

## Getting To Know Us

*"Spirit and mind grow with the space in which they are allowed to operate."*

K. Ehricke

*CTE Showcase* has a new editor, a new focus, and a new format to signal career and technical education's expanding role in Michigan's High School Redesign. *Showcase* will promote technical education by sharing its many achievements and collaborative initiatives that promote rigor, relevance, and relationships. Career and Technical Education is an essential component in Michigan's transformation from a manufacturing based economy to one that is technologically centered. *Showcase* will explore this fast paced evolution and share the excitement it generates.

*CTE Showcase* ... a vehicle of pride, confidence, optimism, and perhaps change. It is our hope that students, practitioners, and constituents will read and contribute to it. Ignited united, we will fuel the flame of here and now educational redesign that is worthy of all – student and teacher, leader and learner. Surely, the passion, grace, and care that illuminate career and technical education achievement are rich and remarkable. Let there be no mistake about tomorrow and its decisive character of technical excellence. CTE is on time and full of wonder, although sometimes reticent, and often humble in the face of excellence. Its vision is becoming clearer now. Undoubtedly, it is infinitely important and promising.

Patrick Overton thought that walking to the edge of light and stepping further into the unseen was a challenge to belief. He thought that it would cause one of two things, something of substance to stand on or learning to fly. Bach flew with Jonathon "behind gossamer velvet to find truth, the force behind the universe." Barring such philosophical absolutes, look around, then look again. See a breathtaking view ... sun, sky, and sea! We can soar at rocket speeds into the yet to be. There we are home. Welcome to *CTE Showcase* and a future foreseen!

Lynne Listeman, Editor  
*CTE Showcase*

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## From Patty's Pen

Patty Cantú, Director  
Office of Career and Technical Education



Our newsletter is intended to provide a venue for promoting Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Michigan. We hope it will be a source of information to those who may not be familiar with our programs, delivery methods, and opportunities for students. It is also our hope that you will use the information to reach constituents in your area. *The timing is perfect.*

As a community of CTE educators, our posture and response to the changes taking place in education in Michigan's high schools should be cautious. We should not be on the defensive. We should be realistic. If we are honest, we can admit two things—one that gives us confidence and the other that gives us pause. We are confident because, historically, our programs have served students who learn by doing and who are often challenged by traditional high school structures and delivery methods. The persistence of student success and post-high school outcomes speaks volumes. We have data that demonstrate our programs resonate with many students, giving them a purpose, and help in setting goals for their education. There is every reason to believe that, as the Michigan Merit Curriculum becomes fully implemented, more students will seek our programs to add relevance and relationships to the rigor.

*And now, for the thing that gives us pause.* In the flurry and worry of implementing graduation requirements and changes to academic curriculum, some educators, administrators, school boards, and individuals may overlook the value of CTE programs as an option and strategy for delivering instructional services. In times of tight budgets and increased academic requirements, some communities may have the incorrect notion that our programs are too expensive as they are just "electives," not core curriculum and, therefore, expendable. Although we may not be able to change some stubborn mindsets, our actions and attitudes will speak volumes. I don't doubt there will be disappointing choices made in some programs across the state. However, you should feel confident that we are building rigorous and high quality CTE programs and, where we are able, we will demonstrate how we assist students with the Michigan Merit Curriculum and in meeting high school graduation requirements. This cannot be a role that *we manufacture, but rather a role that is uncovered.*

Career and Technical Education has a place within high school education in Michigan. We are not the most important, nor are we the least important. We are not expendable, nor are we untouchable.

(continued on page 2)

## From Patty's Pen (continued)

*We are in a beautiful spot, one where we are able to attract students into a meaningful course of study. This can help keep them in school and launch their post high school goals.*

Our mission is to prepare students with the necessary academic, technical, and work behavior skills to enter, compete, and advance in their education and their careers. We do this beautifully, and we do it in a spirit of collegiality with all educators. We are an essential component of the total education system here in Michigan. The State Superintendent supports what we do. Feel confident in this fact and of the future



## Viewpoint . . . Administrators' Forum

Viewpoint is CTE Showcase's column expressly for Career and Technical Education administrators. It will recognize their achievements and channel ideas and information provided by them, for the benefit of the CTE community.

The *Career and Technical Education Advisor*, a national publication, profiled the Professional Health Careers Academy (PHCA) located in Berrien County, in their January 2008 issue.

