

To all HVAC Instructors,

SkillsUSA is an organization that works relentlessly to support us all, and in the greatest spirit of SkillsUSA we would like to share an opportunity to benefit and expand your HVAC program.

This opportunity is presented to you by Harold Nelson, National Chairman of SkillsUSA HVAC Technical Committee in collaboration with Greg Doster, National Chairman and Mark Pollitz, National Co-Chairman of SkillsUSA (RCAT) Residential and Commercial Appliance Technology program.

When you consider the skill sets you are teaching your students through curriculum, shop exercises, hands on product training and ride-alongs with industry companies, there are other skilled trades that use many of the same skill sets. However, the one skilled trade that most closely resembles HVAC is that of appliances. The first 25-35% of the curriculum for both programs are nearly the same. To mention a few are, electrical and refrigeration theory, reading and understanding wiring diagrams and schematics, understanding component (mechanical and electronic) interaction and testing, refrigeration diagnostics, EPA certification, brazing and piping, Smart Home IoT, and other parallel skills.

As you consider the expanded employment opportunities for a student who has skill sets in both HVAC and RCAT, this further enables employers who hire your students to expand their business model and services offered by having a multi-skilled workforce.

In 2021 the RCAT technical standards (attached) were revised to allow additional SkillsUSA programs, HVAC being one of them, to enroll students into the RCAT contests, from regional to NLSC. This allows your program, your school and you as the Instructor the opportunity to have RCAT support and win additional contest medals. Of course, there are some guidelines and compliances that need to be established to add RCAT to your program. The RCAT Technical Committee has the organization, the structure, the resources and the involvement of major manufacturers and appliance organizations to support seamlessly blending all or a portion of the RCAT program into your HVAC program.

We would like to provide you more details about this exciting opportunity. Please contact us at:

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