

THEY'VE GOT SKILLS

Coventry Career Center students acquit themselves well at annual statewide competition; several take first place overall in category

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COVENTRY— Fifteen students from the Regional Career and Technical Center at Coventry High School once again secured the top three spots in numerous competitions at the SkillsUSA state championship.

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

Students competed against other technical schools across Rhode Island and represented programs such as; cosmetology, computer IT, carpentry, early childhood education, health careers, culinary and graphic design.

The students were able to choose which category to compete in and numerous students placed third in those categories.

Health Career students Megan Harrington, Destiny Capon, Samantha Reybrock and Ailen Fernandez won bronze medals in the Health Knowledge Bowl, where they answered questions regarding medical and health occupations.

Also securing a third place spot was Alycia Pimental in the First Aid and CPR portion of the championship.

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

The first competition required senior Josh Ball and junior Justin Perry to construct cabinets and coat racks.



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Several of the students from the Regional Career and Technical Center at Coventry High School were available to pose for a picture Friday after several recently took one of the top three spots in their field at the SkillsUSA Championships. (L-R): Rachel Tousignant, Justin Perry, Nick Shoesmith, Josh Ball, Matt Salvas and Codi Hanlon.

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Skills on display at RI contest

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Ball was awarded second place and Perry awarded third; both students said they were shocked when they realized they had won.

"I did cabinet making last year but I didn't expect to win at all," Perry said. "So I was completely in awe and happy."

A silver medal was also won by seniors Codi Hanlon, Shawn Costa, Nick Shoemsmith and Matt Salvas.

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

With these skills and the blue-prints given, the students had to construct a living room with a basic wall layout.

Salvas said this competition was the hardest, as they competed against other students from Providence, Woonsocket and Davies Career and Technical High

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—Justin Perry

Second-place winner in Carpentry

School.

"We were all awe-struck when we found out we won second," he said. "We couldn't believe we had won. We didn't know what to do or say."

Three students won first place in the community service portion of the competition.

Sophomore Rachel Tousignant said this was her first time competing in SkillsUSA and to win a gold medal was "very exciting."

"I'm active in community service and I volunteer at the hospital and several

church events so I wanted to do this," she said.

Tousignant, along with her two partners Alex St. Pierre and Mykenzie Arcaro presented "Bags of Dignity" to the judges.

St. Pierre created the Bags of Dignity organization last summer to help foster children feel more at home.

"We give the bags filled with personal items, like tooth brushes, soaps and stuffed animals to foster kids because they typically only have garbage bags full of clothes," she added.

For winning first place, Tousignant, St. Pierre and Arcaro will advance to the National competition in Kansas City June 24 through June 28.

Students who placed in the top three spots on the state level received prizes, such as tools of the trade or scholarships to the New England Institute of Technology and Lincoln Technical Institute.