



Tyler Roeske poses with teacher Dan Brown during the Skills USA State Contest



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“They Got Skills” Students Take Top Honors in Skills USA Contest

This article focuses on students who proved their skill and dexterity through Skills USA and other student contests. Skills USA is an organization of students and educators dedicated to cultivating America’s future workforce. Among the many benefits, Skills USA offers annual contests in several industrial, career, soft skills and many other areas.

This year, students from the CDS region tested their mettle against other students from around the state and emerged victorious.

In the Carpentry Competition, Oak Forest High School senior, Tyler Roeske took first place in the state. Tyler’s talents do not end there. He has contributed his talent in his community by volunteering for Habitat for Humanity.

Following his state championship victory, Tyler went on to take First Place in the National Contest in Kansans. Tyler has also been awarded the South Suburban College Construction Technology Scholarship. Should

he accept this award, Tyler will begin his college career at SSC as a full-time construction technology student on a full tuition scholarship.

To be sure, Tyler is not the only success story in the region. This year saw several students excelling in the Skills USA Contests and other certifications. These include:

Skills USA Winners

District 228

Tyler Roeske

- 1st Place Carpentry (State)
- 1st Place Carpentry (Nationals)

District 215

Felipe Maldonado

- 1st Place Nursing (State)
- 2nd Place Nursing (Nationals)

Nick Alvarado

1st Place Collision Repair

- Miguel Guadarama
3rd Place Auto Refinishing
- Pachence Jackson
2nd Place Nursing
- Tiffany King
3rd Place Nursing
- Brian Montgomery
2nd Place Plumbing
- Taryn Bennett
3rd Place Plumbing

Team Works

2nd Place Team:

- Brian Green
- Cliffton Hubbard
- Samantha Sanchez
- Bryan Harrison

Even as students were taking top honors in the Skills USA competition, other students in District 215 were busy pursuing industry recognition by acquiring certifications in technical design. Solid Works is a system that offers complete 3D software tools to create, simulate, publish, and manage technical design data. With many industries relying on this product, these students will be very attractive in the workforce.

Solid Works Certification

- Jorge Alvarez
- Joshua McKelphin
- Brittany Miriki
- Levon Stone
- Andrew Swibes
- Corey Anderson
- Jorge Ontiveros
- Fabian Leon
- David McCarthy
- Adonis Hill

Programs Of Study (POS): Where Are We?

Over the past few years, CDS has been working in collaboration with our secondary and post-secondary institutions in the development of Programs of Study (POS). Each issue the CDS Newsletter has featured a front-page article on this process. So now the question is: “Where are we?”

This year CDS and partner secondary schools completed an assessment of the Child Development POS using the POS Expectations Tool. This process allowed us to assess various features of the POS in that field. The conclusions were discussed by Liaisons at a meeting. Though this was an exercise to help district Liaisons become familiar with the Expectations

Tool, it helped everyone to see and recognize ways to improve this specific POS.

CDS also presented a completed POS for Construction Technology to the SSC Construction Program Advisory Council. This is a body made up of secondary and postsecondary educators, administrators and business partners. The Advisory Council endorsed the POS with a few suggested revisions. The revisions have been made and submitted to the head of the program for final approval.

We are also consulting with the SSC to complete four other POS in the areas of Nursing, Management, Graphic Design and Radiological Technology. As with the first two, these POS

will also be presented to both secondary and postsecondary personnel for review and endorsement. Each one will also be assessed with the state’s POS Expectations Tool in order to strengthen and align them to state, secondary, and postsecondary desired outcomes.

Earlier this year, CDS also completed the design of a POS Implementation Model. Originally conceived to help all stakeholders understand the POS concept, the model was presented to state CTE leaders and has been accepted as a model for POS best practices in the state of Illinois. As always, CDS remains on the forefront of strengthening career education in our region.

Future Business Leaders: Entrepreneurship Contest

And the Winners Are...

Best Business Overall

DMC Carpentry
Darius Calhoun
Thornton Township HS

Service

Paws & Claws
Stephanie Bishop &
Sammy Wrzesinski
Tinley Park HS

Food/Gift

Creative Ways
Tamara Byrd
Thornton Township HS

Sports/Entertainment

Phresh Cutz
Elijah Taylor, Sam Brack,
& Aquil Manuel
Thornton Township HS

Fashion/Accessories

Thr33 Rings
Mia McLemore, Maritza
Najera & Jorie Thomas
Thornton Township HS

Technology/Innovation

Apollo Records
Desmond Shuford
Thornton Township HS

THORNTON Township High School May 3, 2011— Students across the region gathered for a friendly contest of business skills. More than 70 students participated in the contest.

Participants were required to prepare and submit an 18 to 20 page business plan, a display board showing their business strategy and a 15 slide PowerPoint presentation. All businesses submitted had to be implementable immediately within the winners' communities or school.

