

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jason Gordon
830-885-1081

Release Date: April 8, 2010

CHS students receive tools for education

The Canyon High School automotive technology department has many more tools of the trade to work with thanks to a unique program.

Lowe's and Kobalt Tools, in partnership with SkillsUSA, are helping the next generation develop their skills at CHS through their "Toolbox for Education" program.

Lowe's is donating approximately \$1,100 worth of Kobalt tools to CHS as part of the national program, which will total about \$450,000 to 400 SkillsUSA automotive service technology programs across the nation for use in their classrooms.

"This is a wonderful example of how industry works to partner with education, for the betterment of the technical program and the success of my students," said CHS Automotive Technology teacher Wayne Kennedy. "SkillsUSA has had a huge part in the transformation of my students because it has provided skills and leadership training that they don't get anywhere else. Lowe's and Kobalt's support reinforces what we are teaching in the classroom and shows the value of education-industry partnerships."

The national program kicked off in March at the Lowe's of Edgewood in Atlanta, where four-time reigning NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion Jimmie Johnson personally delivered the first sets of tools to students from Jonesboro High School.

"By working with Kobalt Tools and SkillsUSA to provide tools to these students, Lowe's is able to help prepare the future of America's skilled workforce in their chosen career paths," said Larry D. Stone, chairman of the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation. "With Kobalt tools in their toolbox and training from their schools and SkillsUSA, students will be better prepared for success when they enter the workforce."

SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization of students, teachers and industry, working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. The association's annual membership exceeds 300,000 students and instructors in more than 3,700 schools and colleges in every state.

-CISD-

IN PHOTO: Canyon High School automotive technology students are all smiles as they accept \$1,100 worth of Kobalt Tools at the Lowe's store in New Braunfels on April 8. It was part of the national "Toolbox for Education" program, which is sponsored nationally by both Lowe's and Kobalt. Pictured (left to right) are CHS students Irving Aleman, Marcus Salinas, Justin Cantu, Holden Bradshaw, Robert Hansmann, Jeremy Helmke, Ruben Quintanilla and automotive technology teacher Wayne Kennedy.