

CONTACT:
Roberta Scott, PIO
Indian Capital Technology Center
918-348-7943

Photo Cutline...

Carolyn Ross, Tahlequah, works on a project in the Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) lab on Indian Capital Technology Center's Tahlequah Campus. Ross has been nominated for the State SkillsUSA Outstanding Breaking Traditions HVAC Student for 2009.

**Carolyn Ross Named SkillsUSA
Outstanding Breaking Traditions HVAC Student For 2009**

The Heating, Ventillation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) SkillsUSA Chapter on Indian Capital Technology Center's Tahlequah Campus, has named Carolyn Ross the SkillsUSA Outstanding Breaking Traditions Welding Student for 2009.

The Breaking Traditions Awards are sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education and spotlights students who have chosen specific career and technology programs because of their interests and abilities and who have not let their gender influence their decisions to prepare for nontraditional careers.

Ross was living in California and worked at Motion Picture Glass, a company that built movie sets for visual effects. "I've always worked in jobs that are considered non-traditional for women," says Ross. "I have always followed my interests and really haven't let anything get in my way. There were some things they didn't let me do because I was a woman, since the sets were designed to blow up."

Ross moved to Tahlequah when her mother became ill. "I stayed with mom and dad during her illness. After my mother passed away, I decided to stay and help my dad and be with my family here," says Ross. "Since I planned to stay a while, I decided to go to school at the Tech Center. I have family members who are plumbers and electricians, so I thought I would try the heating and air program. It is a great program and I already have my Universal EPA License. I am real proud of my accomplishments."

Ross is a member of the Postsecondary SkillsUSA Chapter, where she is actively involved with the chapter activities. "I have enjoyed learning new leadership skills and being involved with preparing for competitions," say Ross. "I have especially enjoyed working with the Quiz Bowl Team."

Ross is looking forward to graduation and working in heating and air. “I really feel it is important that people choose a career on interest and not on gender,” says Ross. “I’m convinced that females can perform the duties of the job just as well as any male and maybe even better. The job opportunities are great for both genders.”