

# Students showcase handiwork at Skills Canada national competition

**BY PATRICK CALLAN**

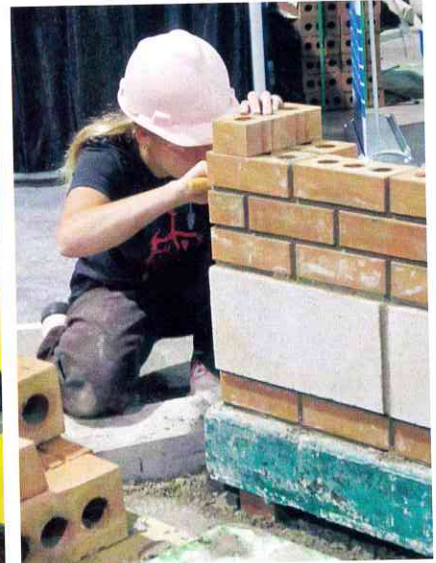
The 2014 Skills Canada national competition saw more than 500 promising skilled trades and technology students and apprentices vying for top spot in their respective fields and a chance to represent Canada at the WorldSkills competition in 2015.

Skills Canada held its national competition from June 4 to 7 at The International Centre in Mississauga, Ont. The four-day event featured 42 competitions in six different sectors: construction, services, manufacturing, transportation, information technology and employability. The construction sector included competitions in heavy equipment servicing, brick masonry, carpentry, HVAC services and more.

Busloads of students from across Ontario and thousands of others from across the country turned up every day to cheer on friends and family. Notable attendees included Jason Kenney, minister of employment and social development; HGTV's Bryan Baeumler of House of Bryan and Disaster DIY; Paul Lafrance of Decked Out; and former MasterChef contestant Julie Miguel.

All attendees had the opportunity to participate in more than 40 Try-A-Trade and Technology activities. There were also interactive demonstrations on the Essential Skills Stage, more than 70 exhibitors in the Career Zone and many networking opportunities with industry leaders.

Under the new Skills Canada selection process, the highest-ranking age eligible medalist in each applicable contest area will compete in the WorldSkills Canadian Trials. From there, competitors reaching pre-established Canadian standards earn a spot on the WorldSkills Team Canada 2015 and will participate at the 43rd WorldSkills Competition in São Paulo, Brazil from August 11 to 16, 2015. □



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