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NEWS SERVICES

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Ferris Represented at SkillsUSA National Competition

BIG RAPIDS - The week of June 22, 2009, Ferris State University will be well represented at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City, Mo. Most students during the summer either work or relax with friends and family, not so for six College of Engineering Technology students.

During the recent SkillsUSA State competitions held on Ferris' campus and in Lansing April 25, 2009, Ferris received Gold Medals in Automated Manufacturing, Diesel Equipment Technology, Graphic Communication and Technical Drafting. Students also participated in the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration contest.

SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization partnering teachers, students and industry in skilled trade areas. The National Leadership and Skills Conference is made up of skills competitions among all of the Gold medal winners from each U.S. state.

Ferris has been participating in SkillsUSA for more than 25 years said Dan Wanink, associate professor of CAD Drafting and Tool Design and advisor for Ferris' Skills team.

The Automated Manufacturing contest is team oriented and is made up of Josh Ferris (Ionia), Frank Kruger (Bailey) and James Wolf (Iron River). Diesel Equipment Technology winner was Shane Wilcome (Mt. Pleasant). Graphic Communications had three winners, Gold – Kyle

Busse (McHenry, Ill.), Silver – Josh Bunker (Royal Oak) and Bronze – Mackenzie Thayer (Brooklyn). Doug Boardwell (Rothbury) received Silver and Derek Roggenbuck (St. Clair) received Bronze in the HVACR contest. Technical Drafting also placed Gold, Silver and Bronze respectively by Jon Vance (Pinconning), Jake Drews (Frankfort) and Mosaab Kouider (Big Rapids).

Gold Medalists at the National Conference have the opportunity to compete for a chance at WorldSkills, which is every other year. This September in Calgary, Ont., is the next WorldSkills and Ferris New Media and Publishing student Amela Mujkic (Clinton Township) is the first person to represent the U.S. in the Printing contest this September in Calgary.

“I am extremely proud of our students and of the Ferris faculty and staff that assist these students in gaining a real world education that leads to a lifetime career,” said Wanink. “These contest results continue to prove that Ferris State University is one of the best schools in the nation for training our future workforce.”

Wanink has the help of fellow co-advisors Ramon Robinson, assistant professor and Pat Klarecki, professor of Printing and Imaging Technology Management; Joe Compton, assistant professor of HVACR; and Gary Maike, assistant professor of Heavy Equipment Engineering Technology.

During the National Skills and Leadership Conference please visit @FerrisState on Twitter and the Ferris blog at ferrisstatebulldogs.blogspot.com for updates. To see the programs offered through Ferris' College of Engineering Technology go to www.ferris.edu/technology.

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