

Students win medals at Skills Manitoba

Posted By Lori Penner

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Mikel Enns, instructor Richard Rempel and Richard Giesbrecht perch on the roof of a building constructed by the students of W.C. Miller. Enns and Giesbrecht both received top honours at the Skills Manitoba competition April 9.

It's tough to get the lengths and angles right, especially when there's a time constraint and a judge watching you work. - Richard Rempel

Three students from W.C. Miller put their abilities to the test by competing in the 12th annual Skills Manitoba competition on April 9. The event was held at Red River College and brought over 475 high school, post secondary and apprentice students together to compete in 42 skilled trades and technology contests in six industry sectors.

Two of the participants from Miller were Building Construction students who competed against four other contenders in the carpentry event.

The students performed well with Mikel Enns of Morris winning the bronze medal and Richard Giesbrecht of Winkler winning the gold. Their challenge was to build a sand box structure with a roof in five hours, and were given just enough material and a set of plans. Instructor Richard

Rempel said most of the students lost marks with their rafters. "It's tough to get the lengths and angles right, especially when there's a time constraint and a judge watching you work."

As a gold medalist, Giesbrecht will go on to compete at the Skills Canada Nationals in Prince Edward Island from May 20 to 23.

The national event will bring together over 18,000 visitors from across Canada, including competitors, parents, advisors, judges, students, teachers and media. The projects are even more challenging, but in this case, they get up to 14 hours to complete them.

Justin Francoeur, one of Miller's Culinary Arts students also competed at the provincial Skills event. After a hard fought battle on the kitchen gridiron, Francoeur performed at his peak in the culinary arts event. Instructor chef Jeff Bilous said the field of 10 competitors was at its strongest in years which prevented Miller's competitor from placing on the podium.

Matt Peters of Morris School received a silver medal in the autobody repair competition. Peters was given just six hours to complete a rocker panel repair, a metal panel and plastic, as well as a measuring and damage analysis. Along with recognition from their peers and industry scouts, medal winners received prize packs, gift certificates and, of course, a large measure of pride.