For Immediate Release

July 11, 2016

Callie Young, 17, of Fordyce, Arkansas, recently participated in the SkillsUSA Championships. This event, by invitation only, was for first place state medalists in 100 competition areas for career and technical students. It is the largest skill competition in the world.

Ms. Young was a competitor in the Medical Terminology competition representing Southern Arkansas University Tech's Career Academy and won Bronze in the High School Division. The SkillsUSA Championships, held in Louisville, Ky., took place June 22-23, 2016, as part of the SkillsUSA 52nd annual National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC), a showcase of career and technical education students. During the week, more than 6,000 outstanding career and technical education students, all state contest winners, competed hands-on in 100 different trade, technical and leadership fields.

Callie is a recent Fordyce High School graduate. "The State of Arkansas, Fordyce High School, and CTE was well represented at the National level and the SAU Tech Career Academy's Health Science Department is very proud of Callie's accomplishments", said Jessica Young, Callie's mother and advisor at Fordyce. She, as well as Hannah Pettit and Austin Metcalf (additional FHS student contestants) who also participated in the national competition, are true champions in their dedication to excellence in their trade and their leadership skills.
During the national competition; Young, Pettit, and Metcalf worked against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in occupational areas like Medical Math, Nurse assisting, CPR/First Aid, Medical assisting. All contests are run with the help of industry, trade associations, and labor organizations, and test competencies are set by industry.

Top student winners received gold, silver and bronze medallions. Many also received prizes such as tools of their trade and/or scholarships to further their careers and education. The SkillsUSA Championships is for high school and college-level students who are members of SkillsUSA. High scorers in the contests received Skill Point Certificates. The Skill Point Certificate was awarded in 86 occupational and leadership areas to students who achieved a high score defined by industry. The SkillsUSA Championships have been a premier event since 1967. Young and Metcalf received these honors, as well.

SkillsUSA is a vital solution to the growing U.S. skills gap. This nonprofit partnership of students, instructors and industry ensures America has the skilled workforce it needs to stay competitive. Founded in 1965 and endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education, the association serves more than 300,000 member students and instructors each year in middle schools, high schools and colleges. The SAU Tech Career Academy provides career technical education for student in the College’s service area in Computer Information Systems, Medical Technology, Welding and more. Call 870.574.4487 for more information.