



RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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South Seattle Community College Hosts Western Conference Drywall Finishing Finals

Some of the best drywall finishers in the West competed at South Seattle Community College (SSCC) last week.

The three-day event – the Western Conference Drywall Finishing Finals – was held at SSCC's Advanced Technology Center, May 2 – 4. It was sponsored by the Western Washington Painters, Decorators, and Drywall Finishers Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee, which is based at SSCC's Duwamish campus, and the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 5. The contest, which was open to Western states from Texas to Hawaii, gathered two participants from California, one from Alaska and two from Washington.

If you're wondering what drywall finishing is, it is the application of tape and joint compound that is used to smooth the surface of walls that are built from sheetrock.

The event was a showcase for the talents of tomorrow's skilled labor, as well as another chapter in a new rivalry between SSCC and Tacoma's Bates Technical College.

Ryan Johnson of Bates beat Jon Danly, a student in the Drywall Apprenticeship Program at SSCC-Duwamish, by just one point. In April, Danly beat Johnson in the Northwest Drywall Finishing Contest.

Both three-day contests were a combination of hands-on skills and written tests. For the hands-on portion, contestants had to build mock rooms and fill them with very complex walls and openings.

As winner of the Western Regionals, Johnson will advance to the finals held at Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va. in July. He will face contestants from three other regions – two from the Eastern and Central United States and one from Canada.

The Western Washington Painters, Decorators, and Drywall Finishers Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee has its main training facility at Duwamish. It is registered with the State Department of Labor and Industries Apprenticeship Division, and currently has approximately 350 registered apprentices. It has been training apprentices since 1939.

For more information or to arrange for an interview please contact
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