

March 3, 2010
For immediate release

Jill M. Trinklein, HVACR Program
(231) 591-2695, trin12@ferris.edu

SkillsUSA Heating, Ventilation, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Regional Competition welcomes students at Ferris State University's Granger Center for Construction & HVACR

Ferris State University welcomed high school students from the Mecosta-Osceola Career Center and Muskegon Area Career Technical Center for the SkillsUSA Regional Competition on Wednesday, February 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in The Granger Center for Construction and HVACR.

Two career centers from Mecosta, Osceola and Muskegon and parts of Oceana, Ottawa and Newaygo counties sent their best students to compete in hands-on competition on HVACR systems. The students put their skills to the test in different areas of expertise from control and component performance to service troubleshooting of electrical and mechanical systems. The top three finishers in two categories- Heating and HVACR earned medals and will move on to the statewide competition to be held April 16 – 18 in Lansing, MI. Students with the highest overall total score advancing onto the State Competition in the category of HVACR include: 1st place- Jacob Stratz, of Big Rapids, 2nd place- Mike Peterson, of Big Rapids, and 3rd place- Nate Hamel, of Big Rapids. Winners in the Heating category include: 1st place- Chase Hamilton, of Big Rapids and 2nd place- Joey Schneidt of Big Rapids.

Current Ferris State University HVACR faculty Joe Pacella, Brian Holton, and John (Eric) Quilitzsch assisted in the judging and helped to coordinate the event throughout the day, along with Career Center instructors Bob Persons and Thomas Skipper. Doug Milholin, of Johnstone Supply, a former FSU HVACR program graduate and member of the FSU HVACR Advisory committee supported this event by judging the students performance, as well.

The SkillsUSA programs include local, state and national competitions where students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills. During the annual national-level championships, more than 5,000 students will compete in 92 occupational and leadership skill areas. The programs also help to establish industry standards for job skill training in the classroom.

SkillsUSA is a national organization serving more than 280,000 high school and college students and professional members enrolled in training programs in technical, skilled and service occupations. The program helps to prepare high performance worker and emphasizes total quality at work, high work skills, lifelong education, and pride in the dignity of work.

Picture captions:

HVACR category winners: From left to right, Jacob Stratz, Mike Peterson, and Nate Hamel

Heating category winners: From Left to right, Chase Hamilton and Joey Schneidt