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**SkillsUSA Students Win Medals at  
2025 State Workforce Development Event**

**[April, Great Falls]** Career and technical education students from across Montana brought home medals from the 2025 SkillsUSA State Leadership & Skills Conference.

The 2025 state championships were held in **Great Falls, MT** April 3-6, 2025. The annual Montana SkillsUSA conference was a showcase of career and technical education (CTE) students in our state where 367 outstanding students competed in 56 different trade, technical and leadership events.

During the state SkillsUSA competition, the CTE students worked against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in occupations such as welding, computer-aided drafting, diesel service, firefighting and culinary arts. All contests are run by SkillsUSA Montana with the help of technical chairs from industry, trade associations and labor organizations, testing competencies set by industry. In addition, leadership contestants demonstrated their skills, which included extemporaneous speaking, pin design and conducting meetings using parliamentary procedure. Top student winners received gold, silver and bronze medallions. Many also received prizes such as tools of their trade and scholarships to further their careers and education. The annual championships event is for middle school, high school and college-level students who are members of SkillsUSA.

SkillsUSA Montana has a statewide membership of 555 students, representing 35 chapters representing 33 counties. Members have consistently demonstrated their expertise and professionalism while participating throughout the year in a variety of leadership and competitive conferences. SkillsUSA empowers its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible citizens. SkillsUSA improves the quality of the nation's future skilled workforce through the development of SkillsUSA Framework skills that include personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics. Our vision is to produce the most highly skilled workforce in the world, providing every member the opportunity for career success.

State first-place (gold medal) winners are eligible to compete at the national SkillsUSA Championships, which will be held in Atlanta in June. The following students at the 2025 state conference had outstanding accomplishments:

#### **Gold, Silver & Bronze Medals:**

Architectural Drafting	High School
1	Fairfield High School Gold Robyn Mathison
2	Plains High School Silver Asher Seymour
3	Fairfield High School Bronze Colter Dowdy
Automotive Service Technology	High School
1	Flathead High School Gold Cameron Seals
2	Havre High School Silver Robert Ogden
3	Flathead High School Bronze Cameron Moffit
Automotive Service Technology	College
1	MSU-Northern Gold Sterling Shelton
Cabinetmaking	High School
1	Fairfield High School Gold Ryder Carper
2	Fairfield High School Silver Porter Hatch
3	Plains High School Bronze Caleb W Lakko

Carpentry	High School	
	1	Manhattan Public Schools Gold Luke Randall
	2	Butte High School Silver Kyle Kinsey
	3	Manhattan Public Schools Bronze Calvin Stanley
	High School	
Chapter Business Procedure	High School	
	1	North Star High School Gold Kinzie Campbell Gold Brooke Burkhardtsmeyer Gold Emerson Kinsella Gold Piper Miller Gold Madelyn Myers Gold Wrien Wolery
	2	Darby High School Silver Tanner Shavers Silver Gustaf Harrell Silver Morgan Jerrils Silver Markel Matute Silver Leif Nelson Silver McCoy Townsend
	High School	
	1	Darby High School Gold Levi Whiting Gold Justin Chandler Gold Nayla Schmied
	2	Savage High School Silver Aspen Peterson Silver Miley Pilgeram Silver Brooke Skov
	High School	
	1	Darby High School Gold Halana May Gold Shaina Gaustad Gold Hailey Heiland
	2	Jefferson High School Silver Maryah Lindsay Silver Avery Maki Silver Hope Nelson
	3	Winnett High School Bronze Jesse Mickelson Bronze Wiley Dutton Bronze Wil Murnion
	High School	
	1	Darby High School
	High School	
	1	Darby High School

