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# SkillsUSA conference and championship will demonstrate solution for a skilled workforce

BY DEBORAH TRIPP  
SkillsUSA Virginia

There is a solution to the current and future demand for a skilled workforce. Jobs are available right here in our state; they are waiting for people with the right skills. Those people are graduating from career and technical education (CTE) programs. CTE is education that works for America.

The 54th Annual SkillsUSA Virginia State Leadership Conference and Skills Championship will be held on April 20 and 21 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center and other facilities throughout the Virginia Beach area. Approximately 1,200 high school and college students will be participating in 115 competitions demonstrating their skills in career areas including manufacturing, transportation, construction, hospitality and human services. Specific contest names include Crime Scene Investigation, Mobile Robotics Technology, Television Production, Cosmetology, Brick-laying, and many more.

The skills championships will take place in the Virginia Beach Convention Center on April 21 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The students, who will be graduating from CTE programs, are the solution to the current and future



Setup for Urban Search & Rescue Robotics competition at 2017 SkillsUSA Virginia

NATHAN MILLER

demand for a skilled workforce. The public is invited to attend to see the future workforce of Virginia free of charge. Award ceremonies have a \$10 entry fee.

During the competition, students will work against the clock and each other and prove their expertise in occupations such as elec-

tronics, computer-aided drafting, precision machining, automotive service, medical assisting and culinary arts. All contests are conducted with the help of industry experts, trade associations and labor organizations, and test competencies are set by professional industry

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