Paul Bergan, CTE Director at Berrien County ISD, has made this dream a reality through the partnering of Berrien's CTE Health Professions Program with the Lakeland Regional HealthCare System. This program, in addition to mentoring high school students through related coursework and clinical rotations in several settings, allows students to earn 13.5 college credits towards their postsecondary training sequel for registered nursing. PHCA earned the Michigan Association of School Board's Education Excellence Award and is being modeled in other states.



Paul Bergan, Director  
Career-Technical  
Education  
Berrien County ISD

Paul offers advice to others who may be thinking of developing a program like PHCA. He stressed two components according to the CTE Education Advisor. First, "find the right partners." Lakeland Regional saw a need to promote and recruit health professionals for their organization, and Paul saw an opportunity to greatly enhance and improve the current health professions program at Berrien. Lakeland provides students access to the facility itself for clinical practice and supervision by highly experienced health care professionals equally invested in the future of health care. Students are able to utilize state-of-the-art medical equipment and procedures that are out of reach for the school program.

Paul suggests that the ideal partners will be those who can benefit equally from becoming involved with you. Paul strongly believes that making the program highly competitive for students assures that those who are selected are top notch and able to succeed; thereby, paving the way for program continuation and expansion. PHCA applicants must have a 3.0 GPA, meet with a panel for application consideration, possess letters of reference, and have passing scores on the college entrance exam.

Paul can answer any questions you may have via email to: [pbergan@remc11.k12.mi.us](mailto:pbergan@remc11.k12.mi.us). We congratulate and salute Paul on this excellent and most needed program in professional health care.

## Leadership

Showcasing Career and Technical Education Student Organizations (CTSOs)

Leadership is a precious quality that must be cultivated and nurtured. Career and Technical Student Organizations promote the development and recognition of leadership. Teamwork, tenacity, excellence, care, focus, and achievement are but a few of the qualities these organizations assure.

**SkillsUSA:** Trade, Technical and Service Occupations

[www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org)

Director – Tammy Brown

[Tbrown51@emich.edu](mailto:Tbrown51@emich.edu)

Ambassador – Monika Leasure, Macomb ISD



**BPA:** Business Professionals of America

[www.michiganbpa.org](http://www.michiganbpa.org)

State Director - Maurice Henderson

[Maurice.Henderson@emich.edu](mailto:Maurice.Henderson@emich.edu)

Ambassador – Scott Starkweather

VanBuren Technology Center

**DECA:** Marketing, Management and Entrepreneurship

<http://mideca.org/>

State Director – Dave Wait

[dwait@emich.edu](mailto:dwait@emich.edu)

Ambassador – Kevin Oxley, Jackson County ISD



**FCCLA:** Family, Career & Community Leaders of America

<http://www.mi.fccla.com>

State Director - Brad Schmidt

[bschmidt@emich.edu](mailto:bschmidt@emich.edu)

Ambassador – Tim Hughes

Clare/Gladwin RESD

**HOSA:** Health Occupations Students of America

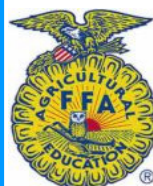
[www.mi.hosa.org](http://www.mi.hosa.org)

State Director – Mark Burley

[mburley@emich.edu](mailto:mburley@emich.edu)

Ambassador – Eugene Pierce

Tuscola ISD



**FFA:** National FFA Organization

[www.mi.ffa.org](http://www.mi.ffa.org)

State Director - Dave Wyrick

[dwyrick@msu.edu](mailto:dwyrick@msu.edu)

Ambassador – Mike Hoffner

Branch Area Careers Center

## Leadership/CTSO/Gold

One vital and necessary component of a state approved CTE program is the provision of leadership activities, events, and other opportunities. Leadership skill development is a priority for CTE students and clearly identified by business and industry as the most singularly important skill needed, and sadly lacking, in today's young job seekers.

The role of CTSOs in meeting this need includes many and varied experiences, mentoring, recognition, and the establishment of relationships that are vital to both personal and work success.

The adolescent passage has become especially tenuous with the expanding use of *online* "social networking" that greatly decreases face-to-face interpersonal practice. CTSOs provide the avenue for students to become "people persons" and leaders; "right stuff" owners. Membership fees are minimal when the benefits are weighed. The Technical Review, Assistance, and Compliance (TRAC) system monitors leadership activities that address personal development by advancing it. The cost of CTSO membership is minimal when compared to the confidence student members gain.

