



News Release

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Century Cosmetology Student Wins Second Place in Nation

Century College cosmetology student Amberlee Rehbein of White Bear Lake took second place in the nation in hair cutting and styling in the SkillsUSA competition attended by 10,000 people in Kansas City's giant Kemper Arena in June. Earlier this year, Rehbein, 20, won a gold medal in the state competition.

Century cosmetology instructor Thom Costa won a silver medal in the national competition for his role as advisor to the Century students. A total of 10 Century students competed in three different categories: hair cutting and styling, skin care and conducting the opening and closing ceremony.

SkillsUSA is a program that allows students to develop their technical skills as well as their workplace skills with the goal of becoming job-ready and a leader in their industry. At the national competition, 5,400 students competed in 91 different events ranging from baking to photography to computer wiring.

Rehbein had to perform three haircuts and one long-hair updo style under timed conditions with judges observing to win her silver medal. She also had to take a written test and do oral presentations.

The three difficult haircuts (one long woman's cut, one short woman's cut and one man's cut) and the updo style were all done on mannequins. With the cuts, Rehbein had to look at a picture and precisely duplicate the haircuts. The updo was her own creation.

"I was nervous, but it was really fun," said Rehbein, who grew up in Centerville. "I didn't know if I could get those cuts done in an hour, but I tried my hardest and it turned out fine. Those judges were watching every snip."

"The closing ceremony was like the Olympics with lots of showmanship, a big screen and three sets of platforms," said Costa. "Very exciting."



Photo: Century student Amberlee Rehbein and instructor Thom Costa with their silver medals.