

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • May 6, 2016

For the second year in a row, Pickaway-Ross will have representation at the SkillsUSA national competition, held in June in Louisville, Ky.



Taryn Austin, Shane Gibbs and Kylee Neace won first place at the state level in Community Service for their yearlong Veterans History Project.

The trio created a 60-page notebook on the project and had to give a presentation to a panel of judges.

“We were so nervous,” Taryn said.

“We were so busy (before the competition) that we only got to practice maybe two times,” Kylee said.

But because their presentation came from the heart, talking about their project was very easy.

“It was very emotional,” Kylee said, because of the time each of the students had spent with the veterans.

And it was emotional when it was announced that the Pickaway-Ross team had been awarded gold for their project.

“We worked so hard,” Taryn said, that the girls cried upon hearing the school’s name called.

It’s that moment that makes the SkillsUSA contest process so



TOP: Kylee Neace, left, Shane Gibbs and Taryn Austin



RIGHT: Kyle Kaiser

rewarding for Aaron McManes, one of the four co-advisors.

“I like seeing them get involved,” he said, and then “watching the contests and seeing how excited they get when they do well.”

Pickaway-Ross took home a few other awards last week, as Kyle Kaiser earned second place in Collision Repair and the school received a Silver Chapter of Excellence Award, the first time that it has entered that competition.

Donna Patrick, another co-advisor, worked with all of the teachers whose programs are part of SkillsUSA and aligned each class activity with the Chapter Excellence Program’s framework, a required

It was an embarrassment of riches for our career and technical student organizations last week, as members of our FCCLA chapter also took home first place awards.

Haley Wright, Early Childhood Education, received gold in Focus on Children occupational, and Cloe Blazer, Commercial Food Careers, received gold in Leadership occupational.

Both students can compete at the national competition in June in San Diego.



Haley Wright, left, and Cloe Blazer

component of the 12-page notebook that must be submitted for entry.

The advisors are already looking ahead and planning for next year so that they can continue to build on their momentum.

All of those who contributed to Pickaway-Ross’ success are to be commended.

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