## Business Professionals of America

Maurice Henderson, State Director for Business Professionals of America, proudly reported on the outstanding achievements of Dearborn High School student, Ali Sayed-Ahmad. Ali has won in the Administrative Research competition at the regional, state, and national level. What's more, he has done it for three consecutive years!



The Business Professionals of America State Leadership competitions awarded many scholarships to students at the State Leadership event. Many will be put to good use when they allow students to attend the national conference this year in Reno, Nevada on May 9-11. Ali is just one of our many Michigan representatives.

## Agriscience and Natural Resources Winners

Agriscience and Natural Resources students recently competed in the Region 6 Decathlon. This event includes ten other schools from northern Michigan. This year, there were a total of 78 teams and over 200 students competing.

The following students scored in the top 15 this year:

Haleigh Rogers and Alyssa Smith of McBain  
Kristina Ahrens, Eric Neph, and Nathan Vasser of Lake City  
Jessica Martin, Victor Porteous, and Katelyn Wolverson of Cadillac  
Michelle Popiella of Mason

## SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA Michigan has been selected to receive \$11,800 in grant dollars for Lowe's TeamWorks Grant. The purpose of this grant is to support the 2008 State TeamWorks competition. In addition to funding the competition, Lowes will award the first, second, and third place winners a Kobalt and SkillsUSA co-branded tool bag complete with hand tools.

## Ambassador Ambition

Our high tech world has left its mark on student development, especially interpersonal. Face-to-face conversation is now text messaging and chat rooms. Working up close and personal with others requires practice. *The Career and Technical Education Student Organizations* (CTSOs) provide critically needed opportunities for enhancing well-adjusted, caring, and invested young people. CTSOs are focused on intense and active member participation that facilitates students working as leaders and followers on a team, towards common goals. They offer unique chances for students to learn and practice human values, constantly cited by employers as lacking in today's high school graduates.

Over the past year, the Director of the Office of Career and Technical Education, Patty Cantú, took a proactive stand by adding some turbo-charge to her long-standing commitment to CTSOs. She found ways of familiarizing others with the myriad of programs and experiences these organizations offer. The most effective advocacy for CTSOs can be done by those already invested in those programs and fully aware of their unique role in career and technical education. Patty expressed it well, "Guiding young persons along paths that instill qualities, often taken for granted, through leadership and positive peer relationships is a work so incredibly powerful, it requires directed and energetic attention."

To that end, Patty established the *CTSO Ambassador Program*. It is the pairing of each of the six organizations with a CTE administrator "Ambassador." Their commitment is one year in length and is:

- To promote the benefits of student organizations to teachers, administrators, and others
- To participate in CTSO Board meetings
- To attend the CTSO Directors' annual meeting
- To attend the State Conference
- If able, attend the Regional/District Competitions and Fall Leadership Conference
- To support at least three active CTSOs in their districts.

The CTE community overflows with distinguished leaders of immeasurable vision and energy. Six tried, true, and dedicated administrators stepped up to this challenge. They are: Monika Leasure, Macomb ISD; Scott Starkweather, Van Buren Technology Center; Eugene Pierce, Tuscola ISD; Tim Hughes, Clare-Gladwin RESD; Kevin Oxley, Jackson County ISD; and Mike Hoffner, Branch Area Careers Center. We congratulate and thank them for joining this great cause!

Please stay tuned to "Ambassador Ambition" for great ideas, future happenings, and communications related to the promotion of student leadership, provided by the CTSO Ambassadors themselves...seasoned leaders leading new leaders.

# 2008 Career Education Conference

## Excellence in Practice Awards

*"The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery."*  
Mark VanDoran

The 2008 Michigan Career Conference highlighted excellence in practice by recognizing programs that best exemplify the extraordinary importance and relevance of career and technical education. This year's conference theme, *Relationships for Results*, reflected the program winners' excellence in practice and in building partnerships with community supporters. Outstanding outcomes, measurable results, and students ready to meet high academic standards are the proof.

Branch Area Careers Center received an award for its Culinary Arts/Hospitality Management Program. Student projects and portfolios include a video cooking production that is aired on the Center's video network, Q-1.

Community involvement, facilitated and supported by a highly active advisory committee, includes the Branch County Tourist Bureau and work-based learning established with Martell's, a local and well-invested partner. The Michigan Restaurant Association and Educational Support Foundation hosted educator roundtables and ProStart events and are highly visible, providing consultation and review of all program components.

