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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SkillsUSA winner representing Ferris State University's Heating, Ventilation, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning (HVACR) program announced

BIG RAPIDS –Ryan Gallagher of St. Johns, Michigan, was announced as the gold winner in the National SkillsUSA Championships. The awards were announced June 25, 2010, at the closing ceremony of the SkillsUSA National Conference held in Kansas City, Missouri.

The SkillsUSA Championship is the showcase event for the most talented career and technical students in the nation. Contests begin locally and progress to the state and national level, “The philosophy of the championships is to reward students like Ryan for excellence, to involve industry in directly evaluating student performance and to keep training relevant to employers' needs,” said Doug Zentz, coordinator of the HVACR program at Ferris.

Gold medalists have the opportunity to compete at the WorldSkills Championship, which is held every other year. Gallagher will have the opportunity to represent Ferris State University at the October 2011 WorldSkills Championship in London, England.

“I want to thank my HVACR professors at both Lansing Community College and Ferris State University who have provided me the education to exceed at this high level of competition. Joe Compton, Ferris associate professor and SkillsUSA co-advisor, helped prepare me by exposing me to troubleshooting procedures on more intricate air conditioning systems. I could not have won the National SkillsUSA competition without his expertise,” Ryan attested.

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