

# PEOPLE & EVENTS

## VICA helps develop skills

### Special to the Daily Record

Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) help students develop social and leadership skills. Activities enhancing the development of these skills are conducted by the clubs' members and advisers.

The activities may include events between vocational technical schools and between students, such as parliamentary procedure contests between schools, troubleshooting contests for automotive mechanic students, and many others.

Each club elects officers from its membership to serve as president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter and parliamentarian.

The VICA Skills Olympics has been called the showcase of vocational education. The Skills Olympics competitions recognize vocational students who excel in their occupational areas, as well as leadership development activities which are such an integral part of the VICA program in the classroom.

The involvement of industry in the Skills Olympics program is essential. Leadership, health, trade, industrial and technical experts donate their time to serve as contest judges and as technical committee members. They assume responsibility for selecting the skills which are to be judged, determining the format of the contests and establishing the standards by which contestants are to be judged.

Besides showcasing students' skills, the Skills Olympics, by the very nature of competition, urges students to take pride in their work. It also provides prospective employees with an opportunity to see dedicated, motivated, potential employees at work.

To continue to meet the needs of both potential employees and prospective employers, the lines of communication between vocational educational schools and industry must be kept open. Educators need to be able to identify industry's needs, and, in

turn, develop appropriate curricula.

Students placing in the VICA Skills Olympics from the food service department were Beverly Burks, who received the Statesman Award and a gold medal in the scrapbook competition; Janice Moss, who received a bronze medal in the cooking competition and Shelia Populus and Rosemary Lockett, who both received the Statesman Award.

In the welding program, students placing were Pat Blount, who received a gold medal in flame cutting and George Mitchell, who received a silver medal in plate welding.

Other post-secondary students participating in the VICA Skills Olympics were Vaughn Summerville, food service; Brady McDonald, welding; Luther Anderson and Sammy Helms, air conditioning and refrigeration; Chad Dillard, William McClard, Chad Williams and David Harrison, diesel; and Jack Ray Jr. and Carla Mazander, machine shop.



## Welding winners

Winners in the competition of Vocational Industrial Clubs of America from Ouachita Vocational Technical School's welding department are (from left) George Mitchell, Pat Blount and Reece Young, instructor.



## VICA winners

Winners in the competition of Vocational Industrial Clubs of America from Ouachita Vocational Technical School's food service department include

(from left) Beverly Burks, Janice Moss, Tressie McJunkin, instructor; Shelia Populus and Rosemary Lockett.

Daily Record Photos—Locke