		Gold Justin Chandler
2	Darby High School	Silver Tanner Shavers
3	Winnett High School	Bronze Wiley Dutton
	Diesel Equipment Technology High School	
1	Sentinel High School	Gold Noah Lofink
2	Great Falls High School	Silver kaiden cotton
3	Plains High School	Bronze Pepper Lulack
	Extemporaneous Speaking Middle School	
1	Plains	Gold Kiara Brown
2	Winnett	Silver Anna Nowlin
3	Plains	Bronze Kylar Bannout
	Extemporaneous Speaking High School	
1	North Star High School	Gold Madelyn Myers
2	Winnett High School	Silver Virgil Tholt
3	Butte High School	Bronze Kelly A McCloskey
	Firefighting College	
1	Gallatin College	Gold Nicholas McQueeney
	First Aid-CPR High School	
1	Plains High School	Gold Kalem K Ercanbrack
2	Jefferson High School	Silver Hope Nelson
3	Plains High School	Bronze Annika Ercanbrack
	First Aid-CPR College	
1	MSU Billings-COT	Gold Abigail Converse
	Gastronomic Engineering High School	
1	Sentinel High School	Gold Tristan Haverfield
2	Fairfield High School	Silver Isaiah Talton
3	Great Falls High School	Bronze Mable Prusek

Heavy Equipment Operation High School

- 1 East Helena High School  
Gold Cooper Larson
- 2 East Helena High School  
Silver Karsen Bushnell
- 3 Plains High School  
Bronze Isaiah A Paseman

Job Interview High School

- 1 Sentinel High School  
Gold Allyeska Vild
- 2 Great Falls High School  
Silver Anna Dougherty
- 3 Charlo High School  
Bronze Sean Madden

Job Interview College

- 1 MSU Billings-COT  
Gold Abigail Converse
- 2 MSU-Northern  
Silver Tithen FitzGerald

Job Skill Demonstration Middle School

- 1 Plains  
Gold Halle Collett
- 2 Winnett  
Silver Lealen Dutton

Job Skill Demonstration High School

- 1 Darby High School  
Gold Jada Swenson
- 2 St. Ignatius High School  
Silver Adley Larson
- 3 Augusta High School  
Bronze Ryan Arps

Medical Math High School

- 1 Darby High School  
Gold Leif Nelson
- 2 Darby High School  
Silver Morgan Jerrils
- 3 Plains High School  
Bronze Kalem K Ercanbrack

Opening and Closing Ceremonies Middle School

- 1 Plains  
Gold Kiara Brown  
Gold Mauriella Adams  
Gold Bryan Lakko  
Gold kameryn Malmend  
Gold Aliah Owens  
Gold Emeline Russell

	2	Darby	Silver Aurora Cook
			Silver Brooklyn Janis
			Silver Bella Neville
			Silver Nikki Neville
			Silver Bentley Rouse
			Silver Summer Smead
Opening and Closing Ceremonies		High School	
	1	Darby High School	
			Gold Jaden Bailey
			Gold Gavin Anderson
			Gold Natalie Anderson
			Gold Abram Atkins
			Gold Jackson Bennett
			Gold Ella Bush
			Gold Finn O'Donnell
	2	Great Falls High School	
			Silver Anna Dougherty
			Silver Tracer Clement
			Silver Riley Culbertson
			Silver Lochlin Kinyon
			Silver Eva Richmond
			Silver Jacob Schneider
Outstanding Chapter		High School	
	1	Darby High School	
			Gold Austin Hackel
			Gold Charley McDowell
			Gold Gavin Miller
Photography		High School	
	1	Great Falls High School	
			Gold Harlee Barrow
	2	Manhattan Public Schools	
			Silver Elizabeth Dundas
	3	Plains High School	
			Bronze Asher Seymour
Photography		College	
	1	MSU-Northern	
			Bronze Jordan Ketcham
Pin Design		Middle School	
	1	Plains	
			Gold Kylar Bannout
	2	Plains	
			Silver kameryn Malmend
	3	Darby	
			Bronze Payton Gibson
Pin Design		High School	

