

# WCC Students Shine at Statewide Competition

Wilkes Community College's Industrial, Engineering and Customized Industry Training Division students recently took top honors in five categories at the Skills USA North Carolina competition that was held at the Greensboro Coliseum Annex.

Skills USA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry representatives, working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. It helps each student excel. Skills USA 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, including health occupations. It was formerly known as VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America).

In 2005, Automotive Systems Technology instructor Hardin Kennedy organized and developed the Wilkes Community Skills USA Club. In 2006, Wilkes Community College was represented at the state and national competition in its first year of competing with 12 students from various engineering technology disciplines displaying their knowledge and skills. From 2005 to 2007, club membership at WCC has grown to approximately 150 students. This growth was evident at Greensboro this year with 27 students competing while 25 others observed and gained valuable knowledge from evaluating and benchmarking their statewide peers.

When the competition began this year with students showcasing their presentation, technical and leadership skills in various technology and trades sectors, the WCC students exerted a magnificent effort by winning 23 medals overall during the competition. To cap off those awards,

there were 5 first place winners who will have an opportunity to compete on a national level in late June in Kansas City. The first place winners were:

Architectural Technology  
Joel Clonch  
Automotive Systems Technology  
Luke Wells  
Building Construction Technology  
Trevin Cooper  
Computer Engineering Technology  
Brandon Underwood  
Building Construction Technology  
Teamworks  
Jeff Safely, Ryan Cox, Nathan  
Moose, Nick Adams

Kennedy was elated for the students. "I am very proud of our students for their success in their trade areas. WCC Skills USA Club gives our students an opportunity to showcase their skills at the state level." Additionally, Kennedy expressed his appreciation from the community and business support by stating, "A big thank you goes out to our community supporters who helped make this event possible. Businesses that helped make this financially possible were: General Motors Service and Parts Managers Association, Empire Chrysler, Mike's Body Shop, Blue Ridge Tractor, David's Car Care, and Myers Tire."

John Hauser, Dean of the Industrial, Engineering and Customized Industry Training Division, echoed and praised Kennedy's efforts. "I am extremely proud of the industrial and engineering



technology students. We have very intelligent, skilled, and talented students in the IE & CIT Division which is a direct reflection upon the high quality of instruction that is provided by our faculty in the IE & CIT Division. This competition validates that the IE & CIT Division is very strong academically as well as being technically skilled. Our region and its economic viability are gaining strength, and these industrial and engineering technology students are the key to our success."

WCC also received another award at the competition in addition to the student awards. Hardin Kennedy was awarded the Skills USA North Carolina Advisor of the Year Award

for 2007. According to Hauser, "Hardin is an example of the type of leadership that the faculty possesses in the IE & CIT Division. Hardin is committed to excellence and his efforts of coordinating, planning, and leading the Skills USA Club is one of many valuable attributes that he provides to WCC."

As the industrial and engineering technology students prepare to enter the national competition in June, Wilkes Community College will be well represented in Kansas City with students from Wilkes, Ashe, and Alleghany counties. To learn more about the Skills USA Club and the national competition, please contact Hardin Kennedy at 336-838-6219.

## Goofy Warning Labels For Your Contemplation

Here are some of the wackiest warning labels of the past few years according to the Michigan Law Suit Abuse Watch Web site ([www.mlw.org](http://www.mlw.org)):

- A label on a baby stroller warns: "Remove child before folding."
- A brass fishing lure with a three-pronged hook on the end warns: "Harmful if swallowed."
- A popular scooter for children warns: "This product moves when used."
- A 9x3-inch bag of air used as packing material cautions: "Do not use this product as a toy, pillow, or flotation device."
- A flushable toilet brush warns: "Do not use for personal hygiene."
- The label on an electric hand blender promoted for use in "blending, whipping, chopping and dicing" warns: "Never remove food or other items from the blades while the product is operating."
- A digital thermometer that can be used to take a person's temperature several different ways warns: "Once used rectally, the thermometer should not be used orally."
- A household iron warns users: "Never iron clothes while they are being worn."
- A label on a hair dryer reads, "Never use hair dryer while sleeping."
- A warning on an electric drill made for carpenters cautions: "This product not intended for use as a dental drill."
- The label on a bottle of drain cleaner warns: "If you do not understand, or cannot read, all directions, cautions and warnings, do not use this product."
- A smoke detector warns: "Do not use the Silence Feature in emergency situations. It will not extinguish a fire."
- A massage chair warns: "DO NOT use massage
- chair without clothing ... and, NEVER force any body part into the backrest area while the rollers are moving."
- A cardboard car sunshield that keeps sun off the dashboard warns, "Do not drive with sunshield in place."
- An "Aim-n-Flame" fireplace lighter cautions, "Do not use near fire, flame or sparks"
- A label on a hand-held massager advises consumers not to use "while sleeping or unconscious."
- A 12-inch rack for storing compact disks warns: "Do not use as a ladder."
- A cartridge for a laser printer warns, "Do not eat toner."
- A 13-inch wheel on a wheelbarrow warns: "Not intended for highway use."
- A can of self-defense pepper spray warns users:

"May irritate eyes."

• A warning on a pair of shin guards manufactured for bicyclists says: "Shin pads cannot protect any part of the body they do not cover."

• A snow blower warns: "Do not use snow thrower on roof."

• A dishwasher carries this warning: "Do not allow children to play in the dishwasher."

• A popular manufactured fireplace log warns: "Caution—Risk of Fire."

• A box of birthday cake candles says: "DO NOT use soft wax as ear plugs or for any other function that involves insertion into a body cavity."