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For Immediate Release
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SkillsUSA—Arizona Goes for the Gold at National Conference

The week of the SkillsUSA Championships & National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) may have gone fast, but the memories for over a 140 SkillsUSA—Arizona members, parents, and advisors will last a lifetime.

High school and post-secondary students who placed first in over 50 different skill and leadership contests at the SkillsUSA—Arizona Championships, held this past April, earned the opportunity to attend the national SkillsUSA Championships to compete against other gold-medal winners from across the nation.

The Arizona delegation joined over 14,000 students, teachers, administrators and industry partners in Kansas City, Missouri—now the city's largest conference—during June 25-30, 2007. Arizona students competed in trade, technical, service and health occupations contests that pitted their knowledge, technical skills and academic education against other state winners to earn national recognition as a medalist.

Arizona student contestants earned 10 medals total, including **Community Service**, Gold Medalists, Roger Mortensen, Leticia Valencia, Stephanie Reyes, Central Arizona Valley Institute of Technology, Casa Grande, AZ; **Customer Service**, Silver Medalist, Iulia A Taranu, East Valley Institute of Technology, Mesa, AZ; **Extemporaneous Speaking**, Gold Medalist, Jeffrey Kiser, Round Valley High School, Springerville, AZ; **Firefighting**, Gold Medalist, Kilan Anderson, Northern Arizona Vocational Institute of Technology, Snowflake, AZ; **Precision Machining Technology (post-secondary)**, Silver Medalist, Jeff Washburn, Gateway Community College, Phoenix, AZ; **Television News Anchor-Reporter**, Bronze Medalists, Gitzel Puente, Aremy Tellez, Iraq Camacho, Cibola High School, Yuma, AZ. Also, **National officer candidates** Jeremy Montoya, Chandler High School, and Chris Cronbaugh, Peoria High School, were both elected to National Officer "At Large" and Region V Vice-President respectively.

National SkillsUSA secured the attendance of over 300 VIPs, executives and legislators, including Dr. Troy Justesen, Assistant Secretary of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, Ms. Mary Bell, Vice-President, Caterpillar, Larry Stone, President and Chief Operating Officer, Lowe's, and our very own Mr. Brandon Ames, President and Chief Operating Officer, Able Information Technologies, Inc.

SkillsUSA is a national organization for students enrolled in trade, technical, service and health care occupation education. The organization promotes pride in work and lifelong education. SkillsUSA emphasizes the respect for the dignity of work, high standards in trade ethics, workmanship, scholarship and safety. It promotes the understanding of the free enterprise system and encourages the practice of democratic policies.

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