

Skills Champion Profile

Frank Scanga

Memorial Composite High School

Frank Scanga is a shining example of how to bring the energy and excitement of the Skills Movement into the classroom. For over 19 years he has been involved in the Automotive industry as an apprentice, certified tradesperson and now as a teacher at Memorial Composite High School in Stony Plain, Alberta.

Frank sees Career and Technology Studies (CTS) courses in high school as an important educational tool to respond to the many challenges of modern society, helping young students develop daily living skills and nurturing a flexible and well qualified work force. In Mechanics, a strand of CTS, students have the opportunity to increase their knowledge and skills towards the design and maintenance of transportation vehicles, recognize the impact they have on the environment, and on their economic and social well being.

For the students at Memorial Composite High School, Skills Canada Alberta provides a stepping stone to pursue goals at a higher level and provides many students an important pathway into the industry.

"For my select students, Skills Competitions promote student achievement by setting clear expectations and recognizing student successes. The students develop the knowledge, skills and the attitudes that they are expected to demonstrate in industry," notes Frank. "These acquired competencies can be applied as they make a smooth transition into adult roles in their own family, community, workplace and further education. I believe that the competition helps our youth develop the confidence they need by assuming increased responsibility for their own learning. This also cultivates the students' own individual talents, abilities and interests which, ultimately defines and helps them act on their goals."



Frank has taken students to many Provincial Skills Canada Competitions, winning gold, silver and bronze medals. In 2007 he traveled as part of Team Alberta with his student, Jessen Collingridge, to Saskatoon for the Canadian Skills Competition. Bringing back a silver medal from the national event and sharing in the personal success of a talented student was a highlight in Frank's career.

Teachers working alongside Frank identify that he has a way of inspiring the best from the students in his program. He not only works alongside students, but relates to them in ways that are meaningful. By working with students at noon and after school his most eager students are prepared for Skills Canada Competitions. During this time they gain valuable lessons that not only make them better technicians, but individuals who value excellence and a commitment to lifelong learning. These students recognize that they are responsible for developing their own skills and will reap the long term benefits of setting a high level of expectations for their own performance in the workplace.

The Automotives program at Memorial Composite High School has been built into a highly skilled program with a full-service customer service component thanks to the pride Mr. Scanga has for his trade.

As a result of taking Mr. Scanga's advanced level courses, his students have gone on to work in many related trades. The impact he has made on his students' career ambitions is demonstrated on their return visits to the school. He is obviously admired by his students, as a teacher and mentor.