	1	Darby High School	
		Gold McCoy Townsend	
	2	Winnett High School	
		Silver Virgil Tholt	
	3	Darby High School	
		Bronze Jackson Bennett	
Pin Design	College		
	1	Gallatin College	
		Gold Nicholas McQueeney	
Power Equipment Technology		High School	
	1	Sentinel High School	
		Gold Allyeska Vild	
	2	Havre High School	
		Silver Chloe Corner	
	3	Broadwater High School	
		Bronze Teigen Volkman	
Power Equipment Technology		College	
	1	MSU-Northern	
		Gold Carter Marquardt	
	2	MSU-Northern	
		Silver Max Morrey	
Prepared Speech		Middle School	
	1	Plains	
		Gold Bryan Lakko	
	2	Darby	
		Silver Summer Smead	
Prepared Speech		High School	
	1	North Star High School	
		Gold Ecko Fraser	
	2	Charlo High School	
		Silver Tasker Brown	
	3	Butte High School	
		Bronze Kyle Kinsey	
Promotional Bulletin Board		Middle School	
	1	Darby	
		Gold Stella Smith	
		Gold Paityn Pelkey	
		Gold Macey Strayer	
Promotional Bulletin Board		High School	
	1	Darby High School	
		Gold Georgia Fisher	
		Gold Lillian Bennett	
		Gold Brenna Bush	
	2	Plains High School	
		Silver Caleb W Lakko	
		Silver Macey L Malmend	

			Silver	Isaiah A Paseman
	3	Savage High School		
			Bronze	McKenna Haralson
			Bronze	Micah Haralson
			Bronze	Emma McPherson
Quiz Bowl		High School		
	1	Butte High School		
			Gold	Kyle Kinsey
			Gold	Sean Overlay
			Gold	Brayten Hyndman
			Gold	aksel laursen
			Gold	payton michalsky
	2	Darby High School		
			Silver	Gustaf Harrell
			Silver	Lillian Bennett
			Silver	Hailey Heiland
			Silver	Morgan Jerrils
			Silver	Leif Nelson
			Silver	Nayla Schmied
			Silver	McCoy Townsend
Quiz Bowl		College		
	1	MSU-Northern		
			Gold	Tithen FitzGerald
			Gold	Braxton Berg
			Gold	Loren Lane
			Gold	Max Morrey
			Gold	Sterling Shelton
			Gold	Hunter Velk
Related Technical Math		High School		
	1	Plains High School		
			Gold	Kalem K Ercanbrack
	2	Butte High School		
			Silver	Kelly A McCloskey
	3	Plains High School		
			Bronze	Cord Greer
Robotics-Urban Search and Rescue		Middle School		
	1	Alberton Public School		
			Gold	Mahlon Manson
			Gold	Varuna Peeblson
	2	Darby		
			Silver	Aurora Cook
			Silver	Bentley Rouse
	3	Plains		
			Bronze	Halle Collett
			Bronze	Kylar Bannout
Robotics-Urban Search and Rescue		High School		



	1	Sentinel High School	
		Gold	Joseph Karlovich
		Gold	Finn Nowels
	2	Darby High School	
		Silver	Tanner Shavers
		Silver	Elias Martin
	3	Alberton Public School	
		Bronze	Evan Fehlings
		Bronze	David Scheer
T Shirt Design		Middle School	
	1	Plains	
		Gold	Emeline Russell
	2	Plains	
		Silver	Halle Collett
	3	Darby	
		Bronze	Nikki Neville
T Shirt Design		High School	
	1	Darby High School	
		Gold	Nayla Schmied
	2	Darby High School	
		Silver	Lillian Bennett
	3	Sentinel High School	
		Bronze	Charles Maus
Team Engineering Challenge		Middle School	
	1	Plains High School	
		Gold	Clinton Weedeman
		Gold	Bryan Lakko
		Gold	Gary Rehbein
	2	Darby High School	
		Silver	Stella Smith
		Silver	Paityn Pelkey
		Silver	Macey Strayer
	3	Winnett High School	
		Bronze	Jasper Tholt
		Bronze	Lealen Dutton
		Bronze	Tayt Obrigewitch
Technical Computer Applications		High School	
	1	Sentinel High School	
		Gold	Charles Maus
	2	Sentinel High School	
		Silver	Ellyonna Vild
	3	North Star High School	
		Bronze	Piper Miller
Technical Drafting		High School	
	1	Sentinel High School	
		Gold	Benjamin McKnight

