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HCCA SkillsUSA Students Win State and Advance to Nationals



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA - The Houston County Career Academy (HCCA) SkillsUSA team traveled to the State Leadership Skills Conference in Atlanta March 21 to 23. The students competed in 10 categories and brought home five medals - three gold, one silver and one bronze. The gold medalists now advance to the national competition held in Louisville, Ky. June 24-28, 2019.

The State winner consists of two fine furniture veterans: Bryce Boutwell of Veterans High School (2019) and Chase Waters of Houston County High school (2018). The team is thrilled to return to

compete against other gold medalists from across the country in Louisville, Kentucky for the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference On June 24-28, 2019.

Congratulations to these award-winners:

Gold Medals and national contenders

- Bryce Boutwell - Woodwork Display - Veterans High (pictured right);
- Ka'Diamond Gordan - Career Profile Portfolio - Northside High; and
- Minah Way, Ashanti Brown and Dee Collins - Cosmetology Nail Design Display - Perry High and Veterans High.

Silver Medal:

- Maya Webb - Career Exploration Manual - Houston County High.

Bronze Medal:

- Dominic Joerger - HVAC - Veterans High.



As one of the top three HVAC contestants, Joerger was awarded a \$6,000 scholarship by the University of Northwestern Ohio.

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“I want to thank my advisors and other individuals that believed in me,” said Joerger. “I would not have the opportunity to see myself as I do now if it wasn’t for them and SkillsUSA.”

Pictured (from left) are: Jorger, Collins, Minah Way, Brown, Gordon and Maya Webb.

Steve Waters, SkillsUSA advisor for Fine Furniture, commented, “We are very proud of the success of our students and how well they represented HCCA. By showing their dedication to excellence in their events, all who participated in the state competition are true ‘Champions at Work.’ This is the second year in a row that our fine furniture program contestant won first place at the state competition. Our students work very hard to showcase their talents at SkillsUSA Georgia.”

Sabrina Phelps, HCCA principal, remarked, “We are impressed, humbled and excited about the performance of all our students at the state level competition. A particular congratulations goes to the Fine Furniture contestant who defended the state title!”

At the SkillsUSA conference, regional winners competed in 93 different hands-on competitions. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. The organization provides educational programs, events and competitions that support career and technical education in the nation’s classrooms.

The Houston County Career Academy is located at 1311 Corder Road in Warner Robins. Sabrina Phelps serves as principal. For more information, contact Waters or Luke Fletcher, HCCA HVAC Teacher and SkillsUSA adviser.

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