Students are assessed by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's ProStart exams and become eligible for the associated Certificate of Achievement (COA.) This is a highly regarded accomplishment that is recognized at 300 colleges and universities across the nation.



Branch Area Careers Center Award Recipients  
Mike Hoffner, Penny Pantonopoulos, Kristen Dogan, Chef  
Trent Mead, Deb Balowski

The second Excellence in Practice Award recipient was for Forensic Science at the Genesee Area Skills Center. Forensic Science is a program associated with the Health and Service Professions Career Cluster and is inextricably woven through health professions, law enforcement, and an array of clinical practice techniques and laboratory protocols.

Crime scene "processing", bioterrorism, emergency preparedness, and many highly technical disciplines, like blood spatter analysis, are essential skills for today's forensic scientist.



Genesee Area Skill Center Award Recipients  
Janet Dean, Dawn Holcomb, Laura Cochran, Clyde Bell

The blend of science and technology and their accompanying skill sets and clinical practices position students for the acquisition of many associated certifications at program completion. These include: Blood Borne Pathogens, Chemical Safety, Chemical Hazard Recognition, Confined Spaces Training, HAZ-WOPER training, HIPPA, Red Cross First Aid, and CPR/AED certifications.

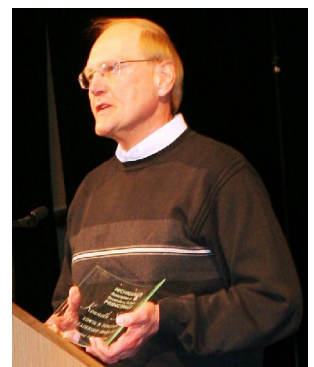
The Branch Area Careers Center and Genesee Area Skill Center are to be congratulated for their Excellence in Practice and their well-deserved awards of recognition.

## Award Recognitions

The Career Education Conference provided the perfect opportunity to recognize some of our colleagues who had recently received awards.

Ken Swanson, Director of Career and Technical Education at Niles Community Schools was presented with the 2008 Edwin Ferguson Award for Leadership in Vocational Education.

Congratulations Ken!



**"Do not confine your children to the learning that is our learning . . . for they are born in another time."**

Anonymous

## Award Recognitions (continued)

In November 2007, Rosalind Denning, a Central Office Administrator for Detroit Public Schools was the first recipient of the *Cathy Ashmore Leadership and Advocacy Award*. The award recognizes the individual's contribution to supporting the advancement of entrepreneurship education and the mission of entrepreneurship education to enhance lifelong learning.

The criteria for qualification for the award included: passion for entrepreneurship education, outstanding leadership and guidance, advocacy for entrepreneurship education, contributions to entrepreneurship education, and perseverance in overcoming obstacles and challenges to offering quality entrepreneurship education opportunities for youth and adults.



Rosalind Denning  
Patty Cantú



Patty Cantú  
David Robinson

David Robinson, a Computer-Aided Drafting program teacher at Randolph Career and Technical High School in Detroit Public Schools, recently received the news that he is a recipient of a \$25,000 cash award from the Milken Family Foundation.

Mr. Robinson was presented the award during a visit to the school from Jane Foley of the Milken Family Foundation, Superintendent of Public

Instruction Mike Flanagan, and members of the State Board of Education as part of the Milken Family Foundation's National Educator Awards Program.

"David Robinson is an exceptional teacher and leader." Flanagan said. "He seeks out learning opportunities for his students. He is a great role model for all students."

Educators are recommended for this prestigious honor by a blue-ribbon panel appointed by each state's Department of Education on the basis of the following criteria: exceptional educational talent evidenced by effective instructional practices and student learning, exemplary educational accomplishments beyond the classroom that provide models of excellence for the profession, strong long-range potential for professional and policy leadership, and an engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues, and the community. Recipients are presented with their unrestricted \$25,000 award checks at the spring Milken National Education Conference in Los Angeles, California.

## Detroit and Grand Rapids Area Pre-College Engineering Program

The shortage of engineers and young persons interested in this field of study has been a long-standing concern of many throughout the nation. The Detroit and Grand Rapids Area Pre-College Engineering Programs (DAPCEP/GRAPCEP): [www.dapcep.org](http://www.dapcep.org) and <http://services.davenport.edu/grapcep>, recently gained national attention due to the excellence they foster in young students on their way to meeting "the engineering need." The FIRST Robotics program has been lauded as definitive in the national movement toward educational programs providing early direction and active learning environments.

