Companies Contribute to Student Woodworking Contests

SkillsUSA California contests are well-supported by woodworking industry sponsors

Royal Plywood, Blum, DeWALT, Woodcraft, ESI, Colonial Saw, and Woodworker West magazine generously donated nearly $6,000 in supplies, tools and giveaways for students at the 2014 SkillsUSA California State Cabinetmaking Championships, held Saturday, April 26 at the Town & Country Resort and Convention Center in San Diego. AWFS staff and volunteers served as contest coordinators and volunteers for the SkillsUSA California state Cabinetmaking and Introductory Woodworking contests.

A total of twenty-two students from seven schools across the state competed for medals, prizes and the opportunity to represent California at the National Championships in the Cabinetmaking contest. The students built a two-foot tall cabinet utilizing Blum offset hinges for the frameless door and Blum TANDEM glides for the drawer box, both donated by Blum. Since the TANDEM technology was a new concept for many of the students, Blum San Diego rep Gary Riley was on hand to provide a demo and the students did very well with installation. Woodcraft and DeWALT jointly donated 4 biscuit joiners and the biscuits were donated by Colonial Saw. ESI donated edgebanding, while Royal Plywood of Cerritos, CA donated all of the solid stock and sheet goods. Decore Door and local cabinetmaker Paul Fiala donated sample doors and drawer fronts, which saved the students some time in the contest and enhanced the overall look of the finished product. Students had eight hours to finish the project and judges used criteria such as accuracy of measurements and use of tools and machinery to determine the scores. The judging panel consisted of a group of three highly experienced San Diego area cabinetmakers and woodworkers. The students were then allowed to take home their finished cabinets.

Izayah Garcia of Salinas High School (Salinas, CA) won Gold and will represent California in the SkillsUSA Cabinetmaking National Championships in June in Kansas City.

The students who earn the highest honors in the state cabinetmaking competition – Gold Medals – are then eligible for a trip to Kansas City in June for the high-energy National Leadership & Skills Championships, where they will pit their skills against other top-medalists from all other states.

Meanwhile, nearly twenty first year woodworking students competed in the Introductory Woodworking contest, intended to introduce students to the SkillsUSA competitive environment and encourage them to return to compete in the Cabinetmaking contest the following year. The students built a pine tote tray, utilizing a curved template and dowel fasteners. Woodcraft and DeWALT generously donated four jigsaws for the contest, and all material was donated by Royal Plywood. Students from the San Diego State University MFA Furniture Design program and Palomar College volunteered as judges for the contest.

SkillsUSA is one of the largest national career & technical student organizations in the nation. It promotes job readiness with skills and leadership training and supports students entering skilled trades.

To view images from the Cabinetmaking contest, click here.

To see which students won and more on this event, go here:
http://www.awfs.org/skillsusa-ca-2014-woodworking-contests/

For more information and to learn how to participate, contact Adria Torrez, AWFS Assistant Education Director at adria@awfs.org or (323) 215-0311.

Thank you to the 2014 SkillsUSA California State Woodworking Contest Sponsors!

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