

## COSMETOLOGY STUDENT PLACES 2<sup>ND</sup> AT STATE FAIR

In 1989, Shante' Murphy graduated from Northumberland High School. She had attended the Northern Neck Technical Center (known at that time as the Vo-Tech Center) in her junior and senior years but hadn't completed Cosmetology II. In the 1990's she married and started a family in Northumberland County and never lost her interest in working with hair. In 2009, twenty years after leaving us, she's back to complete the Cosmetology program.

So far she's doing spectacularly! On September 28<sup>th</sup>, she traveled to the VA State Fair in Doswell with one of the Cosmetology instructors Valerie Shelton and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the SkillsUSA VA competition with a mannequin comb-out. Competitors had 20 minutes to transform their pre-rolled mannequin heads. Shante's 2<sup>nd</sup> place hair style was a "sophisticated upswept hairdo".

Shante' Hammonds (her married name) is an example of a "post-grad student" who opts to pay tuition because she's not enrolled in one of the 6 area high schools with which we partner. Tuition for a course is \$2,800 per year, which is saving Shante' a significant amount compared to any of the beauty schools she'd otherwise have to travel to in Fredericksburg or Richmond. She's one of several other post-grads currently attending NNTC – others are home-schooled or already through high school. Anyone interested in attending the Technical Center and paying tuition should contact Principal Randy Long to discuss the details.

Shante' now enjoys doing her homework with her 2 sons ages 11 and 14. They are so proud that their mother is continuing her education and working towards her dream. Shante' and the other Cosmetology students will have opportunities to compete in other SkillsUSA competitions later in the year. Once she passes the VA State Board Exam in May, she plans to purchase her own salon in Lancaster.