



News Release

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[Nancy Livingston](#)

Public Relations

651-779-3222

Fax 651-779-3470

[Century College](#)

3300 Century Avenue North
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Century Cosmetology Advisor and Students Win Big at SkillsUSA Competition

Century College cosmetology instructor Thom Costa won the post-secondary Advisor of the Year award and Century students won nine medals at the annual SkillsUSA competition held at the Bloomington Sheraton April 9 to 11.

Costa was selected for the top honor out of a group of more than 300 program advisors. The student competition attracted more than 3,000 participants from across the state.

Nine Century cosmetology students will advance to the national SkillsUSA conference, an event that draws more than 10,000 participants to a football-stadium sized arena in Kansas City in June.

SkillsUSA is a program that allows students to develop their technical skills as well as their workplace skills with the goal of becoming job-ready. Students not only have to style hair, perform nail care and apply makeup on models during timed events at the competition, but they also have to take written tests and do oral presentations. SkillsUSA is a workforce development organization that aims to have young people become patriotic, well-rounded citizens.

“I was absolutely speechless when I won the award,” said Costa. “I was so honored. I also am extremely proud of my students for all their hard work and the way they represented Century College.”

Century student Caitlin Butler of Burnsville has been elected to serve on the SkillsUSA student advisory board of directors. This is the third year Century has competed in the SkillsUSA state event, and the third time students have won top medals. Last year, a Century cosmetology student took second place in the nation in hair cutting and styling in the SkillsUSA national competition.



Photo (L-R): Dayna Germer of Woodbury, Christine Schloesser of Maplewood, Mercedes Olson of Little Canada, Caitlin Butler of Burnsville, Cassandra Franz of Woodbury, Annie Schuebel of Woodbury, Sharalynn Christenson of Lake Elmo, and advisor Thom Costa of Hugo.