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Competitions will put truck driving, utility linemen students' talents to the test

OMAHA, Neb. — Metropolitan Community College will host the ninth annual CDL Student Truck Driving Championship and 13th annual College Utility Linemen Rodeo together on Saturday, May 16, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at MCC's Applied Technology Center, 10407 State St.

The CDL Student Truck Driving Championship challenges truck driving students from across the region to demonstrate truck driving and vehicle inspection skills with various driving maneuvers. The competition provides a valuable learning experience to students and can be a nail-biter for instructors. It is designed to promote safety and education — two vital components of the transportation industry. Eligible competitors include CDL students currently enrolled in a Nebraska or western Iowa training facility and trained students with one month to a year of experience.

The College Utility Lineman Rodeo includes linemen teams from colleges all over the country that will compete in pole climbing events. Following a written exam, students perform various work procedures required for their trade. The competition gives students the opportunity to use skills they have learned in preparation for their careers in the electrical industry.

"The truck drivers will be tested in areas that they will see out in the real world," said Darryl Partner, MCC truck driving instructor.

"Students will have to face many difficult situations in the field. The lineman competition gives them an opportunity to showcase their skills while preparing for the next phase in their career," said Rich Newcomer, utility line technician instructor at MCC.

The MCC-sponsored competition is free and open to the public. Award ceremonies will immediately follow the competition. For more information, contact the Applied Technology Center at 402-763-5800.

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Metropolitan Community College, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, is a comprehensive, public community college that offers affordable, quality education to all residents of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. Founded in 1974, MCC has the largest enrollment out of six community colleges in Nebraska and is the second largest postsecondary institution in the state. MCC serves more than 40,000 unique credit and noncredit students.