

PRESS RELEASE

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Local Tech Center to host Welding Competition

MUSKEGON: On Friday, February 27, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC) will host the SkillsUSA Region 5 Competition in Welding Technology. Local high school juniors and seniors will contend with students from Traverse Bay and Mecosta-Osceola Area career tech centers. Approximately 45 students will be competing in five different welding processes at the MACTC located at 200 Harvey Street in Muskegon.

The competitions will begin with Stick welding (SMAW) followed by wire or Mig welding (GMAW) and Tig welding (GTAW). These competitions will end with the over-all and OxyAcetylene welding and cutting contests. The day will wrap up with awards ceremonies at about 1:30 p.m.

Local businesses and trade organizations are donating their time and resources to assist in judging and supervision of the event. Volunteer Judge Mark Mangione of U.A. Local 174 Plumbers, Pipefitters, Steamfitters, and Service Trades said, “The competition is a great opportunity for students to show the skills they’ve learned and get excited about a career in this industry.” Jim Holub of Lake Welding Supply Company is also volunteering his time to judge the event. He said there is a great deal of value in having students experience a real-life testing situation. “The students will be demonstrating the same types of skills that they would for a potential employer, and they will feel the same type of pressure.” Holub added, “This competition can be a real boost for student confidence. It’s a great way to encourage our youth to pursue their interests in a high-wage field that faces an impending shortage of skilled workers.”

Representatives from the Baran Institute of Technology from East Windsor, Connecticut are offering \$1,000 scholarships for each competitor, whether they place or not, and a \$5,000 scholarship to all 1st place winners, a \$3,000 scholarship for all 2nd place winners, and a \$2,000 scholarship for each 3rd place winner in each competitive event.

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).

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