

PRESS RELEASE

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1. *(aaron_james.jpg)*-Aaron McConaughy, 2nd place, Criminal Justice; James Bass-Kitchen, 4th place, First Responders
2. *(ps_group.jpg)*-Public Safety/Protective Services students (seated from left to right): Travis Palmer, Sean Mosher, James Bass-Kitchen, Haley Hammock, (standing) Aaron McConaughy, Steven Danicek

Students earn top spots in criminal justice/first responders contest

MUSKEGON: Four Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC) students earned top spots in the Criminal Justice and First Responders sections of a SkillsUSA competition held on February 23, 2009, at the Traverse Bay Area Career Tech Center. Aaron McConaughy (Orchard View) placed 2nd and Haley Hammock (Oakridge) 3rd in Criminal Justice; Travis Palmer (Fruitport) placed 3rd and James Bass-Kitchen (Orchard View) 4th in First Responders. These students, who are enrolled in the MACTC's Public Safety/Protective Services program, now qualify for the SkillsUSA State Competition in Lansing, Michigan, on April 24-26, 2009.

Students participating in the Criminal Justice section were evaluated in the following areas: traffic investigation, traffic stop/arrest, and a domestic assault complaint. Students investigated complaints in all of these areas and applied the law accordingly. Students were evaluated on their knowledge of law, their ability to apply law, and their ability to maintain a professional demeanor, staying calm under pressure. Those students who competed in the First Responders section were evaluated on their ability to perform procedures or take appropriate action in the following emergency care situations: CPR, choking victim, bleeding, seizures/convulsions, drowning, burns, head injuries, diabetic reactions, sprains, wound care, and heart attack.

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). ## #