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NEWS RELEASE

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HCHS Student Wins State Championship in SkillsUSA



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA - Houston County High School student Thomas Ireson won first place at state in the SkillsUSA Graphic Communications category. Thomas competed during spring break and was presented a Gold medal on March 25.

The competition was held at Heidelberg USA in Kennesaw. Thomas was chosen as the best out of 12 state contestants. Aaron Munn is his advisor and graphics teacher.

Thomas is a fourth-year graphics student at Houston County High. He has been competing in this event since 10th grade and has served as a SkillsUSA chapter officer for two years. This fall, he plans to further his education at Middle Georgia State University.

For this event, students participate in a seven-part contest which includes the following:

- Digital Print - using a digital print device, set up the machine for proper file transfer, creating a finished product consisting of variable data and/or inline finishing, along with a written test.
- Digital Workflow - access files and follow instructions to perform preflight operations, reviewing and making corrections as needed for correct output; create a file using Adobe InDesign, PhotoShop, and Illustrator on an Apple computer, following instructions to create a file that matches a sample; complete the area with correct output to a digital proof press.
- Finishing - operate a programmable cutter, properly trimming a sheet to its finished size, set up a table top folder for a tri-fold and a half-fold and complete a written test.
- Offset Press - use a Heidelberg Printmaster 46-2, set up the feeder and delivery using an 11" x 17" sheet. Using the RSP system to demonstrate packaging by die cutting a preprinted 4-color offset sheet, to complete an actual usable product.

Competitors also do an oral interview with the judges.

Houston County High School is located at 920 Highway 96 in Warner Robins. Dr. Doug Rizer serves as principal. For more information, please contact Munn at 478-988-6340 or Aaron.Munn@hcbe.net.

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