

PRESS RELEASE & PHOTO CAPTIONS

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Contacts: Elissa Penczar, Muskegon Area Career Tech Center, Restaurant, Catering, & Culinary Management Instructor at 231-767-3668
Mike Carpenter, Muskegon Area Career Tech Center, Principal at 231-767-3605

Students compete for first time and win four out of six medals!

BOYNE CITY: On February 6, 2009, eleven Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC) students enrolled in the Restaurant, Catering & Culinary Management (RCCM) program competed for the first time in the Region 5 SkillsUSA district competition in Boyne City, Michigan. They returned to Muskegon with four of the six available medals. Medalists Bryan Saunders of Whitehall, Danielle Close of Mona Shores, Jasmine Pickell and Rebecca LaMie of Fruitport will now compete in the State SkillsUSA Competition in Lansing in April.

The regional competition included students from the Petoskey Career Tech Center, Boyne City High School, and the Wexford-Missaukee Area Career Tech Center. During the *Culinary Arts* competition, students were given four hours to individually prepare a three-course “mystery” meal (i.e., they did not know the menu ahead of time). This year’s meal consisted of pan-seared scallops Rockefeller as the appetizer; romaine hearts with Green Goddess dressing and Gorgonzola crumbles for the salad; and Cornish Game Hen Marbella, served with wild mushroom risotto, and green bean and carrot bundles as the entrée. Students were then judged on sanitation, taste, knife skills, cooking techniques, and presentation skills. Saunders earned the Gold medal in the Culinary Arts portion, while Pickell earned the Bronze.

MACTC students competing in the *Food and Beverage Service* portion set both formal and casual dining room tables, performed host/hostess duties, waited on customers, and calculated guest checks. Each student was judged on his or her knowledge of menu items, table service, and customer/guest service skills, as well as the quality of their professional résumés. Close earned a Silver medal in this area and LaMie took the Bronze.

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 CTOS. 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).

PHOTO CAPTIONS

Service_winners.jpg Food & Beverage Service winners Rebecca LaMie of Fruitport (Bronze) and Danielle Close of Mona Shores (Silver)

Culinary_winners.jpg Culinary Arts winners: Bryan Saunders of Whitehall (Gold) and Jasmine Pickell of Fruitport (Bronze)

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