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Contact: Tom Holdsworth, SkillsUSA
703-737-0607, tholdsworth@skillsusa.org



Local student to compete in international WorldSkills competition

Leesburg, Va., December 23, 2010 – Laina Call of Ogden, Utah and a student at Ogden-Weber Applied Technology College, will represent the United States in London, England in the Hairdressing competition in the WorldSkills Competition. Call will compete as a member of the United States “WorldTeam.” The 41st international event will be held October 5-8, 2011.

Every two years, hundreds of young people from 53 member countries or regions compete in the prestigious WorldSkills Competition. Member countries include: Japan, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Canada, Australia, Brazil and many others. Considered “the best of the best,” these contestants compete for four days in 45 occupational skill areas from economic sectors including manufacturing, information technology, transportation, construction and services. Accompanied by their teachers, trainers and industry technical committee experts, these young people compete before the public in contests that are run and judged by industry using demanding international standards.

“I have had to work very hard to be where I am today, but every time I compete I always have fun and it always pays off in the end,” said Call. “SkillsUSA is a lot of hard work--it takes dedication, practice, time, loyalty, and patience to prepare you for leadership in the world of work. I will always remember standing on stage and being awarded my 1st place gold medal and I’ll work hard to bring home a medal from the WorldSkills Competition.”

Over its 60-year history, WorldSkills International (formerly known as the "Skill Olympics") has come to symbolize the pinnacle of excellence in vocational training. It provides a unique means of exchange and comparison of world-class competency standards in the industrial trades and service sectors of the global economy. The continued growth of WorldSkills International attests to the fact that traditional trade and craft skills along with the newer technology multi-skilled occupations makes an essential contribution to the economic and social well being of peoples everywhere.

This year, in London, more than 1,000 competitors will test their skills. Five thousand international experts, delegates and judges will gather from around the world, and 3,000 volunteers will be recruited to assist in the event. A total of 150,000 student and public spectators will attend the competition ExCeL London. For more information about the competition go to: <http://www.worldskills.org>.

Laina Call is a member of SkillsUSA, the organization that represents the United States in the WorldSkills Competition. Call earned the right to be a member of WorldTeam by winning local, district and national contests in Cosmetology in the SkillsUSA Championships. Competitors in WorldSkills must be under the age of 23. There will be a total of 22 members of WorldTeam. Other occupational areas in which the United States will compete include: Autobody Repair, Automotive Service, Beauty Therapy, Bricklaying, Cabinetmaking, Car Painting, CNC Milling, CNC Turning, Cooking, Graphic Design, IT/PC Networking, Mechatronics, Mobile Robotics, Offset Printing, Plumbing, Refrigeration, Restaurant Service, Web Design and Welding.

About SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is a national partnership of students, teachers and industry, working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA chapters help students preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations to excel. SkillsUSA is an applied method of instruction 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 communications skills. It 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.

For more information about the upcoming WorldSkills International competition or about SkillsUSA, contact Tom Holdsworth at 703-737-0607, tholdsworth@skillsusa.org or Jane Short at 703-737-0612, jshort@skillsusa.org.

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