

# They've Got Skills!



Jessica Boisclair/Daily Times

12 of the 15 medalists from Coventry's career and technical center are all smiles after all placed in the top three of their respective fields at the Rhode Island SkillsUSA state championships in March. The school's two first-place winners will move on to the national competition in June in Washington D.C.

## Students from Coventry's career and technical center represent their school in outstanding style at R.I. state championships; two take golds in respective fields

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COVENTRY — Fifteen students from the Regional Career and Technical Center at Coventry High School placed in the top three spots in various competitions at the SkillsUSA state championships.

A national organization, SkillsUSA provides educational experiences to technical high school and colleges students alike. It looks to train them in leadership, teamwork, citizenship, and character development.

Approximately 60 students from Coventry competed in the SkillsUSA state championships last month against numerous students from technical schools across Rhode Island.

Students represented programs from the career and technical center such as; cosmetology, computer IT, carpentry, early childhood education, health careers and graphic design.

Four students took third place in their competitions, which they chose themselves.

Bronze medalist and senior Megan Bell competed in the First

Aid and CPR portion of the championship.

Seniors Kelsey Thayer and Jamie Mederios participated in the Esthetics competition where they were judged on makeup. Each team was tested on skin care, sanitation, facial demonstration, daytime makeup and fantasy makeup.

Senior Steve Horbin also placed third in the computer maintenance competition. Horbin, who's enrolled in the Computer IT classes at Coventry said, "I chose to compete in computer maintenance. I'm in the career class and we used to focus just mainly on main-

tenance but now it's switched around to networking and a little bit of maintenance. I'm still interested in that but I also want to do software engineering after."

Five students from the carpentry classes at the technical center placed second in two different competitions.

The first carpentry competition required senior Nathan Salisbury to do "basic" construction including; building stairs and laying out walls.

A silver medal was won by seniors Cori DeRita, Matt Green-

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# Skills contest highlights Coventry

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wood, David Sevigny and Shane Prata.

DeRita explained that the Teamworks competition required the four students to take up four different jobs: carpenter, mason, electrician, and plumber.

"You're given a set of plans and you have to build a structure with basic wall layout and to that structure you add a wall and run pipes and wires," he

said.

Greenwood said that a demo of a kitchen was constructed and next to it was a room placed for a washer and dryer.

Also placing second were, Ailen Fernandez, Jenna DePetrillo, Caitlyn Fife and Amber Flint. All four students are enrolled in the health career courses at the high school. They competed in the Health Knowledge Bowl at Skill-sUSA where they answered questions regarding medical

and health occupations.

Two seniors also won gold medals in their competition areas.

Paige Cookson, enrolled in early childhood education, received first place in the prepared speech competition.

She explained that two months before the competition she was given the topic of Skills and Motivated. She said she was then required to write a five- to seven-minute speech about that topic.

Once it came time for the competition, she had to give the speech to a panel of judges without using notes or help.

Danielle Paige also received first place in the customer service competition of Skill-sUSA.

Paige, who's enrolled in the graphic design program, explained that she entered this competition last year and didn't win so she wanted to give it another try this time.

"I had to deal with moody customers for my competition. They came in and I had to get them in and out of the store in seven minutes. They sent me three customers," she said. "And they yelled and flipped out and tested you to see how you would respond to it."

Lynn Swain, advisor for the Coventry chapter of R.I. Skill-sUSA, explained that both Cookson and Paige will be attending the National competition in Kansas City, MO. She said that the students fly out on June 22 and return on June 28.

"It's a full week of competitions," she said. "There's community service, business expos, college expos and scholarship opportunities."

Swain explained that the students who won the top three spots on the state level all received prizes, such as tools of the trade, or scholarships to the New England Institute of Technology and Lincoln Technical Institute.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

As reported by the Rhode Island Secretary of State

### West Greenwich Town Council

Today at 10:00 AM  
280 Victory Highway,  
West Greenwich, RI 02817

### West Greenwich Board of Assessment Review

Today at 2:00 PM  
Town Hall Council Chambers,  
280 Victory Highway,  
West Greenwich, RI 02817

### Coventry Town Council

Tonight at 6:00 PM  
1670 Flat River Road,  
Coventry, RI 02816

### West Warwick Town Council

Tonight at 6:30 PM  
1170 Main Street,  
West Warwick Town Hall,  
West Warwick, RI 02893

### Coventry Town Council

Tonight at 6:00 PM  
1670 Flat River Road,  
Coventry, RI 02816

### Scituate Town Council

Tonight at 7:00 PM  
Town Council Chambers,  
195 Danielson Pike,  
North Scituate, RI 02857

