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CIT Students Win Big at SkillsUSA District II Competition

On January 29th, 65 CIT students participated in the 35th Annual PA District II SkillsUSA Championship. The event took place at The Allentown Fairgrounds Agri-Plex Expo Center and had over 300 CTE students competing in 32 skilled trade competitions. Participants compete for a chance to show off their skills and hopefully advance to the state competition. Ms. Katie Walker, SkillsUSA Council Executive Director, said, "the purpose of SkillsUSA is not to make you a better competitor, or to make you a national champion, the goal is to make you your best professional self."

Adrienne Jones, CIT's Administrative Director, spoke during the Awards Ceremony at Parkland High School. Mrs. Jones shared her story about being a CIT student and SkillsUSA competitor. She explained her beginnings as a quiet student with no interest in competing. She had a fear of public speaking, but her instructors urged her to compete and eventually convinced her to compete in Job Skill Demonstration. Although she did not win that competition, it gave her newfound confidence and a desire to keep pushing herself. She became a student leader at CIT, and continued to compete in SkillsUSA competitions. Participating in SkillsUSA gave her confidence and taught her how to believe in herself. She urged all the students in the audience to be proud of themselves, be confident, and remember the life lessons they are gaining from their experience with SkillsUSA.

22 CIT students received medals for their excellent performance, with six of them winning 1st place and advancing to the state competition. We are so proud of our students for their hard work and dedication to their craft and their future.



Jacob Dietzler (Bangor), won second placed in the Carpentry competition.



Korrin Werner (Bangor) prepares to start the Esthetics competition with model, Cassidy Johnson (Bangor). They placed first!

SkillsUSA District II Winners

1st Place

Kelvyn Castillo (B) Architectural Drafting
Julia Daley (N) Early Childhood Education
Korrin Werner (B) Esthetics
Cassidy Johnson (B) Esthetics
Anthony Morales (E) First Aid/CPR
Glenn Arroyo (E) Masonry

2nd Place

Jacob Dietzler (B) Carpentry
Isabella Klomp (E) Cosmetology
Drew Wortman (B) Electronics Technology
Bianca Amador (E) Job Interview

3rd Place

Shayla Vasquez (E) Action Skills
Michael Pope (PA) Automated Manufacturing
Brenden Thompson (N) Automated Manufacturing
Alexander Vickery (N) Automated Manufacturing
Jordyn Itterly (PA) Basic Health Care
Penelope Rios (E) Culinary Arts
Maria Abruzzese (W) Early Childhood Education
Quintin Hornberger (N) Electrical Construction Wiring
Jacob Piloza (B) HVACR
Dominick Araujo (N) Information Technology Service
Karen Mora (E) Nurse Assisting
Hannah Wilson (B) Technical Drafting

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Cadaver Program

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Students participated in hands on experiences including dissections and other experiments that highlighted a particular system of the body – the digestive system.

After a brief introduction to the SynDaver, educator Celina Daddario of the Da Vinci Center, tested the students' current knowledge of the human digestive system, asking them to diagram the digestive system including organs, tissues or processes that they thought would be involved in the human digestive system.

While Cyndi the SynDaver was not the only experiment of the program, she was certainly the most popular. Students circulated through the classroom, taking turns at various stations conducting experiments that educated the students on the mouth and esophagus, stomach and intestines and a variety of diseases that can be found in the human body.

Students were heard asking questions such as: "Does she have a heart?" "Where is her spleen?" To those questions, Carol Luthar, Outreach Education Coordinator at Da Vinci Science responded, "See if you can find it!"

Students suited up with gloves and closely navigated through Cyndi's internal cavities, discovering both the small and large intestines, lungs, heart, muscles pancreas and indeed, her heart and spleen! Students even got to remove the kidneys and hold them in their hands, externally from the SynDaver.

This program paired nicely with the regular school curriculum, which includes the dissection of a pig in the upcoming month. Faculty used the SynDaver to help explain similarities that the students will be experience during their pig dissection.

To say the program was well received would be an understatement. Mr. Bill Hobbs, Science Curriculum Leader and Anatomy and Physiology teacher at Bangor Area High School thanked the Bangor Area School District Educational Foundation for all their help and support and said, "This program was a fantastic way for students to visualize the complexities of human anatomy and its integrated systems."

The Bangor Area School District Educational Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization that operates independently from the district and school board. Founded in the Spring of 1997, The Foundation's mission is to support learning for the children and adults of the Bangor Area School District by funding activities and culturally enriching programs, community events, student scholarships, teacher grant projects and academic awards. The Foundation oversees the financial aspect of the various scholarships that are presented to district students each year. The three largest awards are the Wolf, Trigiani and Portland scholarships. Experiences such as Cyndi the SynDaver as well as teacher grant programs and scholarships are made available through donor contributions and fundraising efforts of The Bangor Area School District Educational Foundation, Inc. Should you be interested in getting involved or making a donation, contact visit BASDEF.org or contact Deanna Ruzanski, Executive Director directly at director@basdef.org.



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