

# News Release: PGCPS Student Among Top Ten in National Esthetics Competition

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For Immediate Release

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**UPPER MARLBORO, MD** – Zoey De Los Santos, a graduating senior at Laurel High School, placed 9<sup>th</sup> at the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville, KY.

De Los Santos competed in the esthetics competition, where she was tested in four areas, including an oral skin consultation; a written exam covering the fundamentals of skin care, sanitation, skin analysis; a hands-on basic facial demonstration; and a day time and fantasy make-up application.

“Being able to participate in a national competition was such an exciting and rewarding opportunity for me,” said De Los Santos. “I placed in the top ten, which was a personal goal of mine, and became more confident in my skills and decision to pursue a career in cosmetology.”

De Los Santos was one of only two PGCPS students to win the SkillsUSA Esthetics State Competition in February. De Los Santos, along with fellow Laurel High School senior Nohelia Valentin, focused on a fantasy look inspired by Snow White. She created the illusion of a perfect face being peeled away to reveal a wicked witch. Valentin designed Snow White coming out of the snow. De Los Santos won first place and Valentin won third place.

“We are extremely excited with Zoey’s accomplishments,” said Gina Simpson, Laurel High School Cosmetology Teacher. “This was the first year that a PGCPS student participated in the SkillsUSA nationals competition and she did an exceptional job representing Laurel High School. She is an example to how committed our students are to learning and developing the career skills needed for successful futures.”

SkillsUSA is a national organization that serves teachers, high school, and college students preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations.