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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Maryland Career & Technology Student Organization Sweeps Louisville at National Leadership and Skills Conference**

### ***More Than Half of Maryland Competitors Finish in National Top Ten***

**BALTIMORE (July 12, 2018)** – Maryland Career and Technology students challenged 6,400 other student champions from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam and Virgin Islands, at this year's 54th Annual National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) held in Louisville, KY. Over 100 Maryland students competed in 90 Career and Technology Education (CTE) program-aligned competitions, and brought home a record-breaking 27 medals. United States Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos attended this year's conference and expressed her support of CTE and the SkillsUSA student organization.

Conference attendees also celebrated two nationally-recognized Maryland advisors, Etta Maynard (Wicomico County) for honorary life membership and Marjorie Kellman (Washington County) for advisor of the year. Dorchester County's SkillsUSA chapter was recognized as a National SkillsUSA Models of Excellence recipient. Additionally, 2017 Graphic Communications national gold medalist Brittany Whitestone earned a spot on Team USA and will be travelling to Kazan, Russia in 2019 for the WorldSkills competitions, where Team USA will compete against the best CTE students from across the globe.

Demonstrating exemplary CTE training, Maryland students competing in Career Pathways-Industrial and Engineering Technology, Electronics Technology, First Aid/CPR, Graphic Communications, Medical Math and Promotional Bulletin Board are officially among the best in the nation, returning home with gold medals. Silver medals were awarded to students in Cosmetology, Diesel Equipment Technology, Humanoid Robotics, Quiz Bowl and Television (Video) Production. Bronze medals were awarded to students competing in Additive Manufacturing, Digital Cinema, and Nurse Assisting.

SkillsUSA Maryland has a statewide membership of 6,000 high school students. Members have consistently demonstrated their expertise and professionalism while participating throughout the year in a variety of leadership and competitive conferences. The Maryland State Department of Education, in cooperation with business, industry, and education partners, coordinates two annual statewide conferences to prepare students for this rigorous national competition. In April, Maryland CTE students representing 23 counties and Baltimore City competed at the 2018 SkillsUSA State Championships held at education centers throughout Maryland.

The following students finished the national challenge with outstanding accomplishments:

**SkillsUSA Maryland National Top Ten – 2018 NLSC**

**Gold Medal – Career Pathways – Industrial and Engineering Technology**

Olivia Dart, Jackson Larimore, Jacob Ramsey, Frederick Career and Technology Center – Frederick County

**Gold Medal – Electronics Technology**

Joshua McKelvey, Parkside High School / CTE – Wicomico County

**Gold Medal – First Aid / CPR**

Cheyenne Biser, Southern Garrett High School – Garrett County

**Gold Medal – Graphic Communications**

Julia Meassick, Carroll County Career and Technology Center – Carroll County

**Gold Medal – Medical Math**

John Canonizado, North Point High School for STI – Charles County

**Gold Medal – Promotional Bulletin Board**

Lauren Conaway, Lauren Jenne, Clare Preston, Carroll County Career and Technology Center – Carroll County

**Silver Medal – Cosmetology**

Julie Plunkert, Carroll County Career and Technology Center – Carroll County

**Silver Medal – Diesel Equipment Technology**

Mason McKechnie, Carroll County Career and Technology Center – Carroll County

**Silver Medal – Humanoid Robotics**

Darion Haile, Ly Nguyen, Frederick County Career and Technology Center – Frederick County

**Silver Medal – Quiz Bowl**

Adolf Accad, Adam Cullen, Andrew Fan, Amara Gammon, Amber Wachowski, Carl Wachowski, North Point High School for STI – Charles County

**Silver Medal – Television (Video) Production**

Taran McNulty, Nora Sanchez, Carroll County Career and Technology Center – Carroll County

**Bronze Medal – Additive Manufacturing**

Andrew Daddone, Layke Martin, Frederick County Career and Technology Center – Frederick County

**Bronze Medal – Digital Cinema**

Alec Rosinski, Jacob Rosinski, Carroll County Career and Technology Center – Carroll County

