



COLORADO TECHNOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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NEWS RELEASE

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Colorado TSA State Conference breaks new attendance record

The 26th Annual Colorado Technology Education State Leadership Exposition was held at the Marriott Denver Tech Center in early April. According to Tony Raymond, the COTSA State Advisor, this year's conference was the largest ever with nearly 800 registered conference attendees and nearly 100 more visitors and guests as well as judges and event coordinators from business and industry.

With 24 high schools and nine middle schools participating, the conference featured a wide range of activities for students, including a vendor area and workshops/presentations on a wide range of topics, ranging from college preparation tips and how to be a state-level student leader to contest-specific workshops on topics as computer programming and flight. In addition, more than 80 different competitive events tested the students' technical prowess and leadership abilities in areas such as structural engineering, technical drawing, public speaking, engineering design, manufacturing, and multimedia and web design.

"It's our mission at Colorado TSA to foster leadership and allow for personal growth in all of our members," said Raymond, "as well as prepare them to be successful, positive and contributing members of our increasingly technological world. We believe that participation in a conference such as this allows students to develop those workforce readiness skills that are crucial to success in life after the students leave the educational arena in addition to showcasing their talent in these technical areas."

Having completed the state conference, the students now have the opportunity to advance to the National TSA Conference this June in Nashville, TN, where more than 5,000 TSA members from across the country go head to head for top honors. "We have an excellent group of students to represent Colorado," Raymond said.

In addition to sending competitors, Colorado will also be sending a student to run for an office on the national student leadership team. For the past two years, Colorado has been represented on the national officer team by Chip Bollendonk, a student at Littleton High School, Raymond said. "Chip has served as Reporter and this year as Treasurer on the team and has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience back to our state to share with our state officers as well as our individual chapters." This year, following in his footsteps, Chris Dosen, the 2011-12 Colorado TSA State Treasurer and student at Cherokee Trail High School, is throwing his hat into the ring as a candidate for the National TSA Sergeant-at-Arms. "Chris is a remarkable individual and has the full support of his fellow Colorado TSA members," Raymond said.

Raymond said that in addition to the competitive events, students will also participate in leadership training offered at the national level. "This is a great opportunity," he said, "for our students to learn valuable skills from some nationally recognized trainers and then bring those skills back to Colorado to share with their local chapters."

For more information on Colorado TSA, please visit: www.ctsoadvisor.com/cotsa, or follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ColoradoTSA.