

PRESS RELEASE

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1. **(Anthony_Henry.jpg)** Anthony Henry (Muskegon) studies a diagram as part of the Computer Part/Port Identification portion of the competition.
2. **(Chad_Lynema.jpg)** Chad Lynema (Muskegon) troubleshoots a hardware issue during the SkillsUSA Regional Computer Maintenance Technology Competition.
3. **(Matt_Beifuss.jpg)** Matt Beifuss (Orchard View), 1st place winner, trouble shoots a hardware issue during the SkillsUSA Regional Computer Maintenance Technology Competition.

Computer Repair Tech students win regional awards, advance to state

MUSKEGON: Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC) students earned top spots in the Computer Maintenance Technology section of the SkillsUSA competition held on March 3, 2009, at the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center. Electrical/Electronic Technologies students Matt Beifuss (Orchard View) earned 1st place, Ben McDow (North Muskegon) placed 2nd, Kevin Holtz (Mona Shores) 3rd, and Jacob Bunda (Mona Shores) finished 4th. First alternate and second alternate went to Muskegon High School students Thomas Coyne and Anthony Henry respectively. Other participants included Jeff Galla (Muskegon Catholic Central), Chad Lynema (Muskegon), and Jason Tokarczyk (Mona Shores). Beifuss, McDow, Holtz, and Bunda now qualify for the SkillsUSA State Competition in Lansing, Michigan, on April 24-26, 2009.

Students participating in Tuesday's event tested in five different areas pertaining to Computer Maintenance. The first portion of the competition was a 50-question written test. This test covered basic information necessary to obtain entry-level certification as a computer technician. After completing the written exam, students moved on to the Computer Part/Port Identification section. This testing required students to name specific computer components and their uses. The third section of testing involved computer hardware trouble-shooting followed by software trouble-shooting. Upon completion of these events students then competed in the interview portion of the event where students participated in a mock-interview for a Computer Repair Technician position.

SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations. The goal of this organization is to ensure America has a skilled work force for years to come.

SkillsUSA is one of several extra-curricular Career Tech Student Organizations (CTSOs) offered by the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center. Currently 196 students participate in CTSOs. The MACTC can be found at the corner of Harvey Street and Stebbins Road next to the wind turbine. The MACTC opened to Muskegon area high school juniors and seniors in January 2005 and is operated by Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD). ###