



## News Release

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# Cuesta Earns 26 Medals at Regional SkillsUSA Competition

Cuesta College students repeated their success at the 2008 Regional SkillsUSA competition, earning 26 silver and gold medals and securing entry into the state competition in April.

The regional competition included competitors from Hayward to SLO County competing in several categories from welding to baking. Gold medal winners are guaranteed a chance to compete at the state meet in Fresno on April 10. Select silver medal winners will also be able to compete, depending on the number of competitors that qualify statewide.

The gold medalists from Cuesta College are: **Eric Leach**-Automotive Service, **Matt Schwaiger**-Collision Repair, **Nate Wells** and **Kyle Peterson**-Welding Combo, **Michael Byrd**-SMAW, **Phillip Quinn**-GMAW, **Aaron Stirman**-Criminal Justice, **Joseph Staub**-Criminal Justice, **Robert Crosby**-Computer Maintenance, **Mark Millar**-Carpentry, **Tyler Behlen**, **Derrick Stevens**, **Chris Thomas** and **Sean Garrity**-Teamworks, **Kevin Wells** and **Jeremy Edmonds**-Mechatronics, **Shawn Warnke**-Culinary Arts, and **Steven Maddex**-Baking.

The silver medalists are: **Mike Orchard**-Automotive Service, **Adric Zayha**-Automotive Service, **Kellan Issac**-Collision Repair, **Gary Rhodes**-GMAW, **Ayla Malldin**-Criminal Justice, **James Douchette**-Computer Maintenance, **Thomas Drahos**-Culinary Arts, and **Nolan Carlise**-Culinary Arts.

Gold medal winners at the state competition will be able to advance to the national competition in Kansas City on June 24. Last year, a team of Cuesta College students placed first in the nation, earning a gold in the Teamworks-Construction Category while another earned a bronze in the Auto Service Tech Category.

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<http://academic.cuesta.edu/pim/pr/index.htm>

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