



# *News Release*

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## **Michigan Department of Education Announces Recipients of 2013 “Breaking Traditions” Awards**

May 16, 2013

The Michigan Department of Education, Office of Career and Technical Education, has selected 22 students from across the state to receive its *Breaking Traditions Awards*, State Superintendent Mike Flanagan announced. The Breaking Traditions Awards were established to recognize students who have been successful in Career and Technical Education (CTE) program areas that are nontraditional for their gender.

The students received the awards at a ceremony at the Library of Michigan in Lansing. Presenting the awards to the students were Patty Cantú, Director, Office of Career and Technical Education, Joanne Mahony, Supervisor, Office of Career and Technical Education and Norma Tims, Gender Equity/Title IX Coordinator, Office of Career and Technical Education. Eileen Lappin Weiser, Member of the Michigan State Board of Education, encouraged students to continue their education while following their career dreams in her address to the awardees.

“These outstanding students have shown determination in pursuing high-skilled careers that have been considered nontraditional for their gender,” Flanagan said. “Taking highly rigorous content in their CTE program will prepare them for any future careers they choose.”

To qualify for consideration, a student had to meet these criteria:

- Be completing a Career and Technical Education program that is nontraditional for his/her gender
- Be enrolled in a Michigan High School or Career Center program during the 2012-2013 school year
- Be nominated by a teacher, counselor, administrator, or other personnel employed by the student’s school or career center
- Have satisfactory academic standing and acceptable citizenship and disciplinary history

- Have made a contribution to awareness of nontraditional careers through successful participation in one or more of the following activities:
  - Exemplary completion of a program considered nontraditional for the student's gender
  - Successful competition in a program-related event or contest
  - Participation in a Career and Technical Student Organization
  - Active recruitment of other students into programs nontraditional for their gender
  - Mentoring other students in Career and Technical Education programs nontraditional for their gender
  - Significant contributions to the student's specific Career and Technical Education program

In addition to being nominated, each applicant was required to provide two letters of support and write a brief narrative explaining his or her choice of career, obstacles faced, and key accomplishments. The list of award recipients, in alphabetical order by county for each category, is as follows:

**Michigan Breaking Traditions 2013 Excellence Award:**

**Postsecondary**

Genesee:

**Freyda Sugarman**, Mott Community College, Computer Aided Drafting and Design  
Nominator: Madonna E. Carpenter, Special Populations Coordinator, 801 762-0539

**Secondary**

Bay:

**Nolan Rogers**, Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center (Garber High School), Early Childhood Education Program.

Nominator: Kathleen M. Dardas, Instructor, 989 667-3285 ext. 3445

Grand Traverse:

**Erin C. Fluharty**, Traverse-Bay Area ISD Tech Center (Traverse City West High School), Public Safety/Protective Services (Firefighter) Program.

Nominator: Thomas Lennox, Instructor, 231 922-6458

**Michigan Breaking Traditions 2013 Merit Awards:**

Calhoun:

**Ana Elizabeth Randall**, Calhoun Area Career Center (Marshall High School), Culinary Arts/Hospitality Program.

Nominator: Chef Steven Deal, Instructor, 269 968-2271, ext. 5212.

Grand Traverse:

**Iesha Robinson**, Traverse Bay Area ISD Career-Tech Center, (Traverse City West High School), Culinary Arts Program.

Nominator: Daryl Collins, Instructor, 231 922-6285.

Newaygo:

**Cassie Carr**, Newaygo County Career-Tech Center (White Cloud High School), Automotive Technician Program.

Nominator: Bernie Blain, Instructor, 231 924-8842.

Oakland:

**Holley Compton**, William D. Ford Career Technical Center (John Glen High School), Automotive Technology Program.

Nominator: James Schirmer, Instructor, 734 419-2149.

**Michelle Amber Vought**, Oakland Schools Technical Campus Northeast (Oxford High School), Welding Program.

Nominator: Steve Langdon, Instructor, 248 451-2778.

Tuscola:

**Wesley Baranic**, Tuscola Technology Center (Reese High School), Early Childhood Education Program.

Nominator: Craig Searight, Counselor, 989 673-5300 ext. 322.

Wayne:

**Brandi Marie Caloia**, William D. Ford Career-Technical Center (Plymouth-Canton High School), Electronics Program.

Nominator: Zachary MacLean, Instructor, 734 419-2146.

Wexford:

**Rebecca L. Carrancho**, Wexford-Missaukee Career Technical Center (Cadillac High School), Building Trades Program.

Nominator: Frank Tilmann, Instructor, 231 876-2200.

### **Michigan Breaking Traditions 2013 Recognition Certificates**

Bay:

**Alicia Harthausen**, Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center (Bay City Central High School) Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice Program

Nominator: Brian Ducolon, Instructor, 989 686-4770 ext. 3457

**Stephanie Marie Wazny**, Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center (Community High School) Automotive Technology Program

Nominator: Dwayne Gilbert, Instructor 989 686-4770 ext. 3443

Crawford:

**Hope Ervin**, COOR Area Career-Tech Center (Grayling High School), Multi Technology Program. Nominator: Daniel Beltz, Instructor, 989 275-9536.

Midland:

**Kayla M. Liscumb**, Bay Arenac ISD Career Center (Meridian High School), Emerging Technologies Program.

Nominator: Patrick Schultz, Instructor, 989 686-47770, ext. 3469.

Newaygo:

**Kristine Dean**, Newaygo County Career-Tech Center (Grant High School), Welding Technology Program.

Nominator: Aaron Brandon, Instructor, 231 924-8889.

Oakland:

**Jordan Weiler**, Oakland Schools Technical Campus-Northeast, Cosmetology Program.

Nominator: Angela Haley, Instructor, 248 451-2771.

Roscommon:

**Lindsey Hamel**, COOR Area Career Tech Center (Houghton Lake High School), Recreational Engines and Marine Technology.

Nominator: Casey Swartz, Instructor, 989 275-9580.

Tuscola:

**Emily Middleton**, Tuscola Technology Center (Mayville High School), Agriscience and Natural Resources Program.

Nominator: Craig Searight, Counselor, 989 673-5300, ext. 322.

Wayne:

**Autumn Dawn LaTour**, William D. Ford Career-Technical Center (John Glenn High School), Public Safety Program.

Nominator: Kevin Brookshire, Jr., Instructor, 734 419-2185.

**Bryana Erin Lynch**, William D. Ford Career Technical Center (John Glen High School), Culinary Arts Program.

Nominator: Anthony Paquette, 734 419-2132.

**Marisa Marie Mitchell**, Edsel Ford High School, Automotive Technician Program.

Nominator: Victor Gregory, Instructor, 313 827-8203.

The Michigan Department of Education is investing in Michigan's future by helping ensure that our children are career- and college ready and have the skills the jobs of today and jobs of tomorrow demand. Career and Technical Education is education that works for Michigan.

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