fields.

During the national competition students work against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in occupational areas. All contests are run with the help of business, industry, trade associations.

New Mexico students winning top honors are:

- Number One in the nation, receiving Gold Medals, **Brennen Clelland, Joshua Ellrod, and Jared Martinez** from Farmington Municipal Schools CATE Center for Welding Fabrication.
- Number One in the nation, receiving Gold Medals, **Alvina Tom and Zandra Trujillo** from Navajo Technical College for Sustainability Solutions.
- Number Two in the nation, receiving a Silver Medal, **Raina Marianito** from Navajo Technical College for Food and Beverage Service

- Number Two in the nation, receiving a Silver Medal, Jamie Henio from Navajo Technical College for Prepared Speech
- Number Three in the nation, receiving Bronze Medals, **Manuel Alvarado and Matthew Griste** from Digital Arts and Technology Academy (DATA) for 3-D Visualization and Animation
- Number Three in the nation, receiving a Bronze Medal, **Ivan Lunsford** from Carlsbad High School for Automotive Service Technology
- Number Three in the nation, receiving a Bronze Medal, **Rebecca Ross** from San Juan College for Cosmetology

SkillsUSA is a national partnership of students, teachers and industry, working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA chapters help students who are preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations excel. SkillsUSA has more than 300,000 students and instructors as members.

For more information, visit www.SkillsUSA.org.