



News Release: *Mark Wolschleger* was the first place winner at the 27th Annual State Electrical Apprenticeship Contest held at the N.C. State Fair, Wednesday, October 19th.

Mark, who works for Watson Electrical's Raleigh Division, won a \$650 premium from the State Fair and Electrical Contest Committee, a plaque, an assortment of sponsor prizes, and a large capacity generator for his efforts. Mark placed first in Watson Electrical's company contest held this past August.

Timothy Herms, who works for Watson Electrical's Charlotte Division, placed second out of the thirty-five electrical contestants competing in this year's contest. Other Watson Electrical competitors were: Josh Powell, Burlington Division (8th); Gary Foulk, Charlotte Division (10th); James Wiggins, Charlotte Division; Alfred Taylor, Raleigh Division; and Johnny Wilson, Wilmington Division. Watson's two alternates were Chris Anderson and Chris Gandy from Charlotte Division.

Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry stated "the apprenticeship contests give these workers an opportunity to showcase their skills while having fun at the fair. I congratulate all of them for taking part in this contest and for learning skills that will benefit them and our state. This is a North Carolina resource that can't be exported."

Apprenticeships have been the backbone of North Carolina's work preparation programs for more than 70 years. It combines on-the-job training with related classroom instruction to prepare exceptional workers for North Carolina and America's industry.

To be eligible to compete, apprentices must be registered in their respective occupation and training with an employer that has a program registered with the N.C. Department of Labor.

Mark will represent the Carolinas at the annual Associated Builders and Contractors Association of America (ABC) *National Electrical Competition* being held at San Antonio, TX in the spring 2012.

Congratulations to all Watson participants, trainers, support staff, managers, and supervisors who made this year's event a success!!



Mark & Commissioner Berry



Mark & Tng Suprv William Stinnett



CEO Craig Myers & Mark



L to R: Johnny, James, Chris A., Craig Myers, Tim, Chris G., Gary, Mark & Josh