



For Immediate Release
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Ferris hosts SkillsUSA state competition in Diesel Equipment Technology

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University’s Heavy Equipment Technology program will play host to the annual secondary and post-secondary SkillsUSA State competition in Diesel Equipment Technology on Saturday, April 23.

The contest, which has been hosted by Ferris for more than 20 years, will take place in the Heavy Equipment Center. Industry representatives from AIS Construction, ArvinMeritor, Eaton Corporation, Jackson-Merky and John Deere Equipment will judge the competition.

Gary Maike, Ferris assistant professor of heavy equipment technology, is serving as chair of the State Diesel Equipment Technology contest committee this year. Entrants from across Michigan, including students from Ferris, will be competing for individual honors and the opportunity to qualify for the SkillsUSA National Competition June 19-24 in Kansas City, MO.

According to Keith Cripe, Ferris department chair and professor, the statewide competition rewards students for technical excellence, involves industry in evaluating student performance and keeps program training relevant to employer’s needs. Heavy equipment industry representatives evaluate contestants on their skills and knowledge to troubleshoot and diagnose mechanical and electrical/electronic problems on equipment used in the heavy equipment industry.