

# Meet a Cabinetmaking Student

**Kaydee Walters**, a graduate of Tooele High School, was the **SkillsUSA Vice President**. As Vice President, Kaydee joined with the Tooele High School SkillsUSA chapter to collect over 800 lbs. of food for the local food bank—a service project in conjunction with the SkillsUSA National Week of Service.

During high school, **Kaydee participated in several SkillsUSA competitions**. She was a member of the Quiz Bowl team that won first place at the state competition and then placed ninth at the national competition. Kaydee participated in the state SkillsUSA cabinetmaking competition, where she placed first; she then advanced to the SkillsUSA National Skills and Leadership Conference in Kansas City. In this competition students received a set of plans they had never seen before and were required to build the project within six hours. The students were given only enough materials to do it right the first time. Projects were scored to an accuracy of 1/32 inch. Kaydee performed with accuracy and precision. **She was the gold medal winner in cabinetmaking, surpassing 49 competitors—all of whom were male.** Kaydee was the first female ever to win this competition.



Woodworking is Kaydee's passion, and has been for a long time. **"Throughout my high school career I focused on the Cabinetmaking/Millwork CTE Pathway,"** she says. Michael Florence, Kaydee's cabinetmaking instructor, says, "Early on, Kaydee exhibited the potential to be a skilled woodworker. Kaydee designed and built her first personal woodworking project with very little help. The craftsmanship was not perfect, but the understanding and ability she displayed during its design and construction was outstanding." Through hard work, perseverance, and dedication, Kaydee honed her skills and became a skilled craftsman. She says, **"I am very dedicated to my work. I am a hard worker. I am motivated, strong-willed, and efficient. . . My CTE classes in high school prepared me in many ways,** such as teaching me the knowledge I needed to know about woodworking, about all the tools and machines and how to use them, and how to create and read plans."

**Kaydee completed the Cabinetmaking/Millwork Pathway** and received the CTE Secondary Pathway Completer Recognition Award. She also received a CTE Scholarship and Tuition Award to Utah Valley University (UVU), where she is studying Cabinetry and Architectural Woodworking to earn an associate degree. "Upon completing my degree I will find a job in a cabinetmaking and architectural woodworking business, like Fetzer Architectural Woodwork or a similar company that produces high-quality, custom-made furniture and cabinetry. **This will allow me to gain the experience I will need to attain my ultimate goal of owning and operating my own custom woodworking business.**"

By participating in **Career and Technical Education**, you too can get started in a career in the manufacturing industry through a Skilled and Technical Sciences Pathway. For more information, talk to your school counselor or visit **UtahCTE.org**.



*"[CTE] classes, my participation and leadership in SkillsUSA, and all the classes I will be taking in college will help me to enter and succeed in cabinetmaking and architectural woodwork."*

*Kaydee Walters*

## Kaydee Walters: College and Career Ready!

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