



FLORIDA ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION
CENTER for EXCELLENCE IN MANUFACTURING EDUCATION

NEWS from
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLORIDA SKILLSUSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
A collaborative effort targeted to build a skilled American workforce

The National Science Foundation-funded Florida Advanced Technological Education Center partnered with SkillsUSA and Jaeger Corporation to coordinate two high-tech manufacturing-related competitions—automated manufacturing technology and robotics and automation technology—at the Florida SkillsUSA State Championships. These three-day competitions were held April 20-22, at Manatee Technical Institute in Bradenton, Fla., and involved over 1200 students in all career disciplines from schools across the state.

“Champions at Work - Leadership in Transition”, the theme behind this year’s competition, represents the core values in SkillsUSA’s national program that fosters personal and professional development to empower students with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a global marketplace. Jeff Tuning a student at Treasure Coast High School, specializing in materials and processes said he joined SkillsUSA because of the robotics-related challenges, and because he wanted to boost his career options.

(more)

1st add SkillsUSA State Championships

At the State Championship, during the “Automated Manufacturing Technology” competition, teams were evaluated on their usage of computer-aided drafting/design, computer-aided manufacturing, and computer-numerical-controlled machining technologies to manufacture a prototype component. Similarly, the “Robotics and Automation Technology” competition evaluated teams on their use of modern machine control systems, operation of a 5-axis servo-robot, and sensors and motorized devices to solve a simulated production-process challenge by designing and operating a robotic work cell. Teams in both competitions were evaluated on teamwork, academic and employability skills, and the successful usage of each of these technologies to solve their manufacturing-related challenges.

This year, teams from Treasure Coast High School won first place in both contests with strong competition from Middleton High School in Tampa, and Manatee Technical Institute in Bradenton. Both winning teams are scheduled to compete at the SkillsUSA national leadership and skills conference in Kansas City from June 21-26. Paul Beyers an employee at Sun Hydraulics in Sarasota Florida, who served as an event judge, said “SkillsUSA is a great way to motivate students to work hard and learn in school, and then have a way to apply what they’ve learned. Hopefully, they can take these skills to the next level and apply them at high-tech firms in Florida.”

Jaeger Corporation, a provider of learning products and services for the K-20 educational market, provided Denford Mills and Pegasus Robots, equipment and simulation software along with technical services to support both events. Rod Jaeger, president and CEO of Jaeger Corporation who has served as an event judge and been involved with SkillsUSA for over 30 years said, “Kids in SkillsUSA are the best of the best in the technical trade areas.”

(more)

2nd add SkillsUSA State Championships

For more information visit www.fl-ate.org, or contact Dave Gula, outreach manager at 813.259.6581/gula@fl-ate.org.

***FLATE** is a National Science Foundation Regional Center of Excellence, committed to ensuring that Florida has a well prepared workforce for advanced and emerging technologies related to manufacturing. Created in 2004, FLATE is one of 36 Advanced Technological Education Centers in the United States funded by the National Science Foundation focused on improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and training to meet the needs of American advanced technology industries. For more information, visit www.fl-ate.org*

***Jaeger Corporation** is a "Total Solution" full-service Educational Supplier based in Winter Park, Fla. It represents manufacturers that meet and exceed the expectations of learning requirements for all ages, in a K-20 seamless education system. Jaeger is committed to prepare America's students and workers for the world of tomorrow, and provides a range of services, high quality products, correlated to the National and State Standards, full-time customer service support, and in-depth experience in the education market that results in solid, hands-on applied learning. For more information visit <http://www.jaeger.cc>*

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