

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**March 3, 2009**

**Contacts:** Aime Brown, Muskegon Area Career Tech Center, Commercial Art Instructor, at 231-777-0552  
Mike Carpenter, Muskegon Area Career Tech Center Principal, at 231-767-3605

### **Photo Captions:**

1. *Photo (joel & mariah.jpg)- Commercial Art students: Joel Schleh and Mariah Hittle*
2. *Photo (mike follett.jpg)- Commercial Art student, Mike Follett, pauses for a photo during the Advertising Design portion of the SkillsUSA competition.*

## **Local students win design/photo awards, advance to state contest**

MUSKEGON: Four Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC) students earned gold and silver medals in the SkillsUSA Advertising Design and Photography competition held on February 23, 2009, at the Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency (NCRESA). Mariah Hittle (Ravenna) placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Advertising Design competition; Kryssy Silva (Fruitport) took 1<sup>st</sup> place and Deborah Boltze (Reeths-Puffer) placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Photography competition. Raya Wood (Reeths-Puffer) took first alternate in Advertising Design. All of these students are now qualified to advance to the SkillsUSA state competition to be held in Lansing on April 24-26, 2009.

Eleven MACTC students qualified for the regional contest by taking part in local design contests and job opportunities held for Advertising Design & Photography in the Commercial Art program. During the advertising design portion of the competition, students were asked to create an advertisement for the West Michigan Construction Alliance. The design had to include thumbnail sketches (quick pencil sketches of potential ideas), rough drafts (more refined drawings based on the strongest thumbnail sketches), and a final comp (a finished rendering of the design) on the computer. Students competing in the photography competition were asked to take photos for an upcoming open house for NCRESA. Students picked their top ten photos, tweaked, and then printed their best photo in addition to submitting a color correction of the same image for review. The Newaygo County newspaper editor, Richard C. Wheeler Sr., judged the photo contest.

SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations. The goal of this organization is to ensure America has a skilled work force for years to come. SkillsUSA is one of several extra-curricular Career Tech Student Organizations (CTSOs) offered by the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center. Currently 196 students participate in CTSOs. The MACTC can be found at the corner of Harvey Street and Stebbins Road next to the wind turbine. The MACTC opened to Muskegon area high school juniors and seniors in January 2005 and is operated by Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD). ###