

## Exciting Staff Changes Take Place at CTC

With the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year, CTC has welcomed a new group of staff members who are passionate about career and technical education and excited to be at CTC. Whether a technical or academic instructor, paraprofessional or technician, or a bookkeeper, all play an important role in making certain that students have a successful learning experience at CTC.

Kevin Kimble, the **Power Equipment Technology (PET) instructor**, has been very familiar with CTC, as he served as a student teacher in the program in 2007, under the guidance of Tom Tarr, one of the former instructors for this program. Born in Mt. Clemens, Michigan, Kevin lived in southeastern Michigan until 1980 when he moved with his family to Manistee, graduating from high school there. As a child growing up, he and his father (who was a high school auto mechanics and small engines teacher) would travel to the wilds of Canada to fish for a week, where he developed a lifelong obsession with fishing and the Canadian wilderness. After a month as the PET teacher, he is surprised by how quickly the time has gone by and by the sheer volume of paperwork. He stated, "The best part about working here is the unparalleled support I have experienced across the board; this is truly a team of professionals."



The **Early Childhood Education** program welcomed a new instructor, **Melanie Zinger**, to the program when the former instructor, Donna Valdmanis, retired in June 2011 after teaching in the program for 30 years. Melanie came to CTC after having taught in North Carolina for a few years. A Grandville, Michigan native, she attended Western Michigan University and is an avid Bronco fan! She lives with her four year-old Pekinese/Pomeranian, Muddles, whom she pampers and spoils. A lover of the outdoors, she is a certified PADI scuba diver who loves to travel and cook. She has felt very welcomed by all CTC staff and has commented on how helpful everyone has been. She loves her students and has remarked that "they are fun and willing to learn."



CTC recruited another out-of-state teacher, **Sarah Bernstein**, the **English teacher** working with Visual Imaging I (VIT I) and Allied Health I (AH I) students. Sarah lived and taught in Colorado for eight years before coming to CTC. A native of Manistee, Michigan, she, too, attended Western Michigan University and then the University of Colorado. She sees herself as an "idea machine" and has a dozen projects going on at any given moment, such as making organic lotions (which she plans on taking public this spring) and gourmet dog popsicles. When reflecting on her role as the English teacher in VIT I and AH I, she explained, "I love the real world application and being able to help kids become better readers and writers using their chosen content area. It's so refreshing and it works."



Another new staff member is also working in VIT I, **Tom Mills**, the **paraprofessional** for the program. Tom is a product of a high school vocational graphics arts program and understood fully how a program such as this could positively impact a student's future. Born and raised in Alpena, Michigan, he remembers his first high school vocational teacher, a retired printer who possessed a vast amount of knowledge and had an easy teaching manner that impacted him in many ways. This positive experience led him to pursue a degree in Commercial Art from Ferris State University which then resulted in his spending over 30 years as a professional graphic artist and illustrator. He commented on how tired he is at the end of the day at CTC. He shared, "I could work 10 – 12 hours a day, day after day by myself at my drawing board or computer. However, when in class, I have to be on my toes the whole time and that is tiring!"



Born in Superior, Wisconsin and then raised in northwestern lower Michigan, **Eric Link**, the new **Allied Health Technician and Certified Nursing Assistant instructor**, is the father of four children (ages ranging from 2 – 7), with the fifth child due on November 9! Eric attended Northwestern Michigan College and Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids. He was formerly employed in the clinical nurse management area and was seriously considering making a switch to education when he saw the CTC position posted in the Traverse City Record-Eagle. As he expressed, "It seemed like all the right cards at the right time! I love passing on the perspective that I have gained working in the healthcare field to future healthcare providers." He has been very impressed and surprised by the resources available at CTC and is excited about being able to use the instructional technology that is available.



Although this new staff member, **Kaleigh Blackburn**, doesn't have much student contact, nevertheless she plays a vital role as the **accountant/bookkeeper** for CTC. A graduate of Glen Lake Schools and Michigan State University, Kaleigh is engaged and will be married in June. She works two days a week at CTC, and the other three days are spent at the TBAISD administrative building in the business office. Her interests involve her cat, Shelton, who she claims is more like a dog and Taekwondo (She holds a second-degree black belt.). Kaleigh is responsible for keeping the bookkeeping functions running smoothly at CTC and she indicated that she "enjoys coming to work knowing that I am not going to be bored."



CTC welcomes all of these new passionate educators to its family!

