



STC SPOTLIGHT

Marine Service Technologies

STC STUDENT WINS GOLD at SkillsUSA

Sarasota Military Academy, High School Graduate Jacob Heaton enrolled in the Marine Service Technology program at Suncoast Technical College (STC) while in the 11th grade. Jacob had a huge passion for marine service and thoroughly enjoyed the program.

In February, 2017, Jacob was presented with an opportunity to enter into the SkillsUSA competition. He placed first in regionals and went on to the state competition in April 2017. He won first place at the state level and was invited to participate at the SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Only a Junior in high school at the time, Jacob scored very high, coming in fourth in the nation, with only one point separating him and third place. Being determined, he was not going to settle for fourth place, but was not quite sure he wanted to go back to SkillsUSA again. His instructor, Dan Shideler encouraged him to continue.

Jacob took the advice of his instructor and in February, 2018, Jacob went to the regional competition and again won first place! He went on to state competition at the end of April and competed with other students around the state, as well as another student from Suncoast Technical College, who placed second. Jacob brought home the Gold, securing his invitation to the National SkillsUSA conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

During the week of June 25, 2018, Jacob competed against other highly skilled students in this competition. This competition required students to work not only against each other, but against the clock, proving their expertise in the field of Marine Technologies. The contest included individual skill stations and a written test as well as a job interview and resume. The hands-on test stations required student to be proficient in all aspects of marine systems, as well as boat and trailer rigging and repair. The written test included the same information in addition to diagnostics as well as service and repair of marine accessory items. Contestants were judged on safe work practices, cleanliness, organizational skills, accuracy, speed and completion of assigned tasks along with worksheets and paperwork. Jacob won the national competition and brought home the Gold, representing Suncoast Technical College and Sarasota County Schools.

Stated by Jacob's mother Jennifer...

“This program works and truly prepares young adults for their future. Thank you Suncoast Technical College and Dan Shideler this great opportunity that you offer!”

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