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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
Chapter Business Procedure	High School
1	North Star High School
	Gold Kinzie Campbell
	Gold Brooke Burkhartsmeier
	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
Chapter Display	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
Crime Scene Investigation	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
Criminal Justice	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	1	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	1	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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