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A. O. Smith Sponsors First Place Winner in PHCC Apprentice Contest

ASHLAND CITY, Tenn. – When 20 of the nation’s top plumbing apprentices competed for the title of “The Nation’s Best” during PHCC’s annual Plumbing & HVAC Apprentice Contests, the contestants, each sponsored by an industry manufacturer, were given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. Leading water heater manufacturer A. O. Smith sponsored the first place winner, James Peterson, an apprentice with John J. Maurer, Inc., of Cataumet, Mass.

“I’ve been in this industry for over 40 years and the level of talent that James possesses is something you don’t come across often,” said John Maurer, owner of John J. Maurer, Inc. “This is a kid who attends night school so he can work a full-time job during the day, and still manages to finish first in his class.”

The competition featured hands-on tasks that consisted of installing both the plumbing rough and finish for a full bathroom, including setting of the water closet, lavatory and trimming out the shower.

Six industry professionals observed the competitors, judging them on accuracy of measurement, neatness, quality of workmanship, accuracy of plan interpretation, written instruction, and finally, a pressure test.

“This is a challenging competition that serves as a great reflection of each contestant’s dedication to knowledge and growth within the industry,” said Maurer. “You really have to be familiar with day-to-day, on-the-job training, and the benefit of participating in something like the PHCC Apprentice Contest is seeing how you measure up against your peers and competitors.”

In addition to walking away with a vast amount of new tools, which were donated by the industry’s leading manufacturers, Peterson was also awarded two trophies and \$1,000 in prize money.

“Everyone at A. O. Smith is extremely proud of James and the hard work he put forth to prepare for this competition,” said David Chisolm, A. O. Smith’s vice president of marketing. “A. O. Smith is committed to ensuring that our contractor partners have the tools and training they need



News Release

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to be successful on any job.”

About A. O. Smith:

A. O. Smith Corporation is a leading global manufacturer and marketer of residential and commercial water heaters. A. O. Smith offers its customers an additional competitive advantage in that the company designs, builds, distributes and supports the world’s broadest and deepest line of residential and commercial water heaters, as well as commercial boilers. This single-source concept simplifies ordering, installation and service and is backed by nearly 80 years of research and innovation. For more information, visit www.hotwater.com. For the most up-to-date industry news, like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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