“***DECADE OF BASHED HOPES”***

**By: Madison Shattuck**

This 2020-2021 SkillsUSA sculpture depicts a distressed rib cage cradling a shattered lung. It is rightfully named “The Decade of Bashed Hopes,” as a tribute to the year 2020. We kicked off the decade with high hopes of new beginnings, fresh starts, and a better future for ourselves. Shortly into our new year we were hit with an unprecedented pandemic. I found this design fitting seeing as how Covid-19 is a respiratory disease. The chipped and jagged edges represent how last year wore us down, but we’re still standing!

The lung, spine, sternum and heart shaped base are all carbon steel. The lung is Stainless and also ⅜” rebar is used. The primary processes used include GMAW on the spine and ribs, PAC when cutting out my shapes, and OFC for bending ribs and tempering, with some light GTAW applications on the sternum. The project took roughly two months to complete and is made out of donated materials from Grant County Welding program.

Sincerely,

Madison Shattuck