Panels of judges reviewed the plans submitted for each of the five categories as well as interviewed the students. Contest entries were judged on the following criteria with a maximum of 5 points being awarded for each:

- Executive Summary
- Mission and Vision Statements
- Products and Services Plan
- Mechanics (Grammar/Spelling)
- Marketing Plan
- Market Research
- Management Plan
- Financing Strategy and Operating Costs
- Business Description/Explanation
- Poster/Printed Material
- Professional Appearance
- Oral Presentation Response to

- Judges' questions
- Enthusiasm,
 - Overall Impression

The individual or group with the highest total points in each category were then selected as winners. Judges also selected the one business plan as the overall winner. That honor fell to Darius Calhoun of Thornton Township High School whose sole proprietorship, DMC Carpentry was unanimously selected by the judges.

Returning as the Student Host for the contest was Saleha Vhora, Thornton Township HS Class of 2010. Ms. Vhora is currently pursuing an Associate's Degree in Business at South Suburban College with plans to continue on to the University of Illinois at Chicago. Asked why she chose to return to her alma mater for the contest, Ms. Vhora said, "Having reached this far, I wanted to show the students how important this program is. For me it showed a different side of business." A brilliant and hardworking student, Ms. Vhora is in contact with faculty and counselors at UIC. She plans to take 29 credit hours of courses at SSC in the fall in order to

graduate early and begin her course work at UIC in the spring.

CDS joins all the participating teachers and students in thanking Ms. Vhora and all the business persons who judged the contest.



Above: Thornton Township HS winners of the Entrepreneurship Contest pose with the school's NFTE Club President, Carl Hunter, (third from right) a senior and NFTE alumnus, who served as the Master of Ceremonies for the contest. Below: Service Category winners present their business proposal to judges.



SSC Program for Success: Small Business Management/Entrepreneurship

As far as the American dream goes, the nice house with white picket fence ranks very high. However, a close second might be professional independence or "to be one's own boss." This, of course, requires something that most people lack or fear: a keen sense of entrepreneurship and the proper skill set needed to be successful in business.

Owning one's own business can be a rewarding experience - one which requires extensive knowledge in numerous subject areas. South Suburban College's Small Business Management-Entrepreneurship program places emphasis on essential accounting, management and

communications skills as well as small business management, business law, human resources administration and the advertising and marketing techniques involved in developing a thriving business.

The Manager-Supervisor and Administrative Assistant options provide opportunities for increased specialization. According to the Educational Testing Service, employment for managers is expected to grow at an average pace despite mergers and takeovers. The jobs that are expected to grow the fastest are in the service and computer industries and professional firms. Self-employed managers and

supervisors can earn substantially higher wages.

Earnings vary with size of company, location, industry, function, responsibilities, education, experience and ability. Business owner wages are, of course, limited only by their imaginations.

For more information on this and other business programs please contact:

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Myths Busted!: Advantages of Community College

The following is excerpted from *CommunityCollegeReview.com*, a website offering free information on community colleges around the country. Published February 7, 2008; Written by Grace Chen

MYTH #1: Students attend community college because they did not get accepted to four-year universities.

THE REALITY: When reviewing statistics of transfer admissions, it is clear that universities see the academic strength in transfer students. For example, 33% of all applicants from California community colleges are accepted into UC Berkeley, which is significantly higher than the 26% of California high school students who applied. Or, for the University of Virginia, over 60% of transfer applications from Piedmont Virginia Community College were accepted, which is a greater ratio than the 50% of students who are accepted as freshmen from in-state high schools.

With the increasing economic burdens felt on individuals and families, many students are making the financially-savvy choice of attending community college. The continuously rising costs of university tuition can present a large burden for many families, and by attending a community college, students can save on tuition and living costs.

In addition, whereas many students can gain admissions into four-year universities prior to their enrollment in community college, they can also take the necessary time during the first two years to explore majors they enjoy before applying to the top programs in their field.

MYTH #2: Community colleges are only for people who want a vocational technical job.

THE REALITY: There is a large difference between community college and strictly vocational schools. Although some students can indeed obtain an excellent vocational education at community college, many students utilize community college as an affordable springboard to a four-year

university, where they will graduate with a bachelor's degree – and even move on to graduate school. In fact, community colleges were originally created to allow students an economically affordable option in obtaining a four-year degree.

MYTH #3: No one successful goes to community college.

THE REALITY: The list of successful individuals who graduated from community college is extensive, ranging from business CEOs to politicians. Indeed, some of the most prominent and famous people in America attended community college to develop their academic and professional foundations.



Gwendolyn Brooks:
Pulitzer prize-winning poet graduated from *Wilson Junior College*

MYTH #4: Obtaining a community college degree is not as useful as a university degree.

