

## **For Immediate Release**

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# **CSN photography student finishes first in 44<sup>th</sup> annual National Leadership and Skills Conference**

Also takes home fourth and seventh place finishes in Automotive Service Technology and HVAC, respectively

**LAS VEGAS**, July 2, 2008 — The College of Southern Nevada School of Advanced and Applied Technologies returned home last week after competing in the 44<sup>th</sup> annual National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) in Kansas City, Mo. The conference, presented by SkillsUSA (www.skillsusa.org), a nonprofit student organization, provides a nationwide showcase for career and technical education students.

After winning a statewide competition, three CSN teams were selected to represent Nevada at the 2008 NLSC in the categories of: heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC); automotive service technology; and photography. CSN student, Haoyuan Ren, received a gold medal in photography. The College placed fourth in automotive and seventh in HVAC.



In all, 5,000 students competed nationally in 93 areas of expertise. These students were winners of state competitions that included more than 300,000 entries.

“It’s remarkable for CSN to return home with all three teams ranked number one in Nevada placing in the top seven of their respective areas of expertise,” said Dennis Soukup, CSN Department of Applied Technology chair. Soukup accompanied the CSN competitors to the NLSC.

“CSN’s participation in the National Leadership and Skills Conference is a great benefit to the college,” said Dr. Michael Spangler, dean of the School of Advanced and Applied Technologies. “It gives us national recognition for our programs, helps in placing our students with employers, assists in recruiting professors, and builds support among potential donors.”

CSN has participated in the SkillsUSA competition locally and nationally for more than a dozen years. It continues to do so in order to raise the profile of CSN programs, secure additional funding and equipment, and provide opportunities for its students.

For instance, CSN’s HVAC program is one of 42 PARA accredited colleges (Partnership for Air Conditioning Refrigeration Accreditation) and now, as a result of its finish in the 2008 NLSC, one of only 12 U.S. colleges with a Johnson Controls Career Connect and Future Hires Program. The Johnson Controls partnership pays CSN students \$1,500 during their second year in the school’s HVAC program and guarantees employment upon completion of their associates degree.

The 2008 SkillsUSA competition featured 93 different trade, technical and leadership fields and more than 13,750 people—including students, teachers and business partners. Students worked against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in occupations like electronics, computer-aided drafting, precision machining, medical assisting and culinary arts. Contests were run with the help of industry, trade associations, and labor organizations, and test competencies were set by industry. The week-long competition was open to the public and free of charge.



### About CSN

Founded in 1971 and educating more than 80,000 students annually, the College of Southern Nevada ([www.csn.edu](http://www.csn.edu)) is the state's largest college. CSN is one of the country's most exciting and dynamic colleges with more than 200 degrees and certificates in more than 100 areas of study. Students create flexible, personalized schedules including day, evening and weekend classes taught on three main campuses, 14 academic and learning centers and many satellite locations throughout Southern Nevada.

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