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NEWS RELEASE

Great Plains College student brings home a silver medal for his metal work

SWIFT CURRENT: Great Plains College Welding student and employee of S3 Manufacturing in Swift Current, Scott Zilkowsky, brought home a silver medal from the Skills Canada Saskatchewan competition in Moose Jaw. He won second place in the post-secondary Welding category.

“Welding is something I am passionate about,” said Zilkowsky. “I have worked hard to improve my skills, it was a great learning opportunity and I was really excited to compete to represent Great Plains College,” he added.

It is that kind of attitude that Great Plains College Welding instructor Jared McKenzie fosters in his shop. Zilkowsky is the third Great Plains College Welding student in three years to medal at the Skills Canada Provincial competition.

“Three medals in three years speaks volumes for what we are doing here,” said McKenzie. “In the shop we are always working to master a variety of skills. Every student who completes the program and enters the workforce is a reflection of the welding program and the college. I am confident that students like Scott are leaving a great impression,” he added.

The competitors aren’t allowed to communicate with their mentors during the competition. They are given a box of steel parts, a set of blueprints and six hours to complete the project, which tests a variety of different techniques.

“Jared trained us well this year,” noted Zilkowsky. “He played the biggest part in helping me prepare. When I opened the blueprints I just had to focus on what I knew since it was all work that we had covered in class”

Zilkowsky works part-time at S3 while maintaining a full-time course load. The management staff at S3 Manufacturing have noticed his attention to quality and desire to improve.

“Scott has very good welding skills and he is always striving to do better,” said Geoffrey Williams, S3 Manufacturing production manager. “For every welding bead he lays down, he wants it to have an excellent appearance, and he is always up for a challenge.

“I can’t wait for Scott to join the team full-time. He will be a strong addition to the welding crew. Scott is geared up for success in the welding industry and his team members can attest to that.”

Throughout recent years, a number of students have worked on a part-time basis while attending Great Plains College and remain with their employers once they graduate.

“We know we are getting well-trained welders and we believe that working with us helps them also to establish themselves as strong contributors in the workplace,” said Kent Woods, S3 Manufacturing human resource manager.

“Any time a young person has a chance to compete to be the best is an opportunity to learn the drive and commitment that excellence requires. As an employer that is one key characteristic I believe we all look for,” he added.

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For more information contact

Elizabeth Heatcoat | Communications Coordinator

Phone: (306) 628-7445 | Email: elizabethh@greatplainscollege.ca