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Ten students representing the Center for Career and Technical Education at UNM-Gallup went to Louisville, KY in June as delegates and competitors at the 51st National Leadership and Skills Conference sponsored by SkillsUSA.

The CCTE students are dually enrolled at UNM-Gallup and their individual high schools. Participants competing at the national conference are:

• Tyler Johnson (Miyamura High School), Devin Spencer (Miyamura High School) and Roman Thomas (Gallup High School) – Welding Fabrication.

• Joelle Allen (Miyamura High School), David Moreno (Middle College High School), and Patric Soce (Miyamura High School) – Career Pathways Showcase.

• Alec Baldwin (Miyamura High School) – Extemporaneous Speaking.

• Govinda Lingayat (Gallup High School) – Customer Service.

• Leonard Tom (Gallup High School) – Job Skills Demonstration

• Andres Escamilla (Miyamura High School) – Welding.

Accompanying the student competitors are their advisors and instructors, Ann Jarvis, Principal

CCTE; Joe Sanchez, Welding Instructor; Robert Encinio, Construction Technology Instructor and Jeannie Baca, UNM-Gallup Director of Student Affairs.

During their stay, students participate as competitors or as voting delegates where they elect their national officers for the year and conduct the business of their organization. Students also meet with business and industry representatives and hear from government officials. And, they have fun, too.

Many students are participating as competitors in the SkillsUSA Championships, held on Wednesday, June 24 and Thursday, June 25. More than 6,000 students compete in 100 occupational and leadership skill areas. SkillsUSA programs also help to establish industry standards for job skill training in the classroom.

SkillsUSA is a national organization that serves technical, skilled and service occupation instructional programs in public high schools, career and technical centers and schools and two- and four-year colleges. SkillsUSA annually serves more than 320,000 student members annually, organized into more than 3,900 schools and 54 state and territorial associations (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands).

SkillsUSA helps students discover and grow their career passions. As a nationwide partnership of students, instructors and industry working together, SkillsUSA works to ensure America has a skilled workforce. It helps every student excel. Career and technical education is learning that works for America.

SkillsUSA has the active support of more than 600 corporations, trade associations, business and labor unions at the national level. More than 11.5 million people have been annual members of SkillsUSA since its founding as the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America in 1965.

SkillsUSA programs teach leadership, citizenship and character development to complement technical skill training. The organization emphasizes respect for the dignity of work, ethics, workmanship, scholarship and safety.

SkillsUSA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and is cited as a successful model of employer-driven youth development training program by the U.S. Department of Labor.

For more information, go to: www.skillsusa.org