Both DAPCEP and GRAPCEP offer outstanding programs for assisting students who are interested in engineering and who may be good candidates for this field. Their programs focus on:

- "Grooming" under-represented minorities for engineering careers in all areas
- Working partnerships with corporations in need of engineering professionals
- Directed opportunities spanning the middle through high school experience
- Expanded learning environments and conditions; "real world" engineering applications
- Active learning formats, both academic and "qualitative"
- Summer programs that enrich and reinforce group status and focused peer support
- Related regional and national competitive events

Project Lead the Way, [www.pltw.com](http://www.pltw.com), in conjunction with the National Academy of Engineering, [www.NAF.org](http://www.NAF.org), and the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, [www.NACME.org](http://www.NACME.org), are forerunners of these initiatives that are igniting renewed hope toward addressing the "phenomenon of disengagement" ravaging today's high school students.

Locally, Davenport College and University of Detroit Mercy are two major facilitators for helping students in Grand Rapids and Detroit Public Schools on their way to engineering careers with a decided head start, made possible by the intense and accelerated focus facilitated by active learning environments. You may visit their websites for more information.

Thanks to these great university partners and to Project Lead The Way!



## Cool Exuberance

**“Exuberance” - high spirited, exhilarated.”**

*Coolness is an attitude best represented in adolescents. The ability to be cool while totally involved in events, interests, and work that keeps you on the “cutting edge,” commands determination and tremendous personal investment. Cool exuberance is perhaps a contradiction in terms. For students in career and technical education programs, it is simply a way of being. Here in CTE Showcase, the many outstanding and amazing achievements of CTE students will demonstrate that cool exuberance is a reality.*

### NAIAS Auto Show

The 2008 North American International Auto Show Poster Contest was a rousing success. Over 600 Michigan high school students, most from career and technical education programs, submitted entries.

Winners are listed below. You may view the winning posters at: <http://www.naias.com>. They are fantastic!

#### William D. Ford Career Center

|                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place | Jesse English (Grade 10)  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place | Brittany Flora (Grade 10) |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place | Emily Browne (Grade 11)   |
| Best Use of Color     | Emily Browne              |

#### Royal Oak High School

|                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place | Bianca Small (Grade 12)     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> place | John Litwinowicz (Grade 12) |
| Best Digital          | Bianca Small                |

#### Oakland Tech Southwest

|                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> place | Justin Diop (Grade 11)      |
| Best Theme            | Lisa Zarves (Grade 11)      |
| Chairman’s Award      | Matthew Meredith (Grade 11) |

#### Center Line High School

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| State Farm Award | May Thao (Grade 12) |
|------------------|---------------------|

#### Warren Mott High School

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Best Traditional | Mary Eddy (Grade 12) |
|------------------|----------------------|

#### West Ottawa High School

|               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Most Creative | Ronan Lynam (Grade 11) |
|---------------|------------------------|

#### Bay Arenac ISD Career Center

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place | Max Barth (Grade 12) |
|-----------------------|----------------------|

#### Eisenhower High School

|                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> place | Kermit Knuppenburg (Grade 12) |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|

#### Eaton ISD

|                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place | Josh Pattison (Grade 12) |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|

**“Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation.”**

John F. Kennedy

## Bay Arenac ISD Career Center Students Start Their Engines

Automotive Education Day at the North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) provides an opportunity for schools to participate in a positive and valuable off-site educational experience. The purpose of the event is to enable high school students (grades 9-12) to learn more about trends in the automotive industry and career opportunities available to them.

Students from Bay-Arenac Career Center participated in some of the day’s activities.



Brittney Deshano

“I was not speeding, I was qualifying!”

“Reinvent the wheel?”



