



# News Release

April 13, 2007

## **District students excel at regional trades and technology skills competition**

*More than half of all medals awarded to Surrey school district students*

At last week's Skills Canada, Lower Fraser Valley Regional Competition, students from the Surrey School District took home 27 of the 44 medals issued to secondary students.

The Lower Fraser Valley Regional Competition is open to students in the Surrey, Delta, Langley and Richmond school districts. Surrey, the largest school district in the province, had the highest number of students participating in the event with 171 of 242 total registrants.

"The enthusiasm and ongoing success of our students in trades and technologies reflects well on the efforts of our staff, as well as the many district initiatives designed to promote and support these important and rewarding career options," says Surrey School Board chairman Shawn Wilson.

The Skills Canada event is an annual showcase of student skills in trades and technology industries. Students compete regionally and winners progress to provincial and national-level competitions. Some skill categories continue to an international-level competition.

Surrey School District students were awarded medals in 13 of the 15 competitions. Overall, district students received 10 out of 15 gold medals, eight of 15 silver medals and nine of 14 bronze medals.

Clean sweeps were made in six of the categories with district students taking home all three medals in culinary arts, 3D character animation, fashion design, Internet design, junior gravity vehicle and junior mini sumo robots.

Some schools took categories by storm. Elgin Park students were awarded all three medals in the junior gravity vehicle category and Sullivan Heights students won all three in junior mini sumo robots.

Earl Marriott students took home both gold and silver in Internet design. Johnston Heights students did the same in fashion design, while Semiahmoo students won gold and silver in junior spaghetti bridge. Queen Elizabeth students earned gold and bronze in auto service.

Ten Surrey school district students receiving gold medals now move on to the Provincial Skills Competition on April 18, 2007 at the Tradex Centre in Abbotsford. Over 500 highly-skilled youth from across B.C. will compete for a chance to advance to the Canadian Skills Competition in Saskatoon this June. Last year, 14 Surrey School District students were awarded medals in the provincial competition and four won medals in the nationals.

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