



Merit Award

Iesha Robinson

Culinary Arts Program

Traverse Bay Area ISD Career-Tech Center

Traverse City West High School

Nominator: Daryl Collins, Culinary Arts Program Instructor

Iesha originally had enrolled at the Center in the health occupations program, but after just a few days, realized that was not the area for her. She explored other options with the counselor and decided that the Culinary Arts Program appealed to her. Although she had done some baking, she had little experience with cooking. Experiencing the spices, flavors, and new ideas was exciting.

Each student in the program rotates through the several back-of-the-house, front-of-the-house, and management positions. The instructor says she is accomplished in all areas.

Iesha helped a friend develop the confidence she needed to enroll this year at the Career-Tech Center in the Auto-Body program, giving her advice about being the only girl in the class. She credits her program with helping her to learn how to take charge and be a leader. She has also represented the Center at school assemblies to promote the culinary program. When high school students visited the Center, Iesha was selected to do the food demonstration, making Cherries Jubilee, while explaining the program to the prospective students.

Iesha is an honor student, who has been involved in cross country, track and field, choir, Key Club, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, and is president of student council. She has multiple junior varsity and varsity letters in the two sports. She has earned the Silver National Career Readiness Certificate and ServSafe Certification, as well as completed ProStart Year One. She has assisted as a volunteer at the Cherry Festival and has worked on catering events at school, as well as weddings on the weekends. She is also an elementary basketball and soccer referee.



Iesha is sure that the employability skills she has developed in this program will serve her well throughout her life. She plans to attend Aquinas College to study athletic training and physical therapy. Her culinary experience will not go to waste however, as she plans to use her skills to get a job while she continues her education.

Don't let fear of any sort hold you back.

~ Iesha Robinson