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### For More Information

on WTI's Programs

Visit our website:

[www.wtionline.cc](http://www.wtionline.cc)

or

Call 352-726-2430

ext. 4326

## CHAMPIONS AT WORK

By Jeffery Wood

**SkillsUSA** is a Career & Technical Education Student Organization (CTSO) that focuses on preparing students to enter the workforce with the highest quality of professional, technical and industrial skills.

In August of 2010, 38 students embarked on a journey that lead 10 members to the 2011 Florida SkillsUSA State Leadership & Skills Conference, and one student to Kansas City, Missouri to compete at the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference.

Angie Mooney, a student enrolled in the Medical Administrative Specialist Program was looking for a career change, and found herself joining (and becoming actively involved) the WTI SkillsUSA organization. SkillsUSA first provided Angie with a support system within the school that focused on increasing her professional development. Angie completed 4 levels of the SkillsUSA Professional Development Certification Program. In December, Angie started to explore the competitive aspect of SkillsUSA. She was advised to consider a few areas of competition and finally narrowed it down to two competitions: Employment Application Process and Medical Terminology. The Medical Terminology competition seemed to fit well into her coursework, but the Employment Application Process sparked her interest even though there were aspects of the contest with which she was unfamiliar.

The first task Angie encountered with the Employment Application Process was creating an employment portfolio. Throughout the school year she worked with her teacher, Mrs. Godwin, and her SkillsUSA Advisor, Mr. Wood on how to create an employment portfolio. Angie stated early in the project "Mr. Wood I have never even seen an employment portfolio. I thought portfolios were for artists". Soon Angie began to collect all the items necessary to complete her employ-

ment portfolio. She incorporated Occupational Completion Point (OCP) Certifications, Industry Certifications, Professional Development Certifications, along with CTSO participation through both SkillsUSA and the National Technical Honor Society as some of the key elements of her portfolio. That is when Angie began to realize how much she had achieved at WTI and through SkillsUSA.



Angie Mooney as she travels to Kansas City, Missouri from June 19th—25th, 2011.

As the months rolled by Angie diligently worked on her portfolio, to prepare herself for the State competition. Angie set up multiple job interviews where she tested her employment portfolio .

Just two weeks before the Florida SkillsUSA State Leadership & Skills Conference Angie took the initiative and tested her skills by applying for a position at Citrus Memorial Health Systems, where

she was hired because of her involvement in SkillsUSA and her impressive employment portfolio. Upon being hired, Angie informed her new employer that she would not be able to start work until after competing May 2nd - May 4th, 2011 at the Florida SkillsUSA State Leadership & Skills Conference. Graciously Citrus Memorial Health Systems allowed Angie a later start date. Angie won the state competition allowing her to advance to the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference. Angie, having won the Employment Application Process competition, now had to face the top 49 SkillsUSA Competitors throughout the country.

Needless to say, Angie was nervous—but confident—she would do well, and she did. Angie won the silver medal in the national competition.

*"This was such a great experience. It taught me that there is nothing I can't do. I truly appreciate the support I received from my teacher, my advisor and from WTI. They were all so great".*

## STUDENT TALENT



**Chelsea Adkisson** was only in Culinary Arts one semester when she did a food presentation with a watermelon, "Carving of Presidents". Her specialty is baking and would like to pursue a job baking for Walt Disney World when she graduates.

## SCHOOL ADVISORY ENHANCEMENT COUNCIL 2011–2012 MEETINGS

**September 8, 2011**  
**\* November 3, 2011**  
**February 16, 2012**  
**\* April 18, 2012**  
**June 7, 2012**

SAEC meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday, five (5) times a year at 3:00 p.m. in the Media Center unless otherwise notified.

At November's meeting refreshments will be served and April's meeting will be the Annual Dinner. Invitations will be sent out with details.

## PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2011–2012 MEETINGS

**November 3, 2011**  
**April 18, 2012**

Program Advisory Committee meetings are held twice a year inviting area businesses to participate on our Program Advisory Committees and contribute to the success of our programs.

At November's meeting refreshments will be served and April's meeting will be the Annual Dinner. Invitations will be sent out with details.

## Accreditation

*By Denise Willis*

When one reads the catalogs or views the website of various schools, colleges or universities the word *accreditation* often appears. This is a good word to see in the school's publications as it has many positive connotations. It's a word we often see but do really know what it means. So what is accreditation?

The United States has no federal Ministry of Education or other centralized authority exercising single national control over post-secondary education institutions in this country. The individual States assume varying degrees of control over education, but, in general, institutions of higher education are permitted to operate with considerable independence and autonomy. In order to ensure a basic level of quality, the practice of accreditation arose in the United States as a means of conducting non-governmental, peer evaluation of educational institutions and programs. Educational associations have adopted criteria reflecting the qualities of a sound educational program. They have also developed procedures for evaluating institutions to determine whether or not they are operating at basic levels of quality.

