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Arizona Students and Teachers Attend 45th Annual SkillsUSA Arizona Championships

On March 27 and 28, 1,975 Arizona high school and post secondary students traveled to Phoenix for the 45th Annual SkillsUSA Arizona Championships. The Championships, held at the Phoenix Convention Center, hosted over 60 hands-on competitions ranging from Building Trades to Web Design and Cosmetology to Law Enforcement. Students showcased the skills they have learned in their career and technical education courses in front of hundreds of judges from business and industry. Gold medalists in national qualifying contests will have the opportunity to travel to the national SkillsUSA Championships—a part of the National Leadership and Skills Conference held in June in Kansas City, MO.

The Championships hosted a joint meeting of the Arizona Skill Standards Commission and Arizona Stakeholders Committee. In attendance was Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal, who brought greetings from the Department of Education and toured the contest floor. Also in attendance was the Executive Director of SkillsUSA, Mr. Timothy Lawrence.

SkillsUSA is a national organization that serves trade, industrial, technical and health occupations students in public high school, career and technical centers and schools and two-year colleges. SkillsUSA has more the 300,000 student members annually, organized at more than 3,600 schools and in 54 state and territorial associations. Since 1965, SkillsUSA has served nearly 10.3 million members. SkillsUSA Arizona serves over 8,000 members.

Currently, 16,389 teachers and school administrators serve as professional SkillsUSA members and instructors. More than 1,100 business, industry and labor sponsors actively support SkillsUSA at the national level through financial aid, in-kind contributions and involvement of their people in SkillsUSA activities. Many more work directly with state associations and local chapters.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives; working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. It helps each student to excel. SkillsUSA is an applied method for preparing America's high performance workers in public career and technical programs. It provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. It builds and reinforces self-confidence, work attitudes and communication skills. The association emphasizes total quality at work, high ethical standards, superior work skills, life-long education and pride in the dignity of work. SkillsUSA also promotes understanding of the free enterprise system and involvement in community service activities. For more information, please visit www.azskillsusa.org.

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