

## **NW MO Technical School Wins State Gold on the Topic of Alzheimer's Disease**

*by Bing Boettner, RN BSN  
PAC Certified Independent Trainer*

A team of three health science students—Taylor Adwell, Brianna Davenport, and Caleb Liles—from the Northwest Technical School in Maryville, MO took home first-place at the Missouri state [SkillsUSA](#) competition at the State Technical College of Missouri in LINN, Mo on Friday, April 8th, 2017. SkillsUSA is a career technical student organization. The competition gave the students a chance to showcase what they've learned about dementia from their teacher, and PAC Certified Independent Trainer, Ms. Bing Boettner, RN BSN. The team showcased their skills to industry representatives hosting the competition, Gov. Eric Greitens, and over 400 of their peers.

In order to compete, health science class students were required to submit a career pathway project at their school. Their instructor, Ms. Boettner, choose the best project and submitted the entry to the SkillsUSA district level contest. The winning students incorporated Teepa Snow's Positive Approach® to Care philosophy. With her guidance, they mapped out a plan for their presentation based on the scoring guide. From the table cover to the arrangement of information, the students worked hard to create an impressive presentation. With the creative use of props such as an orange and a clementine, they used the Adult Experiential Learning Cycle to help their audience and judges understand what happens to the brain in dementia.

Documentation of community involvement was a key component to the completion, as evidenced by pictures of several presentations they made to different groups in the community. Ms. Boettner's health science program partnered with five facilities for clinical rotation, which became the early presentation venues. The facility staff enjoyed listening to the young people, as well as learning new information about the disease and its care.

The students are advancing to SkillsUSA Nationals in Louisville, KY, this June 19 through 23. They learned from the competition and already made improvements to their showcase. These changes made for some fascinating, eye opening experiences that included: a title change from "Alzheimer's Disease" to "Shedding Light on Alzheimer's Disease"; an added clip-on, flashing light to the board; an interactive vision experience with a real scuba mask, binoculars, and monocle for participants to try; an added Anatomy in Clay® brain model available for participants to manipulate; and results from interviews of a medical family practitioner and geriatric nurse for an understanding of the pharmacological interventions, a support group leader, and a caregiver to his wife.

We wish Taylor, Brianna, and Caleb the best of luck at Nationals!