CTC Hosts First Annual Expo

Students in the National Technical Honor Society hosted a school-wide expo on May 5, 2017, to raise money for the senior scholarship fund. They coordinated with their group’s advisors, counselor Kris Wendland, Assistant Principal Brent Boerema, and teacher Jennifer Stairs, and a committee of staff members, to plan the event and enlist the help of students from each program. The Center buzzed with hundreds of visitors from the community who enjoyed a pig roast, live music, kids’ activities, a silent auction, a plant sale, a cakewalk, and activities hosted by each program to highlight the great work of our Center. In addition to two car raffles, the students in the Welding program fabricated and donated a trailer to raffle as well. There was a car show in the front parking lot that included classics from Hagerty Insurance Company’s fleet. Wendland noted that the feedback has been extremely positive and hopes to turn the event into an annual open house to showcase the programs of the Center, foster community engagement, and raise money for scholarships.

Students Shine in Skills Competitions

Students from across the Center competed in skills competitions this spring and brought home several state awards, including 21 first place awards that qualified 15 students for national events in several categories. National competitors will attend either the National Leadership and Skills Conference (SkillsUSA), the Family Community Careers Leaders of America (FCCLA) conference, or the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) events being held this summer. Students also participated in Michigan Industrial and Technology Education Society (MITES), Future Farmers of America (FFA), and our local IT Olympics as part of their CTC course-required leadership activities. Coordinated by assistant principal Matt Nausadis, and under the guidance of each program teacher, students developed projects and honed their skills throughout the year, and then presented or demonstrated their work at events across the state.

Awards for top finishers include tools and scholarships to post-secondary institutions throughout the county. Students can also run for state or national office in these respective organizations and network with students and advisors from other centers across the state. These connections within their chosen fields will serve them well in adulthood. Nausadis commented that, “I look forward to coordinating the club season because it’s the culmination of a student’s potential in their chosen field. It’s fun to see how students can be validated at the end of this process and to see them have the self-realization that they understand the subject so very well.” Whether in local, regional, or state events, students performed well and represented our school and the region with pride.

Power Equipment Technology Showcased at State Capitol

Power Equipment Technology was selected to participate in the 2017 CTE Showcase in Lansing, Michigan, at the State Capitol Building. One representative program, across the state, from each of the state approved program categories was selected to set up a table in the rotunda of the capital building and provide demonstrations to lawmakers and guests on April 27, 2017. Program instructor Jared Diephouse worked with Scott Patterson (12), Kalkaska, and Carter Stewart (11) Traverse City Central, to develop a presentation. They traveled to Lansing and demonstrated 2-stroke and 4-stroke fuel systems and explained the necessary tools and their functions in disassembling these smaller engines. The annual showcase provides students in career and technical programs the opportunity to talk with lawmakers about the value and impact of CTE programs in their lives and answer questions about their schools and programs. Governor Rick Snyder launched a campaign in 2015 to highlight skilled trade opportunities for students and believes strongly in these opportunities that exist in Michigan. Patterson and Stewart had the opportunity to meet the governor and talk to him about their experiences in Power Equipment Technology.

Mock Interviews Prepare Seniors for Life

Creating a professional employment portfolio is a standard part of the curriculum in all CTC programs. Students who earn English credit in Auto Body, Automotive Technology, Web and Game Programming, and Information Technology had the additional opportunity to practice interviewing skills with 23 retired faculty and alumni from Michigan Technological University (MTU) and employees of Michigan Works! With the support of teacher Jennifer Stairs and Dana Venhuizen, Career Preparation Specialist, students prepared resumes and cover letters, learned how to prepare a personal introduction and shake hands, reviewed potential interview questions, learned how to dress professionally, and finished the process with a handwritten personal thank you note. “I got a phone call from a local business owner and advisory board member who complimented the students on completing the thank you notes. He said it was the first time he had ever received one and that even if the interview wasn’t the best, the thank you note would have gotten them the job,” said Stairs. Students received feedback on their interviewing skills and their professional portfolios. Over and over again, interviewers commented about how impressed they were with the students and their portfolios. A handful of students were even offered jobs on the spot, and one junior is now being recruited by MTU as a result of the process. MTU was so impressed with the model developed by Stairs and Venhuizen, they plan to replicate it at other high schools across Michigan and Wisconsin.
Our mission is to prepare students with skills and learning experiences for employment and life-long learning.

**NEWS AND NOTES**

**TBAISD Career-Tech Center, “A Great Place to Learn”**

CTC celebrated National Career and Technical Education Month with an essay contest where students had the opportunity to describe what attending the Career-Tech Center meant to them. I am using this month’s column to highlight one of the essays. Thanks to all students who participated.

The TBAISD Career-Tech Center means very much to me and my future education. The TBACTC Public Safety class is helping me to further my education in the Fire and EMS services. After I graduate high school, my plans are to become a firefighter for the GTRFD and get my EMT certification at Munson Medical Center. The Career-Tech Center is helping me become more disciplined and understanding of the world of public safety. Even in difficult times, Mr. Lennox is always available for questions and help. His devotion to public safety and protective services is outstanding. In addition, his background in the police force is very knowledgeable and he does a great job teaching the students who care about their future in public safety. I am homeschooled so TBACTC is a great way to get away from home and socialize with friends, and CTC is making me a happier person and improving my student capabilities. It is a great place to come, see friends, and learn about new career opportunities. If it weren’t for TBACTC, I would not be as happy, social, or friendly. I love eating the delicious food that Culinary Arts makes on a daily basis. Their frog legs are to die for! Every Thursday, we do MOLES fitness, which consists of 30 pushups, 32 sit-ups, and a half-mile run. Mondays are ELA (English Language Arts) and Tuesdays are uniform days. After leaving TBA, I go home satisfied with the day and wish for another great day at the TBACTC. – Jack Lindsay, Public Safety/Protective Services

---

**Construction Trades Reaches New Heights**

The Construction Trades program makes it a point to create at least one thing each year to awe the Career-Tech Center, but their current house project may become known as one of their greatest feats. The behemoth of a project, a full-scale home they are building inside their shop, stands two stories high and takes up the majority of the classroom. Currently, the bottom level is framed and the student work force has ventured to the top, strapping up in safety harnesses, and navigating trusses and the tops of the freshly framed walls with the goal of starting the second floor.

The learning process of building a house from the ground up nudged students out of their comfort zones by doing jobs that were new to them. After some hard work and determination, they are looking at what they built with a sense of accomplishment that has boosted their morale.

As a result, students learned to take pride in their work and contributed to the long list of attributes needed to achieve a healthy work ethic. Ryan Paradis (11), Traverse City West, had only good things to say about his experience. “It added to my knowledge and skill in construction,” he happily stated. “And it has come to make me appreciate this line of work a lot more.” - Trenten Sieting (12), Kalkaska

(R - L) Jeremiah Preston (12), Kingsley, Morgan Flore (11) and Michael Hickman (11) Kalkaska, work on trusses in the Construction Trades shop.

---

**Check out fswline5report.com for in-depth, investigative reports on Enbridge’s Line 5 written by the students in the Front Street Writers program. Line 5 is a controversial pipeline that carries oil under the Straits of Mackinac. Students spent months researching the issue and have created a website to publish their stories.**

---

**Child and Adolescent Health Clinic**

880 Parsons Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
231.922.6416

Office hours: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Monday – Friday
Call for an appointment
Walk-ins welcome if time is available