The college’s student chapters of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and the International Design Association (IIDA) this year volunteered their time with Zero Landfill, a project that takes obsolete products and materials from area architectural and design firms and makes them available to local artists and educators for use in their own work.

The project reduces the number of products that end up in local landfills. By the fall 2011, Zero Landfill had diverted and repurposed 11,855 pounds of materials.

Interior Design students from SCTD spent hours sifting through and sorting the items dropped off at Zero Landfill, making it easier for artists and educators to pick up appropriate goods from the available materials. The SCTD students involved were Aritha Berroa, Lisa Blair, Clayton Marshall, Stephanie Mitchell and Alainna Ross. Adjunct instructor Amy Eley also contributed to the effort.

Zero Landfill Chairperson Lori Gibson and IDDA City Center leader Misty Potter (a SCTD graduate!) applauded the contributions of these students, agreeing that the project would not have been as successful without their help.

Zero Landfill is centrally located in Jefferson, Ind., at the Quartermaster on 10th St. For more information, or to track their efforts, visit Zero Landfill on Facebook.

Sullivan University, Sullivan College of Technology and Design, and Spencerian College – the three institutions that make up The Sullivan University System – are always finding ways to partner with one another. In one such partnership, Sullivan University students are allowed to join the SCTD active chapter of SkillsUSA.

One student taking advantage of this is Zachary Trew, a Culinary Arts student at Sullivan University and an active member of Skills USA.

Zachary became involved with SkillsUSA at Bradley Central High School but did not expect to continue with the organization in college because he didn’t realize postsecondary chapters were available to him. That changed when SkillsUSA SCTD Chapter President Zach Evrard invited Zachary to a meeting at SCTD. Both students reside at Gardiner Point, the Sullivan University residence hall.

Zachary joined the student chapter shortly after his first visit. Overall, he calls participating in SkillsUSA a “fun and a great learning experience.”

Zachary competed in the 2011 state SkillsUSA culinary arts event, where he earned a bronze metal. He admits he was a little disappointed with the third-place showing but is motivated to do better next time. He promises: “2011 will not be my last competition!”

“I hope I can take the mistakes I made and the good things I did with me to the 2012 SkillsUSA state competition and use that experience to go for the gold,” he says. “I can always make it better. That gives me something to look forward to, not only with my cooking but in life.”