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**ETA International Invests in Our Newest Workforce at SkillsUSA**  
*Distinguishes 2008 National SkillsUSA Telecommunication Cabling Champions*

GREENCASTLE, Ind. – Over 5,000 outstanding career and technical education students, winners in their state competition's, joined in the excitement at SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City, Missouri during June 23-June 27, 2008. This year, students participated in ninety-two (92) diverse trade, technical and leadership competitions.

ETA International completed its seventh year as a key supporter of the SkillsUSA event, and fourth year as the National Telecommunications Cabling championships sponsor.

“We plan to grow the number of participants next year. We applaud those schools represented at Skills for their investment in Telecommunications technical training. More schools would like to get involved but do not have the funds. For 2009, we encourage the industry to get involved with ETA at the state level to make it possible for more students to have this opportunity, and to have a hand in preparing their newest workforce.” stated Kim Hudson, Director, Communications and Development of ETA International.

Working against the clock and each other, the contestants must be prepared to meet a high code of conduct and skills difficulty. The contests are planned by the Skills Technical Committee and designed to test the skills needed for successful entry-level performance in the field.

This year's twenty-one (21) participants were tested on data cabling construction, installation, troubleshooting, safety and procedures, as well as customer service and professional development skills. They must prove their expertise through both hands-on and knowledge based testing. Unlike other competitions, the Telecommunications Cabling Contest utilizes ETA's Data Cabling and Customer Service certifications; providing the contestants passing the exams the actual industry certification, DCIC and/or CSS. Also, ETA includes an overview training session on Fiber Optics to encourage the students to continue their education.

“ETA certifications encourage thousands to go beyond acquiring a basic skill-set; they promote professionalism and the mastering of a technology. What a great investment in our newest workforce. We are pleased to recognize these students' exceptional achievements with our accredited certifications,” said William Woodward, Chairman of ETA International.

In addition to ETA's and their partners' contribution of nearly \$30,000 to sponsor the Telecommunications Cabling competition, ETA also extends complimentary use of the numerous electronics, and customer service certifications to other competitions.

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The Championships finale was an Olympic like award ceremony for the following Gold, Silver and Bronze Winners:

Gold –

High School: Phillip Haasenritter, Spotsylvania Career & Technical Center (VA)  
College/Postsecondary: Cody Dahl, Minnesota State Community & Technical College (MN)

Silver –

High School: Samuel Garner, Kiamichi Technology Center (OK)  
College/Postsecondary: Chris Pate, East Central Technical College (GA)

Bronze –

High School: Caleb Salyer, Boonslick Tech Education Center (MO)  
College/Postsecondary: Kary J. Wood, Salt Lake Community College (UT)

The members of the national technical committee for telecommunications cabling include: Co-Chair: Teresa Maher, CSS - ETA, Intl. (IN); Co-Chair: Bill Woodward, FOI - Ursa Navigation Solutions, Inc. (VA); Kevin Celata - Communications Workers of America (D.C.); Kevin Cook - AT&T (KS); Mike Gleason - Panduit Corp. (IL); Kim Hudson - ETA, Intl. (IN); Matt Humphries - Fluke Networks (WA); Tom Janca, CETsr - Power Engineering (CO); John Limtiaco, DCI - Guam Community College (GU); Bob Schoenherr - Cisco Systems, Inc. (CA); and Harold Tooley - AT&T (KS).

The national education team assists the national technical committee. Members include: Chair: Bob Dickerson - Red Education Consulting Services, Inc. (NC); Rick Bowers - Echo 24, (OH); Bob Hickey, FOI - Redwood Education Services (MA); and Dan Parmer - Stanly Community College (NC).

Other supporting organizations include: AT&T, Cisco Systems, CWA, Dymo, Echo 24 ECPI College of Technology, ETA International, Fluke Networks, Irwin Industrial Tools, a Newell Rubbermaid Company, KITCO Fiber Optics, Kobalt Tools, L&K Communications, Lowe's, Micro Care, Mobile Training & Education, Inc., Panduit, Power Engineer, Redwood Education, Rubbermaid, Sharpie, Stanly Community College, The Light Brigade, UrsaNav Navigation Solutions, Inc, Wiley Publishing, and Guam Community College.

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**Telecommunications Cabling** is for students interested in voice and data network cabling and installation. The contestants are tested on worldwide standards for data and voice connections, physical/logical networks and signal transmission. Contestants demonstrate skills in reading network design documentation, part list set up and purchase, pulling and mounting cable, choosing wiring closets, patch panel installation and termination, installing jacks and cable testing. The contest stresses safety and working effectively in-group environments.

**SkillsUSA** is the national organization for students in trade, industrial, technical and health occupations education. It sponsors the SkillsUSA Championships annually to recognize the achievements of career and technical education students and to encourage them to strive for excellence and pride in their chosen occupations. For more information, visit [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org).

**ETA® International** - Founded in 1978, the Electronics Technicians Association International is a not-for-profit, professional association promoting excellence in electronics technologies through certifications. The association's initiatives are to provide a prominent certification program of competency criteria and testing benchmarks that steers international electronic standards and renowned professional electronics credentials.

The association members consist of over 10,000 members, 692 Subject Matter Experts (SME's) serving on various Industry Advisory Committees and more than 1,000 Exam/Certification Administrators (CA's). ETA aligns with individual professional goals, vocational and educational curriculums, and businesses' resource initiatives through our certification programs, conferences, speaking engagements, and book and journal publications.  
([www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org))

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