

## Area student honored at skills conference

Students from Nebraska high school and college technical education programs won the nation's highest awards at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference.

Industry leaders representing over 1,100 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions recognized the students for their demonstrated excellence in 94 hands-on occupational and leadership contests, such as robotics, criminal justice, aviation maintenance and public speaking.

All contests are designed, run and judged by industry using industry standards.

Top student winners received gold, silver and bronze medallions. Many also received prizes such as tools of their trade and/or scholarships to further their careers and education. The SkillsUSA Championships is for high school and college-level students who are members of SkillsUSA.

In addition, high scorers in the contests received Skill Point Certificates. The certificate was awarded in 86 occupational and leadership areas to students who achieved a high score defined by industry.

The SkillsUSA Championships have been a premier event since 1967. The Skill Point Certificates were introduced in 2009 as a component of the SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System.

Matthew Greenwood from Grant and a student at Mid-Plains Community College in North Platte, was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in plumbing.

"Over 5,900 students from every state in the nation came to compete in the SkillsUSA Championships this week," said SkillsUSA executive director Tim Lawrence. "This is the SkillsUSA partnership at its best. Students, instructors and industries are working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce and every student excels."