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Career and trades skills to be tested at SkillsUSA Nebraska Championships

OMAHA, Neb. — More than 1,200 high school and college students will showcase their talents in the SkillsUSA Nebraska Championships, April 15–17. The main competition will take place on April 16 at the CenturyLink Center Omaha, 455 N. 10th St.; the downtown DoubleTree by Hilton hotel, 1616 Dodge St.; and Metropolitan Community College's South Omaha Campus, 27th and Q streets, Applied Technology Center, 10407 State St., and the Fort Omaha Campus, 30th and Fort streets.

This year's SkillsUSA Nebraska Championships feature 65 skills competitions that challenge students to work against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in occupations like electronics, culinary arts, medical assisting, automotive technology and more. All contests are run with the help of industry, trade associations and labor organizations, and test competencies are set by national industry standards. In addition, leadership contestants will demonstrate their skills, including extemporaneous speaking and job interview skills.

Top students earn prizes and scholarships from community colleges, businesses and industry. First-place winners go on to the national championships in Louisville, Kentucky, June 22–26, for the 51st annual National Leadership and Skills Conference, a showcase of career and technical education students.

The April 16 competitions are free and open to the public.

SkillsUSA serves middle school, high school and college students in programs preparing them for technical, skilled and service careers. In addition to technical skills training, SkillsUSA provides educational experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. More than 300,000 students and advisers join SkillsUSA annually.

For more information, visit skillsusanebraska.org.

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Metropolitan Community College, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, is a comprehensive, public community college that offers affordable, quality education to all residents of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. Founded in 1974, MCC has the largest enrollment out of six community colleges in Nebraska and is the second largest postsecondary institution in the state. MCC serves more than 40,000 unique credit and noncredit students.