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Sixteen Assiniboine students medal at Skills Manitoba, six set to move on to Skills Canada

BRANDON, Man. (April 17, 2024)— Six students from Assiniboine— Nik Ross, Loai Al-Wahabi, Kathryn Nichol, Wade Robbins, Ryanne Gareau and Chris Obsniuk—will move on to compete at Skills Canada in Québec City in May 2024 after winning gold in their respective categories at this week’s 26th annual Skills Manitoba competition.

“Skills Manitoba provides students with an opportunity to apply classroom knowledge into practical scenarios,” said Kevin Poirier, Dean of Trades and Team Assiniboine lead. “We look forward to this event every year—it brings a me great sense of pride to see our students experience this environment. It’s wonderful to see the number of students attending the competition, medalling, and going on to represent our college on a national level grow year after year. We wish our gold medalists luck in Québec City—Team Assiniboine is cheering you on.”

Twenty-one Assiniboine students competed in twelve competitions at Skills Manitoba. Among these participants, 16 earned gold, silver or bronze medals in their respective competitions.

Student	Competition	Place
Nik Ross	Electrical Installation	Gold
Loai Al-Wahabi	Automobile Technology	Gold
Kathryn Nichol	3D Digital Game Art	Gold
Wade Robbins	Architectural Technology & Design	Gold
Ryanne Gareau	Graphic Design	Gold
Chris Obsniuk	IT Network Systems Administration	Gold
Cole Howarth	Web Technologies	Gold
Anil	Plumbing	Silver
Brody Miller	Welding	Silver
James Blyth	Heavy Vehicle Technology	Silver
Sharon Le	3D Digital Game Art	Silver
Spencer Duncan	IT Network Systems Administration	Silver
Jesse Gilbert	Web Technologies	Silver
Anil	Plumbing	Silver
Ayoub Zarouil	Plumbing	Bronze
Albert Simpson	Automobile Technology	Bronze

“My goal for the competition was to gain experience within the realm of graphic design,” said Graphic Design gold medalist Ryanne Gareau. “The work itself was quite familiar due to having similar projects in the Digital Art and Design program, which made my time in the competition quite enjoyable. The skills that I learned in my courses are truly what prepared me for the competition. I am very grateful that I was able to attend the competition and had an incredible experience.

The philosophy behind the competition is to reward students, involve industry and to keep training relevant to employers’ needs. Competitions are designed and judged by industry professionals and educators.

“The competition was pretty stressful to say the least, as it’s a lot of work to accomplish in only 5 hours,” said Wade Robbins, a first year Civil Technician student and gold medalist in Architectural Technology & Design. “Each competition is unique, which makes think on your toes just like you would in the workplace.”

Throughout the province, 475 high school, post-secondary and apprenticeship students competed in 42 skilled trades and technology contests at this year’s Skills Manitoba event and the gold medal winners will form Team Manitoba to compete against their peers at the Skills Canada Competition to be held in Québec City in May 2024.

The Skills Competitions also raise awareness about Canada's shortage of skilled trades workers—major industry associations expect a moderate to severe shortage of workers within the next five years. They also help raise awareness among students, educators and parents about the advantages of post-secondary training in trades and technology, including good pay, job security and flexibility.

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About Assiniboine Community College

Assiniboine College has been providing exceptional learning experiences for more than 60 years, offering unparalleled learning environments and responding to the demands and requirements of the Manitoba labour market. Following the philosophy of “learn by doing,” programs combine theory with hands-on learning inside classrooms, labs, kitchens, shops, fields and the college’s Sustainable Greenhouse.

Assiniboine offers more than 75 certificate, diploma and post-graduate programs across a variety of disciplines including culinary arts and hospitality, business, agriculture and environment, health and human services, and trades and technology. The college also delivers apprenticeship programming in a range of skilled trades disciplines.

The college welcomed more than 3,700 full-time and 6,000 part-time students last year. With campuses in Brandon, Dauphin, Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie, Assiniboine provides comprehensive educational opportunities throughout Manitoba. The college also partners with many communities and organizations across the province to deliver customized education and training. Assiniboine’s annual provincial economic impact is \$612 million. In the most recent survey of graduates, nine months after graduation, 94 per cent were employed, with 94 per cent remaining in Manitoba.

Assiniboine College campuses are located on the traditional territories of Treaty No. 1 and Treaty No. 2, the shared traditional lands of Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, Dene and Anishinabek/Ojibwe peoples, and the homeland of the Red River Métis. We acknowledge their welcome to the students who seek knowledge here.

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