Local students shine at SkillsUSA

BY DEBBIE HIGHTOWER

TRINITY — A soaring performance at the national level was pegged by area students who competed in SkillsUSA Championships held last month in Louisville, Ky.

The SkillsUSA Championships is the largest skill competition in the world and covers 1.4 million square feet, equivalent to 20 football fields or 25 acres. More than 6,000 students competed at the national showcase of career and technical education.

One of the competitors was Alex Millikan from Trinity who represented Guilford Tech Community College. Millikan didn’t come home empty handed. He was the proud recipient of the college gold medal in Aviation Maintenance Technology.

During competition participants who qualified to attend got the chance to demonstrate their technical skills, workplace skills and personal skills in 100 hands-on occupational and leadership competitions including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance and public speaking.

Judging their performances were industry leaders from 600 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions planned and evaluated the contestants against their standards for entry-level workers.

A 2014 Wheatmore High School graduate, Millikan met his challenge to complete 11 tasks selected from FAA practical test standards.

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Alex Millikan appears, center left, wearing his first-place gold medal in Aviation Maintenance Technology at the 2017 SkillsUSA Championships.

He was successful in internally timing and setting the points on a magneto; rigging ailerons on a mockup; fabricating fluid lines and removing, inspecting, and re-installing a tire wheel and brake assembly; and finally timing and setting the magneto.

The Trinity High School SkillsUSA Chapter was also recognized with a plaque for top chapter growth in the state of North Carolina with 109 student members during the 2016-17 school year.

Below: Representatives of the Trinity High School SkillsUSA chapter participated in a variety of educational activities at the National SkillsUSA Leadership Conference. Pictured, from left, are Rachel Hunt, Sarah Davis, Lindsay Key, Charity Cohen, and Sarah Davis. Trinity High School North Carolina SkillsUSA first-place champion Cohen represented the state in Kentucky last month. After competing against first-place champions from across the United States, Cohen was recognized as a top 10 finalist at the SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference Awards Ceremony. Davis, Hunt and Key qualified to compete in the SkillsUSA Promotional Bulletin Board Event after winning first place at the North Carolina SkillsUSA State Leadership Conference in Greensboro.

Right: An oral presentation explaining its process, purpose and educational value. National SkillsUSA Leadership Conference Awards Ceremony.

Left: Staff writer Debbie Hightower may be reached at dhightower@online.net or 336-888-3576.