



Excellence Award Secondary

Nolan Rogers

Early Childhood and Education Program
Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center
Garber High School

Nominator: Kathleen M. Dardas, Program Instructor

Nolan enrolled in the Early Childhood and Education Program at the Career Center to “try out” his interest in becoming an elementary teacher. He notes that the hands-on training has increased his confidence in the classroom and affirmed his career choice. He attributes his initial inspiration to pursue a career in education to his fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Humphries. He aspires to be the caring professional she was and help children learn and grow in the way that she did.

Nolan has become certified in Adult, Child and Infant CPR, ADE, fire safety, and OSHA through his program. He has used Covey’s Seven Habits to help him set and achieve goals. He is excited that this program has prepared him to work as a paraprofessional in classrooms. He also is grateful that a portion of his program was delivered online, which he is sure will help him tackle online components of his college program. He has had the opportunity to work with a hearing impaired student, which increased his interest in helping special needs children.

Especially helpful for Nolan is the knowledge he has gained about accommodations and modifications for children who have special needs. He has been able to apply this new knowledge as he worked at a summer camp for the last two summers, organizing and leading daily activities for special needs campers. He has helped tutor students struggling with math and reading and has been a mentor for students by helping with homework. He has volunteered to supervise on field trips and at lock-ins for junior high students.

Nolan has assisted with 4th, 8th, and 10th grade visitors to the Center, demonstrating activities and telling potential students about the daily experiences in this program. Nolan has been selected student of the month and received perfect attendance, citizenship awards, and is an honor student. He has taken on a leadership role in SkillsUSA as state Treasurer and Secretary, and also achieved a state gold medal in Preschool Teaching Assistant and competed in Nationals in 2012. He also had the opportunity to attend the Skills USA Leadership Training Institute in Washington, D.C.



He is involved in drama and, over the last seven years, has assisted many of the younger children involved in the productions. He has played many interesting roles, including Rabbit in *Winnie the Pooh* and the Lion in the *Wizard of Oz*. He is the school mascot at his high school, and he is featured in their district produced video lesson curriculum “Bully Project”.

Nolan has presented at advisory committee meetings, promoted the program at the Career Center to other students and shared with parents the opportunities he has experienced since enrolling at the Career Center. He is a positive role model for those in his program and frequently mentors his peers.

Nolan plans to attend Central Michigan University to become an elementary educator.

S *tudents who love what
they do will find success
in their future.*

~ Nolan Rogers