



SkillsUSA Statement on 2016 Ohio Masonry Competition

The purpose of SkillsUSA and the SkillsUSA Championships is to celebrate technical skills and to lift students up. While Shania Clifford was announced as the Masonry gold medalist at the 2016 SkillsUSA Ohio Championships in April, a scoring error was discovered after the event. Therefore, the masonry student who truly had the highest technical score was designated by SkillsUSA Ohio as its national competitor. Shania kept the gold medal awarded to her and remained a state champion.

The Ohio state association followed an established policy for competitions, which is to correct known scoring errors. Every state selects who will compete at our national championships. By policy, we embrace diversity and in fact have many female competitors in nontraditional fields who earn SkillsUSA medals every year. We welcomed 2,357 women to Louisville for our national championships on June 20-24, 2016.

In keeping with our tradition of respect for the individuality of our members and our role in workforce development, SkillsUSA strives to ensure inclusion in all of our programs. The success of students is the reason SkillsUSA exists.

**Response from the
Ohio Department of Education
Regarding the
2016 SkillsUSA Ohio Masonry Competition**

During the competition, student scores were entered into score sheets by judges. Those scores were then entered into a spreadsheet manually to calculate final scores. When student scores were entered into the final score spreadsheet, an error was made and some scores were inadvertently duplicated, causing some students to receive double the score that they actually received. This error affected results for several students and resulted in the rankings showing an incorrect winner of the competition.

No errors were made in the judges' score sheets themselves, and the final corrected scores reflect the scores on the individual score sheets for each student. Upon discovery of the error through the regular review process, the duplicate scores were removed to show the actual winner of the competition. SkillsUSA confirmed that Ohio has followed all policies pertaining to the resolution of errors.

The student who should have been awarded the gold medal at the competition will be the one to represent Ohio as the national competitor. The student who was incorrectly named the winner at the state competition is still invited to attend and observe the national competition. Corrective actions are being taken to improve the scoring process.

Regarding the way the student was informed of the error, the Ohio Department of Education's policy is to communicate with each student's school district, rather than with the students themselves. As soon as the error was discovered, administrators from all affected students' school districts were contacted.