

SD Apprentices Compete and Place in PHCC National Competition During CONNECT2024

Four apprentices from South Dakota recently competed in the National PHCC Apprentice Competition held during CONNECT 2024 in Birmingham, AL.

In the HVAC Division, Alex Phrommany, from Howe, Inc placed 2nd and Dawson Grotjohn, from Waterbury Heating & Cooling, placed 3rd.

In addition, Dawson Craig from Wolff's Plumbing & Heating competed in the HVAC Division and Andrew Wilson from Midwestern Mechanical competed in the Plumbing Division.

The competition was held on October 8 & 9 on the tradeshow floor. A total of seventeen plumbing and six HVAC apprentices from across the nation took part in the contests.

HVAC Apprentice Contest Winners

- First place: **Dane Gonser** with EMCOR Services Fagan, Kansas
- Second place: **Alex Phrommany** with Howe, Inc., South Dakota
- Third place: **Dawson Grotjohn** with Waterbury Heating & Cooling, Inc., South Dakota

Plumbing Apprentice Contest Winners

- First Place: **Logan Cunningham** with John J. Maurer, Inc., Massachusetts
- Second place: **Ray Cline** with Mesa Mechanical, Nevada
- Third Place: **Fred Walp** with Benjamin Franklin Plumbing, Pennsylvania

The plumbing apprentices were required to rough-in a bathroom system. The set-up includes a toilet, sink and shower, complete with supply, waste and vent lines, plus cleanouts and extra features designed to test the contestants' knowledge and skills. The test set-up includes a variety of pipe materials – cast iron, copper and PVC and



Second place HVAC Award Presentation: Pictured l to r: PHCC Educational Foundation Chair Patrick Wallner, HVAC Contest Committee Chair Chip Greene, Alex Phrommany



Third place HVAC Award Presentation: Pictured l to r: PHCC Educational Foundation Chair Patrick Wallner, HVAC Contest Committee Chair Chip Greene, Dawson Grotjohn



Dawson Grotjohn



Dawson Craig

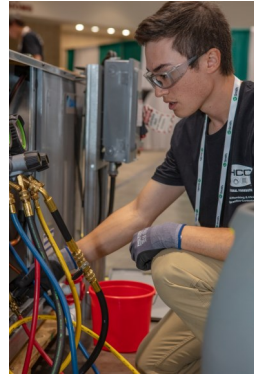
National Apprentice Contest continued

corresponding joining methods.

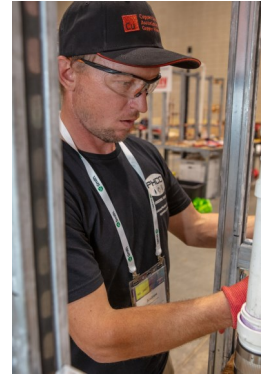
The HVAC competitors were required to complete a written test, demonstrate proper brazing techniques and perform a hands-on diagnostic on an HVAC package unit, with system errors created by the Foundation's contractor volunteers for the competition. The competitors also had to perform a pressure and leak test, demonstrate proper refrigerant recovery procedures and the ability to accurately take a variety of instrument readings.

A dedicated team of contractor volunteers arrived days before the competitions to assemble the competitor test benches, distribute the materials and supplies and set up the testing areas. They monitor the competitions, evaluate the apprentices' work and provide constructive feedback on each competitor's performance following the event.

The contests are made possible by the generous support of several industry sponsors who provide monetary support and in-kind material and tool donations.



Alex Phrommany



Andrew Wilson