## CTC Hosts CTE Best Practices

On October 7, approximately 50 career and technical educators within a specific geographical area in Michigan attended a Best Practices Day at CTC. Allied Health, Auto Body Repair, Automotive Technology, and Power Equipment Technology instructors met together to discuss and share best practices in program organization, academic integration, end-of-course assessments, instructional technology, delivery of curriculum segments and standards, student organizations, and enrollment and funding issues. In addition, the Allied Health session featured a guest speaker, Dr. Ann Kuenker, a local physician who specializes in family practice. All attendees had an opportunity to tour the building and share ideas and concerns regarding their career and technical programs.

### Check Out CTC's Facebook Page!

CTC has joined the ranks of social media and now has a Facebook page. Visit us at: <http://www.facebook.com/tbactc>

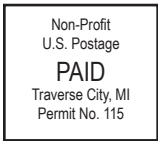
**SNOW DAYS!  
When TCAPS  
is closed due  
to weather, CTC  
is also closed.**





880 Parsons Road  
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Our mission is to prepare students with skills and learning experiences for employment and life-long learning.



## CURRENT RESIDENT OR

### Culinary Students Participate in Boot Camp

After visiting a downstate career and technical education center last year, **Chef Daryl Collins** decided that he wanted to begin this school year in a different way. In the past, students have spent almost a month in the classroom learning about safety and sanitation. However, in order to more immediately engage the students and capitalize on hands-on learning, the Culinary Arts instructional staff, **Chef Daryl**, **Chef Jackie Cobb**, and **Cindee Jo Atkinson** conducted a "boot camp" for the students that consisted of each student receiving eight hours of intensive instruction in a variety of areas, including knife safety, hot line basics, baking fundamentals, and measurement and scale concepts. Production in these areas resulted in homemade salsa, chicken pot pies, cinnamon rolls, and wheat bread being sold to CTC staff members. After the boot camp experience, the Culinary Arts students then moved into the classroom to receive in-depth instruction on safety and sanitation, reinforcing and extending the understandings provided in boot camp. The staff worked tirelessly to prepare the students so that they could successfully open the CTC student-run restaurant, World Class Café, in mid-October. The full-service restaurant is open Wednesday through Friday for lunch from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM.



Chef Jackie demonstrates apple slicing.



### Career Preparation Instruction Goes Online

As of November 2011, CTC students have the opportunity to experience an online class for career preparation skills. This 8-12 hour class, offered through TBAISD CTC's Moodle site, provides the students with a "taste" of an online learning experience in a smaller time frame than one that is semester-long. If students choose this online class, they have three weeks to complete the class. During this time, they will experience deadlines, along with other features common to online

classes, such as forums, online assessments, and uploading of assignments for grading. The class covers seven topics: career research, resumes, cover letters, thank you letters, termination letters, application forms, and interviewing techniques and practices. The online instructor for the class is Melissa Gilbert who is also the instructor for the face-to-face, classroom version of the career preparation skills.



### NEWS AND NOTES

#### TBAISD Career-Tech Center, "A Great Place to Learn"

It is hard to believe the 2011-12 school year is off and running and Thanksgiving will soon be upon us. I am extremely excited about the upcoming school year and what the new additions to staff will bring to teaching and learning opportunities for our Career-Tech Center students. The new staff, along with the seasoned veterans, are on a mission to provide the best technical program for your student. The Career-Tech Center is committed to providing a 21st century education so that your student will leave here with a skill set and work ethic that will open up opportunities for post-secondary education, technical training, or an entry-level career choice, if they so choose. Along with the change in faces at the Career-Tech Center, please take the time to look at our new TBAISD Career-Tech Center Facebook page. This can be found at [www.Facebook.com/tbactc](http://www.Facebook.com/tbactc). The goal of our Facebook page is to showcase our regional center and allow our community an opportunity to see, read, and hear about all the great things that occur at the CTC on a daily basis. Social media is a means of communication that our students have encouraged the CTC to take advantage of and we listened to their advice. Please feel free to check in at our office and visit your student's program to witness first-hand what great things they are accomplishing each and every day!



Patrick Lamb,  
Principal, TBAISD CTC

### CTC Accounting Students Outperform State and National Students

Accounting and Office Technology students are required to take the **National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI)** advanced accounting exam, a state-mandated end-of-course assessment. NOCTI is a national provider of written and performance occupational tests which many industries use to determine the competency and knowledge level of workers. This three-hour exam is used to measure technical knowledge, skills, and literacy in accounting. It is based on industry-validated standards and is aligned with state and national standards. In 2008, the Accounting and Office Technology program piloted this test for the State of Michigan. The following year, the test was adopted for career and technical education students in Michigan who were studying accounting. Over the course of four years, Career-Tech Center Accounting students have scored an average of nearly 17 points above the national average and 18 points above the state average on the exam!



**Nondiscrimination Policy:** It is the policy of the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed or ancestry, political belief, sex, disability, handicap, religion, age, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity or employment.

