

# Annual SkillsUSA held for technical students

## Program accepting nominations for Educator of the Year

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COVENTRY- Students from Coventry's Career Center participate in the annual SkillsUSA where they compete against students from Career Center's throughout the state.

Director of the Coventry Career Center, Lori Ferguson said that SkillsUSA is a student organization that is part of a student's career and technical edu-

cation throughout the country.

She said that students who are enrolled in high school, and college, career and technical programs compete on a state level.

She explained that within each program there are competitions.

For example, culinary students may compete in a baking competition or dining service competition against other students in Rhode Island.

She said that the state competition is held in March and if the students win then they go to compete in the national competition in Kansas City in June.

Ferguson said that last year Coventry had 60 students participate in SkillsUSA and that five or six of the students went on to compete in Kansas City.

She explained that Coventry's Career Center did not have it's own chapter but was just involved on the state level part of

the organization.

She said that now that they are part of their own chapter, they have been able to do more community service and that this is an industry recognized organization.

She explained that in January teachers will know who will be participating in the SkillsUSA in March 2012.

Ferguson said that students

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Times File Photo

Students from Coventry's Career Center participate in SkillsUSA. This competition brings students from around the state together to show their talents.

# Student technical skills are tested

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should let their teachers know if they are interested.

Teachers also look at students who show interest in their programs or show talent and teachers will encourage those students to participate.

She explained that the culinary program holds their own competition within their program to find students to send to the competition.

She said that she thinks they will have 60 students again this year because Coventry has eight programs and more than six stu-

dents come from each program.

She said that the cosmetology program usually sends between eight and 10 students to participate.

Ferguson said that the students will hold a spaghetti dinner fundraiser in March to raise money for the students who end up going to the national competition.

She explained that it costs \$1800 a student to participate in the 4 day national competition in Kansas City.

Also, according to a press release Congressman Jim Langevin announced that Skill-

sUSA's Rhode Island Chapter is accepting nominations for the Career and Technical Education Educator of the Year and Advisor of the Year.

It says that the Educator award goes to a teacher, school administrator or businessperson who has impacted the high school students.

This could include impacting them in their technical skills and preparing them for quality jobs.

The press release says that the winner will be announced in March.