

LAWSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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NEWS RELEASE

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Lawson State Hosts 2012 Skills USA Regional

BESSEMER, AL (March 1, 2012) - Students from high schools in the central Alabama region took part in the 2012 SkillsUSA District 3 Regional Competition on Lawson State Community College's Bessemer campus today. SkillsUSA, an organization that serves more than 300,000 students with 13,000 school chapters in 54 state and territorial associations, is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce.

Each contestant competed in five distinct, timed sections of the competition judged by instructors from Lawson State's *Alabama Center for Automotive Excellence*: Electrical - William Lybrand and Todd Berry; Engine Performance - Tom Berryman and Tommy Hobbs; Steering and Suspension - Keith Littleton and Larry Marshall; Brakes - John Harris and Darrell Taff. Students were judged on a combination of skills sets, a written examination and basic knowledge of the proper procedures for SkillsUSA competitions.

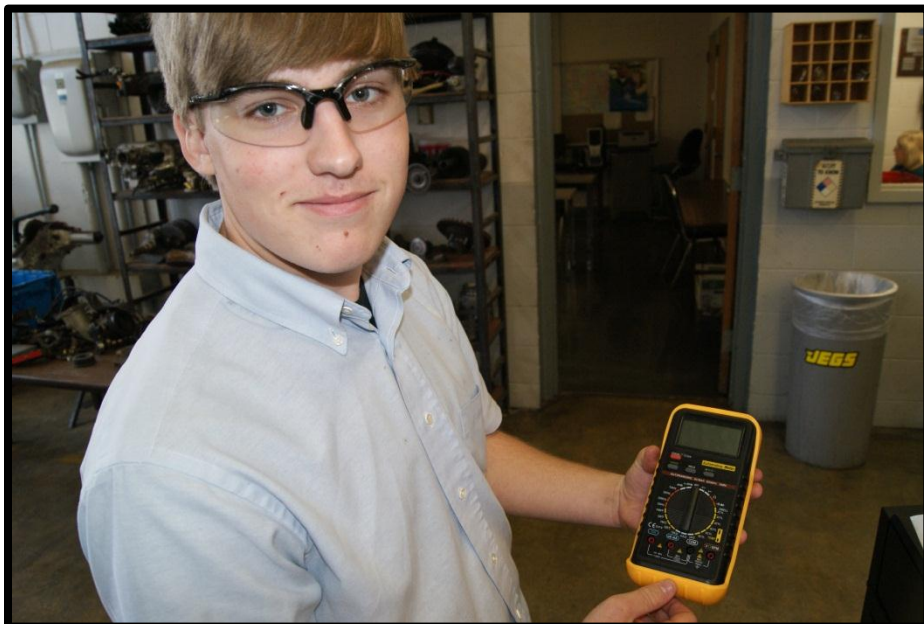
The winner of the competition, Eli Galindo, is a Northridge High School senior who learned of the competition from his instructor Ronnie Phillips at the Tuscaloosa Center for Technology. "I've always loved flashy cars," said Galindo. "My nerves were a little shaky, but I find confidence in my knowledge of electrical." Eli was recently accepted to the University of Alabama where he plans to study engineering.

West Blocton High School junior Jody Sims said he's happy that his Bibb County Career Academy instructor, Mr. Elam, signed him up for the competition. "It was really hard because I've never competed like this before. But I'm already excited about next year." Jody, who plans to attend an ACCS institution after high school, learned all he knows about automobiles from his father.

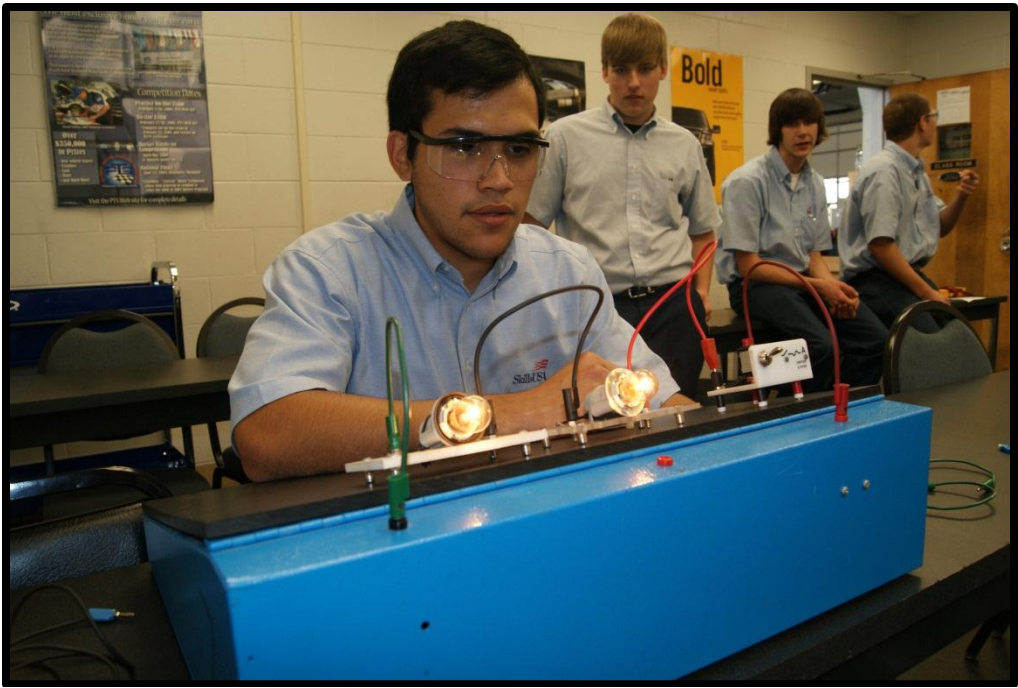
Lawson State Community College's Alabama Center for Automotive Excellence (ACAE) prepares students for successful employment or advancement in the transportation service industry. The Center has six different programs to meet students' needs; Auto Body Repair, Auto Mechanics, Medium/Heavy Truck, and three auto mechanics programs sponsored by manufacturers - Ford ASSET, GM ASEP and Toyota T-TEN. The center will host the State-level SkillsUSA competition on April 25th and 26th, as well as the Ford/AAA Student Automotive Skills contest in collaboration with the local AAA office and Barber Motorsports Complex on April 17.



LEFT TO RIGHT: JODY SIMS, BIBB COUNTY CAREER ACADEMY; TYLER LACKEY AND GENE WARD, CALHOUN COUNTY CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER; ELI GALINDO, TUSCALOOSA CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY, TOM BERRYMAN, LAWSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DIRECTOR OF ACAE



JODY SIMS, WEST BLOCTON HIGH SCHOOL



ELI GALINDO, NORTHRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL



TYLER LACKEY, CALHOUN COUNTY CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER