

***For Immediate Release***

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***Editor's Note:*** Attached please find photos of ECTA students who participated in the Welding Thunder Competition.

## **ECTA Mechanical Technology students win first place at welding competition**

*Students named "best-themed team" at Welding Thunder event*

**LAS VEGAS** – Mechanical Technology students from East Career & Technical Academy (ECTA) won first place for Best-Themed Team for equipment and uniform appearance at the Welding Thunder Competition, held at the Las Vegas Convention Center. ECTA was the only Nevada school to take part in the competition.

Under the direction of teacher Marco Centeno, the ECTA team consisted of students Jennifer Andrade, John Berdahl, Luis Corral, Deysy Duran, Eduardo Gutierrez, Angel Hernandez, Francisco Herrera, Reece Hartman, Luis Landeros, Melanie Lopez, Jose Nunez, Trenton Pewtress, Valerie Rangel and Katlen Rocha. The competition was part of FABTECH 2016, North America's largest collaboration of technology, equipment and knowledge in the metal forming, fabricating, welding and finishing industries.

The ECTA team, tasked with building a barbecue, started from full length material using 20 feet of tubing and four-by-eight-foot sheets of metal. They had to cut them down to the dimensions based on the plan they were given. They then had to put the materials together using different welds within one eight-hour day and a second five-hour day (13 hours total). Once they built the barbecue, they showed that it could be lit, and then cooked and served a steak and egg breakfast for judging.

Centeno said, "It was a privilege to see the students work hard as if they were on the job and to see the seriousness with which they applied themselves. This type of experience gives students confidence and helps them to be career ready."

ECTA student Trenton Pewtress said, "We came together as a team and used the East Tech tenet of collaboration to meet with success. It was awesome teamwork!" His comments were echoed by fellow student Reece Hartman, who said, "We used great communication skills to collaborate and work together to get what we needed done."

FABTECH is described by its organizers as "more than just a trade show and conference, it's a

celebration of the strength of manufacturing." Attendees can see, touch and learn about the newest innovations in industries related to metal forming, fabricating, welding and finishing.

According to the [FABTECH website](#), "Everyone comes away from the event with something they can take back to their business and use immediately; a new technology, an idea, a solution, or a new contact."

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