

STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 18, 2021

Contact: Communication (334) 694-4686

comm@alsde.edu

ALABAMA STUDENTS HONORED – EARN NATIONAL SKILLSUSA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Montgomery, Ala. – Alabama high school and college students won some of the nation's top awards at the 2021 SkillsUSA Championships, held virtually this summer.

The SkillsUSA Championships is the largest skill competition in the world. Students from across the nation participated and showcased their talents in over 100 competition areas including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, and aviation.



This year, more than 1,100 gold, silver, and bronze medals were earned. Students were also awarded professional tools, prizes, and college scholarships from national corporate sponsors.

These Alabama students earned national SkillsUSA medals this year:

- *Bethany Pharr*, a student at **Limestone Career Technology Center** earned the High School Bronze Medal in Cosmetology
- Marvin Josey and William Smigel of Calhoun Community College earned the College Gold Medal in Additive Manufacturing
- Candace Browning, Callie Flaugh, and Leah Tarvin of Wallace State College Hanceville earned the College Silver Medal in Crime Scene Investigation
- Sara Eskew and Zach Hudson of Wallace State College Hanceville earned the College Gold Medal in Mobile Robotic Technology
- Natalie Cain, Tyler Marr, and Raymond Pace of Earnest Pruett Center of Technology earned the High School Silver Medal in Automated Manufacturing
- Will Jones of Earnest Pruett Center of Technology earned the High School Bronze Medal in CNC Turning Specialist
- Luke West of Earnest Pruett Center of Technology earned the High School Gold Medal in CNC Milling Specialist
- James Kennamer of Northeast Alabama Community College earned the College Bronze Medal in Medical Math
- Lindsey Guffey of Northeast Alabama Community College earned the College Silver Medal in Health Occupations Professional Portfolio
- *Jonathan Gidley and Emarie Price* of **Vestavia Hills High School** earned the High School Silver Medal in Additive Manufacturing

-more-

Alabama State Board of Education

Governor Kay Ivey President

> Jackie Zeigler District I

Tracie West District II

Stephanie Bell District III

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D. District IV Vice President

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D. District V

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D. District VI

Belinda McRae

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII
President Pro Tem

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D. Secretary and Executive Officer

About SkillsUSA

The SkillsUSA Championships is held annually for students in middle school, high school, or postsecondary programs as part of the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference.

SkillsUSA is a nonprofit partnership of education and industry founded in 1965 to strengthen our nation's skilled workforce.

Driven by employer and business needs, SkillsUSA helps students develop necessary workplace skills along with technical skills grounded in academics.

This SkillsUSA Framework empowers every student to succeed at work and in life, while helping to close the skills gap, in which millions of positions go unfilled.

SkillsUSA has served nearly 13.8 million members since 1965. For more information visit https://alskillsusa.org/.

###