

Watson Electrical Winston-Salem Division

Robert Avary Places 1st at NC SkillsUSA Competition



SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. *SkillsUSA* helps each student excel; their mission is to help its members become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. *SkillsUSA* serves more than 300,000 students and instructors annually with an organization of 13,000 school chapters in 54 state and territorial associations. More than 14,500 instructors and administrators are professional members of *SkillsUSA* that offers many opportunities for growth through skills competitions, first at the state level then a year-end National Competition. North Carolina held its competition event at the Greensboro Coliseum April 15, 2010. Robert Avary competed against 23 other electrical high school participants to garner his first place honors. Robert, who is a Registered Youth Apprentice with Watson Electrical Construction Co. LLC Winston-Salem Division, worked the past summer in the field at the Moore Elementary School renovation project that involved the fire alarm system and lighting. Robert works in the evenings and weekends during the school year on farm projects but is very much dedicated to his career to become a licensed electrician. His parents and Watson Electrical stand firmly behind Robert's career goals and support him 100% in his efforts to achieve his ambitions. Robert is a product of the efforts of his instructor Randy Jones at Winston-Salem Forsyth County Career Technology Center and David Garner Division Manager at Watson Winston-Salem Division. Randy works with two of his students at Watson in the summer months where the students are registered Youth Apprentices with the NC Department

of Labor. This has proven very successful for Watson and Robert is one of four Youth Apprentices that have realized their ambitions to become electricians and progress to higher levels in the construction industry. Forsyth County Electrical Contractors Association (FCECA) has for many years contributed significantly to *SkillsUSA* electrical competition; long time Chairman of FCECA, Donald Morton, attests that the future of our industry is developing our youth into a productive and professional work force. Randy and the Winston-Salem Division have aided tremendously in the state-wide effort of employing youth and providing career opportunities in the electrical construction trade throughout the Carolinas—they have set the bench-mark for other high school programs across America to achieve. This overwhelming success exemplifies the outcome of concerted efforts of secondary schools and industry when partnering together for common goals. Robert and his North Carolina fellow classmates have been made well aware of unlimited career possibilities in the construction industry through this achievement. Robert will be representing North Carolina at the *SkillsUSA* competition this June in Kansas City. We at Watson Electrical and Forsyth County Career Technology Center are dedicated to helping Robert become the National Champion for North Carolina depicting the quality and professionalism that North Carolina craft workers demonstrate on a daily basis. Opportunities abound at Watson for youth such as Robert; furthering their education and training as they become vital contributors to industry in North Carolina and America.



Student-employees have the opportunity to work as they were taught in school to achieve quality production, safely, and hone their skills for unlimited futures in the electrical industry. Thanks so much to the students seeking careers at Watson, their instructors, administrators and families that support them!