

WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION

Connecting Youth and the Future

By Amit Mali

Overview

WorldSkills is an international competition of Olympic proportion that draws students from all over the world to compete in over 45 categories related to trade and technology skills. WorldSkills promotes careers in trades and technology to youth, giving students the opportunity to explore different career paths in these high-demand sectors. A shortage of skilled tradespeople is a global concern, and WorldSkills bridges industry, education, and government to provide invaluable opportunities for students to showcase their talents to the world as the future workforce of the 21st Century.

WorldSkills is a powerful means for building a global skills-respect culture. It enables the best of the world's young skilled people to motivate and inspire successive generations to see that vocational skills can lead to secure and fulfilling lives in a fast-changing, competitive world.¹

The Road to Worlds

Skills Canada Alberta

High school students from Alberta compete at the local and regional levels to earn a spot at the Skills Alberta Competition. The top competitors then form Team Alberta and compete for gold, silver, and bronze at the national level at the Skills Canada

¹ Jack Dusseldorp, "Welcome from WorldSkills International" WorldSkills 2009. 7 Nov 2008. <<http://www.worldskills2009.com/whatis/eoverview.cfm>>

Competition. Gold medal winners then go on to form Team Canada and compete at the international level against 49 other member nations at the WorldSkills Competition, held every two years.

Locations

Skills Canada won the bid to host the 40th WorldSkills Competition, held at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) campus in Calgary, Alberta, in September 2009. WorldSkills 2011 will be held in London, England, and the successful bid for the 42nd WorldSkills Competition in 2013 will be decided at the Calgary 2009 WorldSkills Competition.

Skills Categories

Information and Communication Technology covers all skill areas related to information services, including IT/Software Applications, Web Design, IT PC/Network Support, Telecommunication Distribution Technology, and Offset Printing.

Transportation and Logistics covers all skill areas related to the transportation world, including creating, repairing, and maintaining transportation vehicles. Transportation and Logistics competition areas include Auto Body Repair, Automotive Technology, and Car Painting.

Construction and Building Technology encompasses all skill areas of construction, including Wall and Floor Tiling, Plumbing and Heating, Electrical Installations, Industrial Control, Bricklaying, Stonemasonry, Painting and Decorating, Cabinetmaking, Joinery, Carpentry, Landscape Gardening, Refrigeration, Metal Roofing, and Plastering.

Manufacturing (and Engineering) Technology skills competition areas include Polymechanics/Automation, Manufacturing Team Challenge, Mechatronics, Mechanical Engineer Design (CAD), Welding, Electronics, Mobile Robotics, Sheet Metal Technology, CNC Turning, CNC Milling, Mould Making, Aircraft Mechanics, and Construction Metal Works.

Creative Arts and Fashion covers all skill areas related to fine arts and fashionable design and creation, including Jewellery, Floristry, Fashion Technology, and Graphic Design Technology.

Social and Personal Services covers all skill areas related to the service industry, from hospitality to the food and beverage industry and personal care. Competition areas include Ladies' and Men's Hairdressing, Beauty Therapy, Confectioner/Pastry Cook, Cooking, Restaurant Service, and Caring.²

WorldSkills Facts

- 1,000 competitors from 50 member countries will compete in 30 languages
- 5,000 international experts, delegates, and judges will attend the competition
- 150,000 student and public spectators will attend the competition
- 45 skill categories and eight demonstration skill categories will be presented
- Event takes place September 1–7, 2009, at Stampede Park in Calgary, Alberta³

² WorldSkills 2009. 7 Nov 2008. <<http://www.worldskills2009.com/schedule/skillcategories>>.

³ "Alberta Education - World Skills Calgary". Alberta Education. 7 Nov 2008.

<<http://www.education.alberta.ca/departments/news/events/worldskills2009.aspx>>

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