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**Sarah Hicks, Tahlequah, works on a project in the Welding lab on Indian Capital Technology Center's Tahlequah Campus. Hicks has been nominated for the State SkillsUSA Outstanding Breaking Traditions Student for 2009.**

**Sarah Hicks Named SkillsUSA  
Outstanding Breaking Traditions Student For 2009**

The Postsecondary SkillsUSA Chapter on Indian Capital Technology Center's Tahlequah Campus, has named Sarah Hicks 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.

Hicks is the Historian of her SkillsUSA Chapter. "I have really enjoyed being involved with my SkillsUSA Chapter," says Hicks. "I have learned leadership skills and was chosen to be on the district A-Team. The A-Team are ambassadors for our Tech Center. I also enjoy being involved with our Quiz Bowl Team."

Hicks graduated from high school in 2007. She worked for a year and then decided to go to the Tech Center to learn a trade. "I have always liked outdoor work and working with my hands," says Hicks. "I found out real soon that I wasn't happy working at a desk. I have always loved art, being creative and working with my hands, so I knew it was important that I find a career doing something I enjoyed."

Hick's cousin, who is two years older than her, had taken welding at the Tech Center. She was real interested in what he was doing. "He is a pipeline welder and he is the richest 22 year old I've ever known," says Hicks. "He learned the skills he needed to be successful and was traveling all over the country making lots of money. I had other cousins who were doing the same, so I decided that I was going to learn welding too. They have all encouraged me to follow my dream."

Hicks will graduate in May and will begin her new career. "I want to be a pipeline welder," says Hicks. "My dream is to make enough money to buy myself a horse ranch. I know what I want to do and I know I can do it. People need to be happy with what they do for a living. I'll be working for at least 45 years, so it is important that I do something

I love to do. Gender should not matter when it comes to individual goals and dreams.  
Right now, I'm going to grab my dream and run with it!"