FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: April 7, 2015

NGTC Students claim 28 medals at Georgia SkillsUSA Contest
Eight headed to National SkillsUSA Contest

Students in a variety of programs at North Georgia Technical College claimed a total of 28 medals at the recent Georgia State SkillsUSA competition held in March. In June, the eight students who achieved first place at the state level will travel to the national contest in Louisville, Kentucky. Also for the first time in several years, a North Georgia Technical College student holds a state office.

This year, 40 students from 18 programs at the college competed in 26 events ranging from Nail Care to Job Interview. Along with them, SkillsUSA officers from North Georgia Technical College participated in the statewide campaign, and Georgia Zumwalt was elected as an officer for the SkillsUSA Georgia State Chapter. Fellow NGTC student Brad Budd has already served as a state officer and is now eligible to run for a national position at the June National Leadership and Skills Conference.

Travelling to Louisville this year will be Allen Mull of Clarkesville in CNC Technician, Briana Bramlett of Toccoa in Commercial Baking, Drew Burgess of Loganville in Marine Service Technology, Makayla Stewart of Clarkesville in Medical Math, Brad Budd of Hephzibah in Photography, and the Welding Fabrication team of Andrew Culp of Athens, Curtis Wofford of Dillard, and Anthony Justice of Seneca, South Carolina. Georgia Zumwalt will also be at National Leadership and Skills Conference as a SkillsUSA Georgia State Board Officer.

“Our students did an outstanding job representing themselves, their instructors, and North Georgia Tech,” said President Dr. Gail Thaxton. “When I talk to students, they tell me what the competitive events and student organizations mean to them. The kinds of experiences we provide to them are priceless, and this rich experience encourages them to persist toward their degree. And with their degree from NGTC, they can better realize their dreams. Congratulations to all of our state competitors.”

The contests are planned by technical committees made up of representatives of labor and management in the industries and are designed to test the skills needed for a successful entry-level performance in given occupational fields. Safety practices and procedures – an area of great concern to labor and management alike – are judged and graded and constitute a portion of a contestant’s score.

Placing second in their competitions were Clayton Smith of Eastanollee in Automotive Service Technology, Justin Benfield of Baldwin in CNC Turning Specialist, Susie Berry of Cleveland in Job Interview, Michael Allen of Lawrenceville in Marine Service Technology, Michelle Brewer of Clayton in Medical Assisting, David Loudermilk of Mt. Airy in CNC Milling Specialist, and Megan Shead of Appling in Photography. Two teams also took silver: the Digital Cinema Photography team with Georgia Zumwalt of Jefferson and Shannon LaCava of Marietta, and the Automated Manufacturing Technology team of Charles Billings of Cornelia, Roger Boles of Royston, and Darryl Garrett of Clarkesville.

Colt Voyles of Carnesville will compete in the Welding contest in Cordele, Georgia, on Friday, April 17.

Also testing their skills at the State level this year were Phyllis Mitchell of Cornelia in Cosmetology, Charles Lee III of Homer in HVACR, Joshua Jutz of Cleveland in Industrial Motor Control, Briana Gore of Eastanollee and Silvia Luis of Mt. Airy both in Medical Terminology, Amber Lewis of Mountain City in Nail Care, Kevin Kellas of Dahlonega in Photography, and the Mechatronics team consisting of Beverly Edwards of Martin and Jason Swanson of Hiawassee. NGTC SkillsUSA Officer Pamela Jones accompanied the group to assist with campaigning while Savannah Ramey of Toccoa went as the Esthetics model for Katerina English and Melinda Vandiver of Clayton went as the Nail Care model for Amber Lewis.

“I want to give a huge thank you to all of the faculty and staff who took the time to accompany our fantastic students to this event,” said NGTC Marine Engine Technology Instructor and SkillsUSA Coordinator Morris Harrison. “The support we get from the leadership at our college is tremendous, and our students prove year after year that they are willing and able to step up to the challenge.”

SkillsUSA is a national career and technical student organization with chapters at high schools and colleges across the country.

For more information on the programs of study at NGTC, contact 706-754-7700 or visit the website at www.northgatech.edu.

Picture: NGTC First Place winners who will be travelling to the National SkillsUSA competition (L-R): Drew Burgess, Makayla Stewart, Brad Budd, Allen Mull, and Briana Bramlett; Andrew Culp, Curtis Wofford, and Anthony Justice will also be making the journey but were unavailable for the photograph.

Picture: NGTC’s SkillsUSA medal winners

Picture: NGTC sent 40 students to the Georgia SkillsUSA Contest, bringing home 26 medals.