



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Cruz Advances to SkillsUSA Nationals

Two Goose Creek CISD students from Stuart Career Center placed in the State SkillsUSA competition in Corpus Christi, Texas. Raul Medrano, a sophomore from Ross S. Sterling High School, placed 3rd in the Automotive Refinishing Technology contest, and for the second year, Goose Creek Memorial High School's Josselyn Cruz brought home the 1st place medal for Collision Repair Technology. Cruz will advance to the National Collision Repair Conference in June in Kansas City, MO at the 50th Annual National Leadership and Skills Conference.

Although this seems like a challenging competition for a young lady, Cruz made it through the written exam the first day and felt fairly confident about the timed estimating, structure analysis, welding, sheet metal straightening and plastic repair competitions the next day.

"I was kind of nervous, but I never really saw any of the students I was competing with until it was over," she said. "I heard that I had the highest scores in welding."

Cruz attributes her teacher James Wheeler, collision repair and refinishing instructor at Stuart Career Center, and her former teacher Greg Thomas, now retired, with teaching her everything she needed to know to be competitive at SkillsUSA.

Along with medals and plaques, Cruz has amassed quite a sum of scholarship money—more than \$34,000—some designated for Universal Technical Institute in Houston and other scholarship money should she choose to attend WyoTech in Laramie, Wyoming.

"The one big thing that went through my mind when they called her name (as the 1st place winner) was that she will once again get a chance to receive a \$50,000 scholarship from Universal Technical Institute as well as a lot of other tools of the trade," said Wheeler.

This summer after the national competition, Cruz will have to choose a school to attend, but right now she is still considering her options.



Josselyn Cruz, senior at Goose Creek Memorial High School, displays the awards she and Raul Medrano, sophomore from Ross S. Sterling High School, won at the State Skills USA competition in Corpus Christi. Cruz placed first in Collision Repair Technology, advancing to the National Collision Repair Contest in Kansas City, MO in June. Medrano placed 3rd in Automotive Refinishing Technology. [View photo gallery.](#)

"I could also go to Lee College for Logistics," said Cruz. "I want to do something I like. I want to wake up and feel like I'm not actually working."

Cruz will be the only person representing the State of Texas in the Collision Repair Technology competition, but she says she will be prepared.

"After competing at nationals, I have more knowledge about what you actually do at competition, so I won't have to guess about the next step. I'll know what to expect," Cruz said.

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Physical Address:  
Goose Creek Consolidated  
Independent School District  
4544 Interstate 10 East  
Baytown, Texas 77521  
281.420.4800

Mailing Address:  
Goose Creek Consolidated  
Independent School District  
P.O. Box 30  
Baytown, Texas 77522  
281.420.4800

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