FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2016

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ALABAMA’S BEST STUDENTS COMPETING THIS WEEK:
STATE SKILLSUSA CHAMPIONSHIPS APRIL 19-21

Montgomery, Ala. – Alabama’s best students will be at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex (BJCC) this week competing in exciting student competitions and leadership workshops at the 2016 SkillsUSA Leadership Conference, Career Expo, and State Championships on April 19-21.

SkillsUSA is devoted to preparing students for postsecondary learning and careers in technical, skilled, and service occupations. Nationally, it serves over 300,000 high school, college, and professional members. Alabama has more than 10,000 SkillsUSA members.

“Students will be competing in over 80 competitive categories this year, including carpentry, electrical technology, video production, cosmetology, and much more,” says Alabama Technical Education and SkillsUSA Administrator Chris Kennedy. “This will definitely be an action-packed event and our students are so excited to have this chance to display their skills. This championship will showcase Alabama’s future workforce in action.”

Top winners in each state contest category will be eligible to represent Alabama at the upcoming national SkillsUSA Championships in Louisville, Kentucky, in June.

The official Opening Session will be held this evening starting at 7 p.m. in the BJCC East Ballroom and will feature well-known speakers including National SkillsUSA Executive Director Tim Lawrence.

Wednesday’s events at the BJCC East Hall from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. include:

- Electrical Construction Wiring, Cosmetology, Carpentry, Television Production, Collision Repair, Industrial Motor Control, Advertising Design, Fire Fighting, Masonry, Web Design, and Automotive Technology student competitions—more than 30 additional contests will also be held.
- Industry exhibits and student-built projects on display.
- Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT) is hosting a Career Expo in the BJCC East Hall on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (open to the public). During the career expo students will have an opportunity to interact with businesses, industry leaders, and representatives from top colleges from across the nation. You can learn more about this career expo at http://www.aidt.edu/skillsusa/.

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Sponsors of this year’s event include the Alabama Air National Guard, Alabama Homebuilders Association, Alabama Power Company, Alabama Associated Builders and Contractors, Lincoln Electric, Thompson Tractor, United Association, BEJATC, and many others.

**Thursday's Awards Ceremony** scheduled for 9 a.m. is being sponsored by the Alabama Construction Recruitment Institute “Go Build” campaign, which is a state industry initiative focused on preparing the state’s future workforce (students) for America’s 21st century career opportunities. To learn more about this innovative program, visit [www.gobuildalabama.com](http://www.gobuildalabama.com).

To see the full Master Schedule of events and locations, visit [http://www.alskillsusa.org/State/SLCP.pdf](http://www.alskillsusa.org/State/SLCP.pdf).

Alabama’s career and technical education (CTE) programs offer students opportunities to participate in seven different student organizations including SkillsUSA.

This event is free to the public and parents and local community leaders are urged to attend.

To learn more about the Alabama’s SkillsUSA organization or any of the other opportunities offered by our state’s CTE program, contact Alabama Technical Education and SkillsUSA Administrator, Chris Kennedy, at (334) 242-9112 or visit [www.alskillsusa.org](http://www.alskillsusa.org).

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