Nail Technology Students Win at State Competition

The Illinois Association of Cosmetology Schools (IACS) held their Statewide Student Competition on Monday Jan. 29th at the Naperville/Lisle Hilton.

Nail Technology students; Crystal Wilkins with her model, Tara Gums placed 1st And Tasia DeBerry with her model Carolyn Como placed 2nd. All four students are currently enrolled in the Highland Nail Technology Program.

In the OPI Products sponsored contest, the contestants are required to perform nail extension techniques while being timed and judged. Demonstrated were application of nail wraps, nail tips, acrylic overlays and nail art. They had to choose a theme and then design nail art to follow the theme. Crystal chose a “Tropical Paradise” theme, in which her nail art was various tropical colors and pictures such as palm tree, sun & beach drinks.

Tasia, who loves the “Blues”, chose this to be her theme. She designed her model’s nail art to reflect various shades of blue along with musical symbols. OPI sponsored trophies and prizes were awarded to both winning students as well as a first place plaque to the cosmetology department. Nail Tech Instructor Sandy Kuelling said she was very proud of the students for the hard work they did to practice for this competition.
160 statewide cosmetology & nail technology students came together to compete in the areas of Color to the Extreme, Long Hair Design, Club Mix Look and Make-Up both Evening/Bridal and Club/Avant-Gard and nail technology.

Cosmetology students Jennifer Nissen and Ciara Rakuc competed in the Color Contest, placing 11th. They chose the color green and draped their model as a vine covered Egyptian piece of art for their theme.

Attending the competition to support their teams were 24 high school and college students currently enrolled in the cosmetology program and instructors Tina Young and Jean Meyer. They joined approximately 450 other observers of the competition. Cathie Schmerse, cosmetology program coordinator and board member of the association, serves at chairperson for the day long event. Assisting with the conference is also instructor Dotti Triplett.