	2	East Helena High School Silver Dylan Burger
	3	Alberton Public School Bronze Barrett Odell
Technical Drafting	College	
	1	MSU-Northern Gold Tithen FitzGerald
Welding	High School	
	1	Frenchtown High School Gold Evan Urquhart
	2	Frenchtown High School Silver Roper Woodard
	3	Manhattan Public Schools Bronze Lukas Goodman
Welding	College	
	1	MSU Billings-COT Gold Peyton Langley
	2	MSU Billings-COT Silver Chance Devich
	3	MSU Billings-COT Bronze Cade Novotny
Welding Fabrication	High School	
	1	Cut Bank High School Gold Kaden Kipp Gold Tristen Lozing Gold Peyton Volkman
	2	Great Falls High School Silver Lochlin Kinyon Silver Caleb Kronovich Silver Jacob Schneider
	3	East Helena High School Bronze Cooper Larson Bronze Karsen Bushnell Bronze Eli Russell
Welding Sculpture	High School	
	1	Frenchtown High School Gold Gracelyn Deuter
	2	Frenchtown High School Silver Isaac Ashbrook
	3	Frenchtown High School Bronze Gabe Klette
Woods - Basic	High School	
	1	Ennis High School Gold Mason Nelson
	2	Manhattan Public Schools Silver Cody DeHaan

	3	Sidney High School Bronze Kaleb Kutzler
Woods - Furniture		High School
	1	Jefferson High School Gold Hope Nelson
	2	Plains High School Silver Shay Nelson
	3	Ennis High School Bronze Jackson Nutt
Woods - Sculpture		High School
	1	Valier High School Gold Kolter Forbes
	2	Savage High School Silver McKenna Haralson
	3	Savage High School Bronze Kyler Jonsson
Woods- Basic		Middle School
	1	Plains High School Gold Gary Rehbein
	2	Conrad High School Silver Asher Pettersen
	3	Plains High School Bronze Clinton Weedeman
Woods-Sculpture		Middle School
	1	Plains Gold Clinton Weedeman
	2	Plains Silver Mauriella Adams
	3	Plains Bronze Gary Rehbein

**Advisor of the year:**

**College:** Jack Bieger- MSU Northern

**High School:** Roger Merritt- Sidney High school

**Honorary Retiring teacher award:**

Tim Love- Augusta Public School

**Career Essentials Certificate:**

Kyle Kinsey- Butte High School

**Retiring 2024-2025 State Officers:**

Kelly McCloskey- Butte

Tanner Shavers- Darby

Caleb Lakko- Plains

Kyle Kinsey- Butte

For more information about this year's events and the winners, contact:

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### **About SkillsUSA**

SkillsUSA is America's proud champion of the skilled trades. It's a student-led partnership of education and industry that's building the skilled workforce our nation depends on with graduates who are career ready, day one. Representing over 420,000 career and technical education students and teachers, SkillsUSA chapters thrive in middle schools, high schools and college/postsecondary institutions nationwide. SkillsUSA's mission empowers students to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders and responsible community members. That mission is accomplished through the SkillsUSA Framework of Personal Skills, Workplace Skills and Technical Skills Grounded in Academics, which is integrated into classroom curriculum. Through Framework instruction, students develop the character-shaping leadership skills — teamwork, communication, professionalism and more — that successful careers and lives demand. At the same time, students hone their high-level technical skills against current industry standards in more than 130 skilled trade areas, from 3-D Animation to Welding. The result? Focused, confident and highly skilled graduates who are ready to work, ready to lead and ready to make a difference in our schools, workplaces and communities. A vital solution to the skills gap, where more in-demand skilled trades positions are available than qualified professionals to fill them, SkillsUSA has served over 14 million difference-making members since 1965. For more, [visit www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org).

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