Ellynn Hagen

## Rave Reviews

- u June Teisan, a seventh grade Science teacher at Harper Woods Secondary School, was selected from 50 candidates as a finalist for the National Teacher of the Year award. Ms. Teisan has more than 20 years teaching experience. The National Teacher of the Year will be named in late April.
- u The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) announced the selection of Elizabeth Bauer, a member of the Michigan State Board of Education, to serve on a year-long NASBE task force to promote excellence in career and technical education.
- u The William D. Ford Career-Technical Center was recently designated a Center of Science and Engineering Excellence by the Convergence Education Foundation.
- u The Illinois Institute for Entrepreneurship Education in Chicago will hold its annual conference on May 1-3, 2008. Rosa Williams, Detroit Public Schools, was named “Teacherpreneur of the Year”. Her student, Lucia Salas, placed first in School Business at the Young Entrepreneur’s Conference and Competition. She is featured in the *Future CEO Stars*, January 2008 issue. Visit: [www.iiee.org](http://www.iiee.org).

## TRAC and Field

Joel Milinsky of Oakland Schools and Ana Luisa Cardona, Arts Education Consultant for the state of Michigan, presented a modus operandi for collaboration, specifically for CTE technical standards, at the Career Education Conference. Simply stated, they are advocating the use of free “social networking” sites for processing the planning and implementation of the technical standards via the internet.

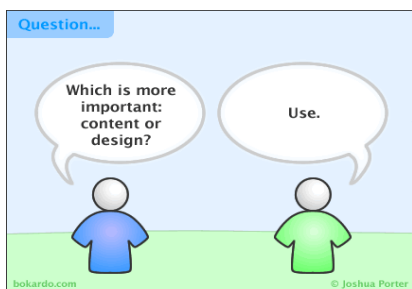
This is what you get:

- a systematic and streamlined way to implement CTE technical standards
- company, support, and work-sharing among like-minded (CIP Code specific) educators
- a convenient and free collaborative platform for “meetings”

Here’s the plan:

- designate a pathway leader/gatekeeper
- decide which site you will use
- recruit colleagues to come aboard
- Choose and assign technical skill task items to each member
- agree on format (Joel suggests and will share “Instructional Unit Plan”)
- write “Instructional Unit Plans” (UIPs), or any format decided, for each standard selected/assigned
- upload UIPs onto selected site for the teams downloading, review/classroom trial feedback
- by consensus, sanction UIPs, then deploy to the field, posting each plan on the meeting site

The power of one multiplied. Joel and Ana are happily available for your questions and suggestions. Contact Joel Milinsky at 248.209.2331 or Ana Cardona at 517.335.0466.



## Friends in High Places

Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth  
Office of Postsecondary Services  
Community College Services Unit

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) added a *Program of Study*. The Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Office of Postsecondary Services, Community College Services Unit, is the office for postsecondary oversight, a critical partner of the *Program of Study*.

The postsecondary training component of Perkins IV is the venue for furthering career and technical education that leads to “high skill, high wage, high demand” jobs. The secondary (high school) program begins the program, progressing through postsecondary study in community colleges, technical academies, distance learning, and apprenticeships, to name a few postsecondary options. Think of the *Program of Study* as the “big picture,” the route to high skill, high wage, high demand job preparation.

Without a doubt, technical education is a constant, invaluable, and evolving field. Michigan is well-invested in the future and “retooling” it’s workforce. Technological innovation is ubiquitous and integral to jobs of today, tomorrow, and the future. Who can better meet this need than career and technical education?

Michigan’s Career Portal, [www.michigan.gov/careers](http://www.michigan.gov/careers), is the state’s online career and job information website. Another resource providing job match is the Michigan Talent Bank (MTB) at: [www.michigan.gov/talentbank](http://www.michigan.gov/talentbank). Also available is *Michigan’s HOT 50*. These are job openings projected into 2012, [www.michigan.gov/lmi](http://www.michigan.gov/lmi).

*Friends in High Places* will keep you informed of postsecondary services, events, and information. You may contact DLEG, Community College Services Unit, at (517) 373-3360 for further information.

## Speak Out ... get edified

Send your ideas and opinions to the editor at:  
[listemanl@michigan.gov](mailto:listemanl@michigan.gov)



Dear Editor,

Recently I became excited by a couple of ideas I want to share. “Media” is a term with huge implications for what we have known for decades; *every person has a favored learning “style.”* It makes sense that multi-media are strategically placed to enliven learning because it speaks the language of all styles. Medias are evolving at a speed that is as rapid and fierce as the pace of the technological revolution itself.

Multi-media instruction is a tool of tremendous promise. We must understand the potential it has for high school redesign and for Michigan’s opportunity to become a technological Mecca. Multi-media appeals to all of the senses, is highly interactive, and as animated as the young people who know it best and thrive in its company.

