Automotive Technology students sweep Skills USA Idaho competition

By Spencer Allen

For the fifth time in seven years, BYU-Idaho automotive technology students finished first, second, and third at the Skills USA Idaho competition.

"This is a huge confidence booster for all of us in the department," said Justin Miller, coordinator in the Automotive Technology program. "The recent successes we've enjoyed have helped our students gain experience and exposure in the industry as well as effectively show individual areas of strength and room for improvement."

In addition to sweeping the automotive technology event, students in the Automotive Technology program won the technical math event as well as place first in job interviews competition.

"Our students are dedicated and here to learn. We have found that they learn best by doing," said Josh Tollefson, instructor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. "We have them work on live vehicles with real problems. This helps the students learn to problem solve and think critically. As a result their determination and confidence of their knowledge in the field grows."

Ray Ricks, a senior in the department, won the automotive technology event. He will compete in June at the Skills USA national competition in Kansas City, Missouri.