THE REALITY: Attending community college offers two distinct benefits: an opportunity to directly enter into the skilled workforce, or an ability to attend an elite, four-year university. From an employer's perspective, attending community college demonstrates that you have intellectual passion and personal motivation. Regardless of whether you attend a community college or four-year university, employers review your entire candidacy, which includes your job experience, internships, volunteer work, and skills.

In addition, the American Association of Community Colleges reports that the vast majority of many individuals in esteemed professions obtain their education at community colleges. For example, more than 80% of firefighters and law enforcement officers ob-

tain their education from community college, as well as 62% of health professionals.

MYTH #5: Most students who attend community college are older, with full-time jobs.



Eileen Collins, (Colonel USAF Ret.) NASA astronaut. First female to command a shuttle mission. She graduated from *Corning Community College* in NY with an Associates in Math and Science.

THE REALITY: Whereas the flexibility of community college is indeed ideal for those who have rigorous professional demands, the largest population attending community college is students between the ages of 18 and 24. According to research conducted by Clifford Adelman in his study, "The Community College in the Lives of Traditional Age Students," 42% of community college students are 22 years of age or younger, which has increased 10% over the last ten years.

Regardless of your age, community college offers an educational experience that can be conveniently suited for your professional endeavors and scheduling. In fact, it is a great way to obtain your education while building your professional resume and saving for your future.

MYTH #6: It is not easy to transfer from a community college to a four-year university.

THE REALITY: Community colleges were originally created to give students an affordable option of eventually obtaining a four-year degree.

FAMOUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI

Pete Rozelle:
Commissioner of the NFL

Tom Hanks:
Oscar-winning actor

H. Ross Perot:
Corporate executive and 1992 Presidential Candidate

Calvin Klein:
Fashion Designer

Melvin Salvenson:
Creator of MasterCard

Francine Neff:
Former US Treasurer

Arthur Goldberg:
Supreme Court Justice

James Sinegal:
CEO of Costco

Fred Haise:
Apollo 13 Astronaut

John Walsh:
"America's Most Wanted" host

Rita Mae Brown:
Author



Walt Disney:
Animator and founder of the Disney companies attended *Metropolitan Junior College*



George Lucas,
Film Director "Star Wars" attended *Brookdale Community College*

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Community Colleges Cont'd

Therefore, there is a specific support and transfer system set in place, designed to help community college students seamlessly transition to a four-year university. In addition, as more students attend community colleges, four-year universities have created articulation agreements that specifically guarantee the awarding of university credit for comparable community college courses. For example, the University of California system has long-standing relationships with its state wide community colleges. In fact, according to the UC Board of Regents, they are aiming to increase the number of transfer students from California community colleges by another 50% in the upcoming school year.

Other four-year universities specifically advise students who did not receive admissions to attend community college before applying again. For example, wait listed students have an option of attending Blinn Community College, while also taking courses at A&M. If the students maintain a B average, then they will automatically be admitted to Texas A&M. In 2006 alone, there was an increase of 71% of stu-

dents who chose this option.

Students who plan their academic schedule carefully can easily transfer to a four-year university, keeping in mind what university you want to attend and which major you will choose. By meeting with your academic advisor quarterly to ensure that you are building appropriate transfer credits, you can seamlessly transition to a four-year university.

MYTH #7: Community college students cannot make it in a four-year university.

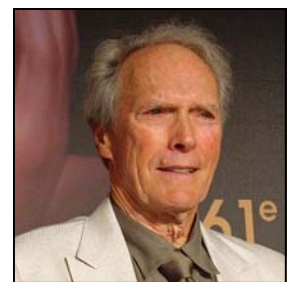
THE REALITY: Upon reviewing the statistics, research demonstrates that community college students tend to earn a higher GPA than students who begin their academic careers at a four-year university. For example, according to the UNLV Institutional Analysis and Planning, transfer students from community college maintain a higher GPA in comparison to first-year students.

According to the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs, approximately 50% to 60% of community college students transfer to four-year universities.

Whenever a student enters

into a new academic environment, there is always the possibility of "transfer" shock, but research shows that community college students have the academic skills to adapt and excel in four-year universities.

If you are considering attending community college, you have the opportunity to build a solid academic foundation that can not only open doors in the professional world, but provides you with a financially-savvy option to obtaining a bachelor's degree. Indeed, you may just very well become one of the successful people that will be added to the "Famous Grads from Community College" list!



Clint Eastwood:

Actor, Oscar-winning director attended *Los Angeles City College*



CDS is a consortium consisting of High School Districts 205, 215, 228 and South Suburban College District 510, working cooperatively to assist the youth and adults of our districts to plan and prepare for the future.

CDS is one of the statewide network of Education for Employment (EFE) groups, whose primary goal is to establish quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs. These training programs incorporate the knowledge and skills needed in life as an integral part of academic and CTE programming and emphasize the continuum of learning from elementary through post-secondary education.

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