Multi-media instructional technology provides the fuel for an amazing and much needed educational locomotive that could not only assure our students’ success in meeting the high school requirements, but assist us in establishing an important economic niche. Long ago, Michigan was the first to develop video for industrial manufacturing training. Some believe Michigan can once again take a leadership role in the design and use of multi-media instructional technology. We have social networking, web-based interaction, information infinite, video and audio streaming, pocket PCs, cable, satellite, kinesthetic based applications and practice, and a vast array of options that are far beyond what we can imagine.

If you have ever observed (or played) today’s video games you will know what I’m describing. Such instruments of delight capture the incomprehensible through a synthesis of the learner in lifelike environments. This creates a mind-feeling state that is total, engaging and ought to be used for more than fantasy. Multi-media are a vehicle that can take us anywhere at all. It can propel our students through the highest of seas, fluid, dynamic... and to learning... without walls. This is media. The sky is the limit. We should welcome technology and not fear it. We must speak the language if we want to converse.

Kelli Kelly, Student  
University of Michigan

## Students Are Special

Students are special; there is no doubt about that! The term “special,” however, has been bandied about over the years, resulting in a little bit of confusion here and there. Perhaps we might add to it, but hopefully not.



Lynne Listeman  
Editor, CTE Showcase

Career and technical education has “special populations.” This is not to be confused with “special education”...at least not at this moment. Let’s just agree that both have likenesses and differences too. If you have been unsure of these, you are not alone. Special populations are “CTE special!” This group of special students denotes first and foremost, students who are enrolled in CTE programs (secondary and postsecondary.) Special population students are those who may be in need of special assistance if they are to succeed. They may belong to one or more of the following groups:

- Disabled (according the Americans with Disabilities Act)
- Economically disadvantaged (family income is at/ below the national poverty level)
- Single parents ((19 or under, without a high school diploma, unmarried, or separated)
- Nontraditional (students in CTE programs that have less than 25% of one gender)
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Displaced homemakers (newly primary breadwinner, no HS diploma)

Paraprofessionals often provide assistance to special populations. Other types of help might be *assistive technology*, like auditory delivery (CDs), or provision of *accommodations*, like more test-taking time. You may surmise that some CTE special populations students could also be special education students. Special education is an expansive world but, as a CTE professional, you may be a part of it. Special education students have Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) that detail interventions aimed at offsetting the unique challenges they face. Evaluations are important in determining their needs and in recommending ways to assist special education students. This is their area of certification/qualification. Evaluations determine this and whether it is the cause of a student functioning below their appropriate grade level.

All teachers of special education students are expected to know and implement the interventions, CTE is included. Sometimes CTE instructors will be unaware of students in special education because they so often thrive, not because CTE is for low functioning students, but because they are learning in their favored style. Hands-on is a major instructional delivery component for CTE and often preferred by less linguistically rooted students. It reflects their need for options like hands-on, trial and error, and learning by doing. Accessing students is key.

The Michigan Occupational Special Populations Association (MOSPA) supports professional development for those in the CTE community who work with special populations. MOSPA sponsors an annual conference each May that is excellent! If you’re interested, email the OCTE Special Populations Contact, Christine Reiff at: [reiffc@michigan.gov](mailto:reiffc@michigan.gov).

## In Appreciation . . .

*CTE Showcase* would like to acknowledge the former *Spotlight on CTE* Editor, Donna Beltz. Over the years, Donna has been the guiding light for this publication, so much appreciated by the CTE community. Its content and especially high quality were a product of Donna’s due diligence in assuring the most current, relevant, and reader friendly news brought to you in a most elegant and easy to read publication. Donna deserves our thanks for a job well done. She has been a tremendous help to the new editor who extends warmest regards and a great deal of respect for Donna and her work. Thanks Donna!

## Seeking Newsletter Contributors

It’s important for the CTE community to share and celebrate the many things of which we are proud. *CTE Showcase* expands our newsletter’s range of content while continuing to provide student recognition, as did *Spotlight*. Administrators, teachers, students, and all of us who are a part of CTE in different roles, are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter by sending articles, announcements, and news of events, and CTE related happenings around the state. Our efforts will promote communication, affirmation, and education for the benefit of all. Please submit your contributions to Lynne Listeman at: [listemanl@michigan.gov](mailto:listemanl@michigan.gov). Please assure the following accompanies articles: name, email address, phone number, role/title, and location. Thank you!

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