

# A lumn

## NORTH DAKOTA CHAMPIONS



By: Arnie Zent, State SkillsUSA Director, State Board for Career and Technical Education

Over the past twenty years of being your State SkillsUSA Director, I can report to you that this year's North Dakota delegation ranked the highest in securing the top three places than any other group of SkillsUSA contestants. This statement is not to be interpreted that national contestants from North Dakota in other years did not place in the top three spots, because many of them did. However, we never had this many in one year make this achievement. I truly attribute the success of these highly qualified students to the highly qualified programs they come from in our state. We have a plaque proudly displayed in our office located in the state capitol building, listing all the national winners from the inspection of SkillsUSA in our state.

The following information is what I sent to Governor Hoeven informing him of our outstanding accomplishments.

Among the students educated in North Dakota Vocational Trade and Technical Education programs, two placed first, nine placed second, and one placed third on June 27, 2003 at the 39th annual National SkillsUSA Championships in Kansas City, Missouri. North Dakota students challenged their skills and knowledge against national industry standards in 33 different competitive events at this national conference. All 50 states along with Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands were present for this event.

**Brandon Meyer** placed first in Automotive Service Technology; he was enrolled in the Automotive Technology at Bismarck State College.

**Tim Pranke** placed first in Collision Repair Technology; he was enrolled in the Collision Repair at North Dakota State College of Science.

**Josh Horner** placed second in the Electronics Application; he was enrolled in Electronics at Bismarck Vocational and Technical Center.

**Zach DesLauries** placed second in Electronics Technology; he was enrolled in the Electronics Program at Bismarck Vocational and Technical Center.

**Amanda Dguyvetter** placed second in Health Knowledge Bowl; she was enrolled in the Health Career Skills at the Magic City Campus in Minot.

**Brittany Hager** placed second in Health Knowledge Bowl; she was enrolled in the Health Career Skills at the Magic City Campus in Minot.



**Brittany Keller** placed second in Health Knowledge Bowl; she was enrolled in the Health Career Skills at the Magic City Campus in Minot.

**Heathyr Reinisch** placed second in Health Knowledge Bowl; she was enrolled in the Health Career Skills at the Magic City Campus in Minot.

**Randy Ackerman** placed second in Motorcycle Service Technology; he was enrolled in the Recreational Engines at North Dakota State College of Science.

**Brandon Palm** placed second in the Power Equipment Technology; he was enrolled in the Power Equipment Technology at North Dakota State College of Science.

**Lindsay Martinson** placed second in Nurse Assisting; she was enrolled in the Health Occupations at Burdick Job Corps Center in Minot.

**Adam Svenningsen** placed third in Carpentry; he was enrolled in Construction Technology at Sheyenne Valley Area Vo-Tech Center in Valley City.

Along with the mentioned award winners, six students received honorable mention. Honorable mentions are awarded to contestants that placed fourth or fifth in their contest area.

Invitations for the trials will be sent to the top contestants who placed this year at the National Conference. The 2005 World Skills Competition is scheduled for Finland. North Dakota can be truly proud of these outstanding national achievers, along with the Vocational-Technical instructors and programs that they represent.

It is our hope that you would acknowledge the above listed students for their national achievements.

Arnie Zent, State SkillsUSA Director

## CareerSafe: A New Way to Prepare for Work

By Don Roloff, Supervisor, Trade, Industry, Technical and Health

*“This valuable initiative brings the significance of safety to the fore-front.”*

Safety. One of those words that everyone hears but very few people really pay any attention to. The horrifying reality is that a young worker dies every five days in this country. Worse yet, North Dakota ranks 47th in the work-related deaths with nine deaths per 100,000 people every year. The North Dakota statistic should be one of the concerns for all of us. The solution is more safety education providing students with understandable safety practices.

SkillsUSA is addressing the safety issue through an alliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). SkillsUSA had developed the CareerSafe program. CareerSafe is an online safety-training program designed to provide entry-level workers, particularly high school and college students with the fundamental safety knowledge needed in the workplace.

Course topics include working with hazardous materials, workplace violence, machine guarding, ergonomics and more. This valuable initiative brings the significance of safety to the forefront and challenges society to affirm the value of life by reducing workplace injuries and fatalities.

Here is how it works:

- > A student successfully completes the 10-hour web-based CareerSafe Course.
- > The cost for this credential is \$12.00 per student
- > The student receives a wallet card from OSHA.

## Get Connected!

By Greg Anderson



North Dakota SkillsUSA Post-Secondary Officers have taken on the challenge to organize an Alumni Chapter. We have many students who have experienced SkillsUSA during high school and/or college but then what? The “then what” became an idea organized by the 2001 Post-Secondary North Dakota SkillsUSA officers. As past-president, we continued the effort to organize a North Dakota Alumni Chapter.