**Bronze Medal – Nurse Assisting**

Kelsey Swegle, North Point High School for STI – Charles County

- 4<sup>th</sup> Place** – Mobile Robotics Technology  
Maggie Kemp, Kaleb Schmucki, Worcester Technical High School – Worcester County
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place** – T-Shirt Design  
Ethan Tucker, Thomas Edison High School of Technology – Montgomery County
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place** – Electrical Construction Wiring  
Ryan Robertson, Washington County Technical High School – Washington County
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place** – Engineering Technology-Design  
Megan Alisauckas, Grace DiGate, Grace Reinartz, Carroll County Career and Technology Center – Carroll County
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place** – Telecommunications Cabling  
Bailey St. Clair, Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center – St. Mary’s County
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place** – Crime Scene Investigation  
Jodi Bentz, Jordan Kimble, Alisha Smith, Washington County Technical High School – Washington County
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place** – Career Pathways – Health Services  
Danielle Munn, Sierra Payne, Makayla Zajdel, Worcester Technical High School – Worcester County
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place** – Career Pathways – Human Services  
Mia Dill, Stacia Elbert, Helen Odenwald, Worcester Technical High School – Worcester County
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place** – Major Appliance and Refrigeration Technology  
Edilberto Lovaton, J.M. Tawes Technology and Career Center – Somerset County
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place** – Welding Fabrication  
Jhared Biddinger, Dylan Martinez, Nathan Schwartzbeck, Frederick County Career and Technology Center – Frederick County
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place** – Health Occupations Professional Portfolio  
Peace Arobieke, Western School of Technology and Environmental Science – Baltimore County
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place** – Job Skill Demonstration A  
CharNae Brown, Western School of Technology and Environmental Science – Baltimore County
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place** – Occupational Health and Safety - Single  
Harley Elsner, Zachary Moats, Darren Taylor Jr., Worcester Technical High School – Worcester County
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place** – Team Engineering Challenge (MS)  
Chase Farlow, Daniel Outten, Rebecca Staines, Worcester Technical High School - Worcester County
- 7<sup>th</sup> Place** – Aviation Maintenance Technology  
Vince Dickerson, Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center – St. Mary’s County

**7<sup>th</sup> Place – Related Technical Math**

Shea Griffin, Worcester Technical High School – Worcester County

**7<sup>th</sup> Place – Technical Computer Applications**

J’Mari Romain, Western School of Technology and Environmental Science – Baltimore County

**8<sup>th</sup> Place – Audio-Radio Production**

Victoria Brooks, Rick Girard, Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center – St. Mary’s County

**8<sup>th</sup> Place – Internetworking**

Christian Frazier, North Point High School for STI – Charles County

**8<sup>th</sup> Place – Mobile Electronics Installation**

Eric Ballard, J.M. Tawes Technology and Career Center – Somerset County

**9<sup>th</sup> Place – Building Maintenance**

Eric Taylor, Worcester Technical High School – Worcester County

**9<sup>th</sup> Place – Career Pathways – Business, Management and Technology**

Caleb Gee, Leah Lindsay, Stephen Smith, Washington County Technical High School – Washington County

**9<sup>th</sup> Place – Firefighting**

Ethan Poore, Calvert Career and Technology Academy – Calvert County

**9<sup>th</sup> Place – Technical Drafting**

Grace Neff, Frederick Career and Technology Center – Frederick County

**9<sup>th</sup> Place – Interactive Application and Video Game Development**

Vivekkyoti Bannerjee, Ya’akov Goldberg, Western School of Technology and Environmental Science – Baltimore County

**10<sup>th</sup> Place – Carpentry**

Cameron White, Parkside High School CTE – Wicomico County

**10<sup>th</sup> Place – Community Action Project**

DeShawn Collick, Adam Taylor, Worcester Technical High School – Worcester County

**10<sup>th</sup> Place – Graphic Imaging - Sublimation**

Colby Barclay, Center for Career and Technical Education – Allegany County

**10<sup>th</sup> Place – Health Knowledge Bowl**

Tara Gabrielsen, Hannah Gruber, Riley MacIntyre, Caytlyn Rose, Center of Applied Technology North – Anne Arundel County

For more information about Career Technology Education and SkillsUSA, please contact Charles Wallace, State Director, Maryland State Department of Education at 410-767-8872. You can also visit the Maryland State Department of Education’s website at <http://www.mdctepprograms.org/> or visit the official SkillsUSA Maryland website at [www.mdskillsusa.org](http://www.mdskillsusa.org).