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Who Will Build Our Houses?
SkillsUSA Convention April 1-3, 2009
Showcases High School Students' Trade and Career Skills

Students "Build Skills for America" to Ensure Continued Prosperity for Nation, State

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK—The New York Association of SkillsUSA will host the New York State Skills and Leadership Conference, April 1-3, 2009 at the OnCenter in Syracuse.

The state convention showcases the skills of our vocational students and their instructors as students **Build Skills for America**. Over 2,000 students from trade and technical schools in New York will be competing in 70 trade and leadership contests. Students and their advisors will join 500 industry and education partners from across the Northeast participating as industry advisory members and judges for the skills contests.

A quarter of a million dollars in scholarships and tools will be awarded to student winners at the awards ceremony April 3, 2009. Mrs. Gail Smyth, Executive Director of Skill Canada- Ontario will be the keynote speaker at the Opening Ceremony, April 1, 2009, at the War Memorial.

Skill contests will include Automotive Technology, Auto Collision Repair, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Electronics Repair, and Practical Nursing. In addition, students will be competing in public speaking, job demonstrations, job seeking skills and contests related to their SkillsUSA chapters.

SkillsUSA is a national organization of over 300,000 members, serving the students of vocational education enrolled in public high school and postsecondary trade, technical and health occupations programs. More than 11,500 students are members of the New York SkillsUSA Association, a chartered affiliate of the national organization. In Central New York there are active SkillsUSA chapters at OCM BOCES, Oswego BOCES, Cayuga Onondaga BOCES, Madison Oneida BOCES, Jefferson Lewis BOCES, and Central Technical High School – Syracuse.

The vocational-technical programs offered by schools and colleges in conjunction with the SkillsUSA program, teach academic, occupational and professional skills, which shape high school and postsecondary students into world-class workers and responsible citizens. Through SkillsUSA, students are introduced to the corporate quality culture, which emphasizes the dignity of work, high standards in trade ethics and workmanship, lifelong learning and job safety. Community support, patriotism and an understanding of the free enterprise system are also core elements of SkillsUSA.

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The prosperity of this state and nation rests upon the skills of our workers and citizens. The SkillsUSA New York Association is helping Build Skills for America. This assures our state and nation will have highly skilled workers in the future. It is fitting that recognition is given to the young people in this organization who represent competent and forward thinking technical, trade, and health leaders of the future.

It is through the support of business in New York that SkillsUSA holds contests that will prepare New York students to compete favorably at the National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, June 23 – 26, 2009.

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