I am now attending the North Dakota State University Engineering Program and have been asked to be this year’s Alumni Representative. In that capacity, I am asking all of you who want to stay connected with the many successes of North Dakota SkillsUSA students, to apply for membership. It’s easy and here is what is in it for you:

- ◆ North Dakota SkillUSA Alumni Newsletter each year.
- ◆ An opportunity to stay involved in the North Dakota Championships.

- ◆ Assist in a National Championship scholarship program for North Dakota winners.
- ◆ Be part of a Leadership Training program for North Dakota SkillsUSA members.
- ◆ Stay connected with old friends through the Alumni Network.

You can be part of an association for us past North Dakota SkillsUSA members by filling out the application form, writing a check for \$25.00 and sending it to:

North Dakota SkillsUSA Alumni Association  
PO Box 6022  
Bismarck, ND 58506-6022

Let’s stay connected! Join OUR Alumni Association and keep up with what’s happening with North Dakota SkillsUSA.

*“Let’s stay connected with SKILLS USA”*

## Post-Secondary Report

By Samantha Kuntz

Last year there was a change made to the constitution, affecting the way that the Post-Secondary officers are elected. Instead of voting an individual into a specific position, a slate of seven officers is elected as a whole. This year's officers were the first to experience this process which we found to be very educational, professionally and personally. The officers' positions were determined by their personal strengths and weaknesses, along with their skills. These items were brought to our attention with the help of Jim Vossler at the Harold Schafer Leadership Center in Bismarck, North Dakota. The Post-Secondary officers attended an afternoon session where we took character tests to help us learn more about the way we deal with situations, interact with people and accomplish our goals. After carefully



looking at the results of these tests, we then discussed what strengths were needed for each office along with skills that would be needed to accomplish the duties of each office. With this we were then able to make a more educated decision as to who would better fulfill the duties of each office.

After the entire process was over, the Post-Secondary officers were able to discuss their personal thoughts of the exercise. It was concluded that this same method should be used in the future with few if any alterations. The Post-Secondary officers decided that it was better for the organization for the officers to be placed in positions reflecting their strengths, where they feel confident in meeting organizational goals.



## Secondary Report

By Taron Church



"Champions at Work"

Webster defines a "champion" as one that wins first prize or one that is acknowledged to be better than all the others; I disagree. The other state SkillsUSA officers and myself have gotten to know the true meaning of the word "champion" over the past few months.

At the beginning of October we really began working with one another and fulfilling our duties as we planned our Fall Leadership Conference in Jamestown, which was held on October 4, 2003. It took a lot of work on all of our parts, and I know for a fact that there were a few of us who were very worried about how things would go. I know this because I was one of them. Everything turned out to be amazing, though. All of the officers had a wonderful time, and I don't think any one of us could have asked for a better conference.

I think the meaning of the word "champion" came into much clearer sight at the Mid-America Conference that the secondary state officers attended in Columbus, Nebraska October 22nd through October 26th.

At the Mid -America Conference everyone was split into different colors which formed several chapters, like our local chapters. During our three days as a group we had to do everything that our local chapters would regularly do in a year! So...you're thinking, "Is that possible?" Yes, it can be done, but it requires teamwork from everyone in the chapter. This conference was very fast paced and exciting, and we were able to meet so many new people and start life long friendships. Most importantly, though, we were all able to grow and discover leadership within ourselves.

I know that all the officers will agree with me when I say that as state officers in SkillsUSA we have had such great opportunities to develop good leadership and communication skills. We are all having such a wonderful time working together and are eagerly looking forward to our Mid-Winter meeting in Bismarck. We will start planning our State Conference which will be held in Wahpeton May 2-4, 2004. It will require a lot of planning, but with our "Champions at Work," we can do anything.

*"With our  
'Champions  
at Work'  
we can do  
anything."*



## NORTH DAKOTA CHAMPIONS

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WE ARE ON THE WEB!  
[WWW.SENDIT.NODAK.EDU/VICA/](http://WWW.SENDIT.NODAK.EDU/VICA/)

*For more information on the new SkillsUSA Alumni Association come to our 31st annual North Dakota SkillsUSA Championships. Stay updated on what is going on in SkillsUSA today.*

### Special points of interest:

- North Dakota national winners
- CareerSafe
- New election process
- "Champions at Work"
- Get connected with SkillsUSA alumni association

# Come Join Us!

## SkillsUSA upcoming events

**North Dakota 31st Annual State SkillsUSA Championships**

North Dakota State College of Science, Wahpeton, ND

May 2-4, 2004



Mandi and Sam cruising.



Justin is a winner!



Greg misses by a fraction of a second.

## 40th Annual National SkillsUSA Conference

Kansas City, MO

June 20–26, 2004