

YTI students compete in National SkillsUSA Competition in Missouri

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Five students at YTI Career Institute, Altoona, advanced to the National SkillsUSA competition in June after all five placed first in each of their participating categories at the state competition held in April.

The students competed at the national level June 24 to 28 in Kansas City, Mo. Those results will be announced in the coming weeks.

"This is the first year our students participated in the SkillsUSA competition," said Paul Amigh, lead instructor and student adviser, who accompanied the students at the state competition. "SkillsUSA is helping committed students like ours attain rewarding careers through industry-modeled training and support of the highest caliber, we could not be more proud of our student-competitors."

SkillsUSA is a student leadership organization available to all career and technical students. It is a national organization serving more than 300,000 high school and post-secondary students and professional members who are enrolled in training programs in technical, skilled and service occupations, including health occupations.

The following YTI Career Institute students competed in the following SkillsUSA national competition areas:

■ Breeanna Himes of Altoona, respiratory therapy student — In the competition, Medical Math contestants demonstrated their knowledge of general math concepts used in the healthcare fields. Each completed a written test that may include the use of ratio/proportion, dosage calculation, metric and household equivalents, Roman numerals, abbreviations and general math including percentages, among other medical math-related problems.

■ Clayton Davis of Tyrone; computer systems technician student — Technical Computer Applications contestants demonstrated installation, configuration and use of Windows, Mac OSX and Linux Professional Operating Systems and one or more integrated office suite packages including email, word processing, spreadsheet applications, database applications, web page development, money management applications, presentations applica-

tions, Internet browser applications. The use of Open source software, such as OpenOffice was preferred. Microsoft Office and other integrated office suites could be used. The utilization of instant messaging, collaboration and social networking software was required during the contest. Contestants performed in teams while demonstrating individual technical skills. The contest included an oral presentation demonstrating the student's ability to communicate with others, a hands-on skills demonstration and a one-hour time allotted written examination.

■ Reyne Mentzer of Gallitzin, medical billing and coding student — Medical Terminology contestants were tested to evaluate their knowledge of medical terminology and abbreviations of an individual preparing for employment in the health occupations fields.

■ Martina Snyder of Patton, medical assistant student — Medical Assisting contestants were tested on their skills in the clinical and administrative setting. They were judged on speed, the use of correct safety measures and their ability to interact personally with a patient. Skills are inclusive of general office skills, communication skills, patient education, knowledge of anatomy and physiology, terminology, instrument identification and equipment, as well as on a variety of clinical procedures and techniques. Contestants needed to be able to assess a situation in a short period of time and perform a skill required for that situation within the given time limit.

■ Amanda Hoke of Altoona, business administration student — Prepared Speech requires students to deliver a speech five to seven minutes in length on a common theme established by National SkillsUSA early in the school year. Contestants were evaluated on their ability to present thoughts relating to a central theme clearly and effectively, and on voice, mechanics and platform department.

For more information on the student competitors or the SkillsUSA national competition, contact YTI Career Institute at 944-5643, or visit <http://www.yti.edu/campuses/Altoona.asp>.

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