

My Turn

By Dennis Franks

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A few weeks ago I wrote about career-technical student organizations and how participation provides our students with leadership skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.

Throughout the past few weeks, members of SkillsUSA have been competing at district and regional levels from a number of our programs: Automotive Technologies, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Collision Repair, Electrical, Engineering, High Performance Automotive Technologies and Welding. Last weekend, three students in Machining competed at the state level in Dayton and next week, more than a dozen students will represent Pickaway-Ross at the state level in Columbus.



Mark Johnston

Among the competitors at state will be senior Korey Robinson, who won a gold in the welding competition at the regional level; Madison Reed, a junior in Cosmetology, who took a gold in the extemporaneous speech competition; and Isaac Oberer, a junior in Criminal Justice, who took a bronze in the prepared speech competition.

"It's a great place to showcase their skills," said Engineering instructor Mark Johnston, who is serving as the SkillsUSA advisor for the third year.



Korey Robinson



Madison Reed

In addition to building confidence and leadership skills by competing, Mark said a lot of employers and college representatives attend, often leading to jobs and scholarships. The opportunity for many of our students to go to Columbus for the event is also a learning opportunity, Mark said.

"Just getting the kids out, representing their school, interacting with kids from other schools and teachers, it's a very worthwhile experience."



Isaac Oberer

Isaac said he enjoys public speaking and was surprised when he won. Presenting a five-minute speech on how SkillsUSA prepares students for leadership in the job world, Isaac, from Unioto High School, said he is looking forward to speaking before a larger group at the state competition.

"I honestly don't get nervous" about public speaking, he said. "It's pretty fun."

All of our SkillsUSA students have accomplished a lot already and I'm proud that they'll be representing Pickaway-Ross next week.

