



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 30, 2018

018-050: SkillsUSA Championship

Contacts: Zack Johnson, (209) 468-4937; Carly Sexton, (209) 468-9297

**Venture Academy Team Heading to National SkillsUSA Competition in Summer**  
*Three Venture Academy juniors win gold medal in state competition*

A team of three juniors from Venture Academy Family of Schools took home the gold in the SkillsUSA California competition at the State Leadership and Skill Conference, allowing them to represent the state in the national SkillsUSA competition this summer.

The team from Venture Academy, consisting of Emily Phosalath, Alejandra Romero, and Evangelina Tristan, took first place in the Career Pathways Showcase competition for projects representing the arts, media or entertainment career sectors. In addition to being part of the gold medal-winning team, Evangelina Tristan was elected Regional Officer for SkillsUSA California's Region 5. She will be one of the state organization's seven high school officers and the first Venture student to be a state officer.

The trio's winning presentation included video projects and a large cutout shaped like a camera. It highlighted the steps and skills it takes to make a career in film production. The students put in a lot of work, and it paid off, said Jory Kusy, one of the faculty advisors for the Venture Academy SkillsUSA chapter and the team's teacher at Venture's BrainworX Academy. "This shows that high school students who are passionate about their career pathways will succeed with hard work, determination, and perseverance."

The California competition and conference was held in Ontario from April 19-22. Students competed against each other in events allowing them to prove expertise in occupations such as electronics, computer-aided drafting, precision machining, medical assisting, and culinary arts. All contests are run with the help of industry, trade associations, and labor organizations. The SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference will be held in Louisville, Ky., from June 25-29.

Venture Academy is a charter school operated by the San Joaquin County Office of Education. Students from other high schools also earned medals in the competition: Cesar Chavez High School (Stockton Unified School District), be.tech Career Academy (Manteca Unified School District), and Lodi High School (Lodi Unified School District).

SkillsUSA is a nonprofit partnership of students, instructors and industry to ensure America has the skilled workforce it needs to stay competitive. Endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education, the association serves more than 335,000-member students and instructors each year in middle schools, high schools and colleges. For more information go to [www.skillsusaca.org/](http://www.skillsusaca.org/).

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