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Media Contact: Brianna Pinson  
(800) 288-3824  
[brianna@eta-i.org](mailto:brianna@eta-i.org)

**SkillsUSA Event Showcases the Best Investment in Tomorrow's Future**  
*Distinguishes 2009 National SkillsUSA Telecommunication Cabling Champions*



Kansas City, MO. – The SkillsUSA National Competition week concluded with much success as outstanding career and technical education students gathered to show-off their skills. The event was held in Kansas City, Missouri, June 22-26, 2009. This year, 5,400 contestants participated in 91 hands-on skill and leadership competitions.

ETA International marked its eighth year as a key supporter of SkillsUSA, and fifth year as the National Telecommunications Cabling championships sponsor.

"Bartle Hall was filled and overflowing with industry professing loudly the value of skilled human resources providing materials and equipment to challenge this year's competitors to give their best," said Tom Janca, CETsr, Senior Communication Engineer, POWER Engineers, Inc.

"Skills USA involved Educators know well the future is in the quality of the present students who shape tomorrow's potential and this investment over Wall Street is more critical to our nation's future. Student participation directly with industry through Skills USA competition provides work ready individuals capable of contributing to the economy through mature leadership and skills necessary to compete in a global economy today," Janca added.

The Telecommunications Cabling Contest featured 24 state contest winners. They worked against the clock and each other while being assessed on their hands-on skills in the areas of cabling construction, installation, troubleshooting, safety and procedures, as well as customer service and professional development skills. The contestants must be prepared to meet a high code of conduct and skills difficulty.

"The technical knowledge and skill level of the participants was amazing, I would place some of them at the skill level of current field technicians," said Scott Bachrach, ETA Vice Chairman and VP of Mobile Training & Education.

Unique to SkillsUSA, the Telecommunications Cabling Contest utilizes ETA's Data Cabling Installer (DCIC) and Customer Service Specialist (CSS) certifications. The contests are planned by the Skills Technical Committee and designed to test the aptitude needed for successful entry-level performance in the field.

"It is a real pleasure serving with a team of people who enjoy being together and working with contestants who are obviously some the most talented and well behaved students in the country," said National Education Team Chairperson, Bob Dickerson.

The attendees gathered at Kemper Arena amid flashing lights, loud music, sparkling pins, light sticks and screaming school blocks, all for the awards ceremony. The results were announced event-by-event and the award winners were positioned on the Olympic-style platforms to have their medals placed around their necks.

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Congratulations to this years winners:



#### GOLD-

High School: **Kevin Kennedy, Dehryl A. Dennis PTEC (ID)**  
College/Postsecondary: **Edd Jones, East Central Technical College (GA)**

#### SILVER-

High School: **Kristina Ashton, Fitzgerald High School (GA)**  
College/Postsecondary: **Kirk Johnson, Salt Lake Community College (UT)**

#### BRONZE-

High School: **Samuel Garner, Kiamichi Technology Center-Durant (OK)**  
College/Postsecondary: **Spencer Tayler, LTC-Shreveport Bossier Campus (LA)**

ETA International and their partners' contributed nearly \$30,000 to sponsor the Telecommunications Cabling Contest. ETA also extended the complimentary use of its numerous electronics and customer service certifications to other competitions at both state and national levels.

The members of the national technical committee for telecommunications cabling include: Chair: Teresa Maher, CSS - ETA, Intl. (IN); Scott Bachrach, RESI – Mobile Training & Education (NY); Kevin Celata - Communications Workers of America (D.C.); Mike Gleason - Panduit Corp. (IL); Matt Humphries - Fluke Networks (WA); Tom Janca, CETsr - Power Engineering (CO); John Limtiaco, DCI - Guam Community College (GU); and Bob Schoenherr - Cisco Systems, Inc. (CA).

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 – Mobile Training & Education (MA); and Dan Parmer – Stanly Community College (NC).

Sponsors of the competition included: AT&T, Amphenol, Cisco Systems, CWA, eIT Prep, Fluke Networks, Irwin Industrial Tools, KITCO Fiber Optics, Kobalt Tools, The Light Brigade, Lowe's, Marcraft, Micro Care, Mobile Training & Education, Inc., Panduit, Power Engineer, Raytheon, Rubbermaid, Stanly Community College, and Wiley Publishing.

**Telecommunications Cabling Contest** 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 chose occupations. For more information, visit [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org).

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# ETA<sup>®</sup> International

## Press Release



**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 electronics standards and provides renowned professional electronics credentials.

Today, ETA has issued over 100,000 technical certifications covering more than 70 certification programs in a variety of electronic fields. The association is comprised of over 3,500 members, 700 Subject Matter Experts (SME's) serving on various Industry Advisory Committees and 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.etainternational.org](http://www.etainternational.org))

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