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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Skills USA winners representing Ferris State University's Heating, Ventilation, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning (HVACR) program announced

Two Heating, Ventilation, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning students from the area were winners 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 Gold Medalist representing Ferris State University in the Postsecondary HVACR contest was Ryan Gallagher of St. Johns, Michigan.

Dually noted, the high school HVACR student ranked ninth in the nation was Jacob Stratz of Big Rapids, Michigan. Stratz, who competed at the national level after placing first in the SkillsUSA state competition, attended the Mecosta Osceola Career Center under the direction of instructor Bob Persons, adjunct professor in the HVACR program at Ferris.

“The SkillsUSA Championship is the showcase event for the best career and technical students in the nation. Contests begin locally and progress through the state and national level, “The philosophy of the championships is to reward students like Ryan and Jacob 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 World Skills Championship in London, England.
