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NEWS RELEASE

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Northwest Iowa Community College Automated Manufacturing Technology Students Rank Second in the Nation

The winners of the annual SkillsUSA National Championships in Automated Manufacturing Technology were announced Friday evening, June 25, at the Awards Ceremony of the National Leadership and Skills Conference. Austin Thevenin, Aurelia; Cody Jonker, Orange City; and Jeremiah Nelson, Hull won second place in the team competition for Automated Manufacturing Technology.

The Conference was held June 21-25, 2010 at the Municipal auditorium, the Kemper Arena, H. Roe Bartle Hall, the downtown Marriott and the downtown Crown Plaza in Kansas City, Missouri. Over 5,600 outstanding career and technical education students joined in the excitement of hands-on competition in ninety-six different trade, technical and leadership fields.

Working against the clock and each other, the participants proved their expertise in job skills for occupations such as electronics, technical drafting, precision machining, and medical assisting and culinary arts. There were also competitions in leadership skill, such as extemporaneous speaking and conducting meetings by parliamentary procedures.

The contest is planned by technical committees made of representatives of labor and management is designed to test the skills needed for a successful entry-level performance in give occupational fields. Safety practices and procedures – an area of great concern to labor and management alike- are judged and graded and constitute a portion of a contest's score.

The Automated Manufacturing Technology contest evaluates teams for employment in integrated manufacturing technology fields of computer aided drafting/design (CAD), computer aided manufacturing (CAM), and computer numerical controlled machining (CNC). CAD operators construct the part geometry; the CAM operator generates the tool paths; and the CNC operator sets up and machines the part. Plotting is not a scored event; however, the contestants must be able to generate a plot file that will be used to send their data to the plotter.

Austin Thevenin, Aurelia, commented, "Through the SkillsUSA competitions I have learned to work under pressure since there is only a certain timeframe to get everything done. I am very excited to receive 2nd place in the nation. I really enjoyed my classes at NCC. I really liked the manufacturing curriculum and enjoyed learning all the software...NCC is very up-to-date. I lived in the dorms and that was my favorite part of college! It was the first time that I lived completely my own. I actually gradated this spring and I am working for my Dad, who is also a machinist, at TCY Machine in Aurelia."

Cody Jonker, Orange City, said, "I took engineering classes at NCC from Ryan throughout high school and he encouraged me even when I was in high school to be involved in SkillsUSA. I really enjoy my program at NCC. The teachers, lab setting, small class sizes, the instructors help everyone's needs, the education is very personalized. Right now I am working at Quattro in Orange City with my brother who also graduated from the drafting/manufacturing program. I plan to transfer to the University of Iowa after I graduate."

The team received many prizes, including over \$6,500 worth of AutoDesk Inventor 2011 Suite software and \$6,000 worth of CamWorks 2009 software.