During the week of October 24-27, 2011 Withlacoochee Technical Institute (WTI) will be hosting an accreditation team from the Council on Occupational Education, commonly known as the Council or COE. In the world of career and technical education the Council is viewed as the nationally-honored seal of excellence for occupational education institutions. The Council's mission is to assure quality and integrity in career and technical education. A major strength of WTI has been the tremendous involvement of community members serving on program advisory committees and showing their support of our programs by providing cooperative education and internship experiences for the students.

WTI is proud to have been accredited by the Council for the past 25 years and looks forward to being re-accredited again in the fall. The five member team will be on campus for four days examining the programs, policies and procedures of WTI, a very extensive process. The self-study documents and subsequent reports will be available in the school's main office.

## National Technical Honor Society

*By Victoria Sleighter*



excellence in career and technical education. WTI congratulates these outstanding students and acknowledges their efforts in upholding these standards.

Honorary Memberships were presented to Lt. Phil Royal, Public Safety Training Center Director and Sarah Dillard, RN. WTI's Teacher of the Year.

Inductees who attended the ceremony

first row, from left: Eric Hall, Andrea Kopp, Lisa Sutherland, Heather Meadows, Keri Damm, Rachelle Peake, and Sandra Esteves. Back Row, from left: Willis Tate, Matt O'Connell, Stevie Smith, Angela Mooney, Jacqueline Lowther, Robert Ray, and Samantha McMichael.

The WTI Chapter of the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) encourages and recognizes students who attain high scholastic achievement, excellence in their craft, and exemplify outstanding personal attributes. NTHS is the highest award for

## Just What Is CTE?

**What is Career and Technical Education?** *CTE has a long and rich history in the United States. Today's CTE has evolved from a limited number of vocational programs available at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century into a broad system that encompasses a variety of challenging fields in diverse subject areas which are constantly evolving due to the changing global economy.*

Today's CTE provides students:

- Academic subject matter taught with relevance to the real world
- Employability skills, from job-related skills to workplace ethics
- Career pathways that link secondary and post-secondary education
- Education for additional training and degrees, especially related to workplace training, skill upgrades and career advancement

Each state administers CTE in a different manner. In many cases, state and local CTE programs are "leading the way" with regard to high school reform and secondary-post-secondary transition.

Career and technical education (CTE) produces gains in academic achievement making a significant contribution to the education of America's youth and adults in preparation of a skilled workforce. An extensive body of research exists that describes CTE programs and their outcomes. The information below highlights the findings of some of the studies and reports.

CTE Students Achieve Academic Success:

- CTE students take more and higher level math than students in general studies according to a 2002 National Center for Career and Technical Education (NCCTE) study.
- The 2004 National Assessment of Vocation Education (NAVE) Final Report found that students in CTE programs increased their 12<sup>th</sup> grade test scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) by 8 points in reading and 11 points in math, while students who took little or no career and technical education coursework increased their reading on NAEP by only 4 points and showed no improvement in math achievement.
- Students at schools with highly integrated, rigorous academic and CTE programs have significantly higher student achievement in reading, mathematics and science than do students at schools with less integrated programs, as reported by the Southern

and science than do students at schools with less integrated programs, as reported by the Southern Regional Education Board. (SREB)

CTE Students Experience An Increase in Earnings and Improved Employment Outcomes:

- A 2002 study conducted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago found that a year of technically oriented coursework at a post-secondary school or college increased the earnings of men by 14% and women by 29%. Additionally, the study found almost no earnings increased for non-technically oriented coursework.
- CTE graduates are 10-15% more likely to be in the labor force, and earn 8-9% more than graduates of academic programs, according to a 2001 Russell Sage Foundation study.
- The 2004 NAVE Independent Advisory Panel Report indicated that students who took four high school CTE courses showed an average increase in earnings of \$1,200 immediately after graduation and \$1,800 seven years later.
- The 2004 NAVE Final Report found that post-secondary CTE education proved an effective means to a higher income. CTE post-secondary students had 5 to 8 percent more earnings than high school graduates.
- Secondary students who graduated with a background in career and technical education are 2 ½ times more likely to be employed while pursuing postsecondary education than are "college prep" students, according to the SREB.

The Associated Press, reporting on the recent Southern Governors Association meeting, stated that 51% of all jobs in the south fall into the "middle skills" category and there is a shortage of workers to fill these jobs. These are jobs that require education and training beyond high school but less than a four-year degree.

Students would do well to consider the value and benefit of pursuing a career and technical education program.

## Auto Collision Program Certified

**NATEF** was founded to develop, encourage and improve automotive programs. NATEF examines the structure of the training programs and evaluates them against nationally accepted standards of quality.

WTI's Automotive Collision Repair and Refinishing program attained program certification status in the area of painting and refinishing. Congratulations to Mr. Persavich and his students on attaining this important recognition by the automotive industry.