

### ***Fall 2017***

The goal of this quarterly newsletter is to provide information that will be useful to the CTE community to support ALL students, but particularly, students within special populations.

***I hope the school year is going well for everyone! Please enjoy reading the Fall issue of the Newsletter and Happy Holidays to Everyone!***

***Thank you!***  
***Valerie Felder***

#### **Questions from the Field**

##### **Can students with disabilities be waived from taking the required end-of-program assessment?**

No. Students with disabilities must take an end-of-program assessment to receive completer/concentrator status. If students do not have the adequate skills to take an assessment, then they will not become completers/concentrators. There is not a waiver available for students with disabilities.

##### **A student with a disability attends a high school CTE Career Center on a College Campus. This student is not an Early/Middle College student, but is only earning concurrent college course credits along with high school course credits. Who should be responsible for giving the student accommodations according to the student's IEP?**

Response from the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education: It is the public school's responsibility to ensure that the IEP is followed, and that would include accommodations. It would be permissible for the public school to contract with the college to provide an accommodation (such as a scribe), but this is not required. If this student is considered a full-time high school student and is taking courses as part of his/her high school program, the public school retains the responsibility for ensuring all accommodations are provided for this student to receive FAPE.

## Lapeer County Education & Technology Center

### Supporting Students with Disabilities

#### Project Raising HOPE

Project Raising Hope is a program that provides food to families in need and gives students with disabilities education and training in Agriscience at the Lapeer County Education & Technology Center. Approximately 60 Agriscience students that are high school juniors and are educated and trained in the program's 40' x 80' Animal Center to raise cattle, pigs, lambs, goats, and chickens that will be harvested for meat. The meat produced by the program is donated to and distributed by Stone Soup Food Bank.

#### On-Site Mentoring

"Pals" from the Agriscience Program at the Lapeer County Education & Technology Center, partner with approximately 45 students from the Center-based special education programs. They range in age from 5 to 26 years old, and participate in caring for the animals in the Agriscience Animal Center every afternoon.

#### On-Site Job Opportunities


Ten students in special education who have participated in the on-site mentoring program, and have shown an interest or strength in the care for animals, are afforded the opportunities to expand their resume and work skills by working with the morning Agriscience students who are raising animals as part of the animal program.

#### Benefits of Program

- *Benefits to Agriscience students:*
  - Hands-on education, life and skilled training, and community service.
  - Teaches students "full circle model" as students learn to raise animals, the animals become meat that is given back to families in need in the community.
- *Benefits to students in special education:*
  - Provides developmentally disabled students opportunities to experience a vocational interest and gain employability skills while interacting with typical developing Agriscience peers as mentors and role models addressing Individualized Education Plans.
- *Benefits to the community:*
  - Provides locally grown quality meat to community members in need through Stone Soup Food Bank.
  - Partnership between Lapeer County Education & Technology students and Stone Soup Food Bank.


In the past year, Project Raising Hope has provided 5,193 lbs. of meat and over 20,000 meals to the Lapeer County Community!

In the future, Project Raising Hope will continue to grow with students and animals to feed families in need. Additional grants will continue to be sought to assist with the program. Replication of this program in other school districts' Agriscience and FFA programs will be encouraged to help satisfy the hunger need in other communities. Great Job to the staff and students at Lapeer County Education & Technology Center! See the picture below of a "snapshot" of what takes place at the program.



# Project Raising HOPE

*From Farm to Table with Hands-On Education!*



LAPEER COUNTY EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY CENTER


### PROGRAM

**ANIMAL PRODUCTION & TRAINING:**  
Approximately 60 Agriscience students, that are high school seniors and seniors from the Lapeer County FFA Task Center, are educated and trained in the program's 40+ 807 Animal Center to raise cattle, pigs, lambs, goats and chickens that will be harvested for meat.

**ON SITE MENTORING:**  
Students from the Agriscience Program at the Lapeer County Education and Technology Center, partner with approximately 40 students from the Center based special education programs. They range in age from 14 to 20 years old, and participate in caring for the animals in the Agriscience Animal Center every afternoon.

**ON SITE JOB OPPORTUNITIES:**  
The Special Education students who have participated in the on-site mentoring program, and have shown an interest in strength in the care for animals, are afforded the opportunity to expand their resume and work skills by working with the mentoring Agriscience students who are raising animals in part of their animal program.

**PEER TO PEER SUPPORTS:**  
Students in the Agriscience program meet with professionals from the field of special education once a week for a 45 minute disability training session in various areas.



### MISSION

**PROJECT RAISING HOPE NOT ONLY PROVIDES FOOD TO FAMILIES IN NEED BUT ALSO EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO AGRISCIENCE AND DISABLED STUDENTS AT THE LAPEER COUNTY EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER. THE MEAT PRODUCED IN OUR ANIMAL CENTER IS DONATED TO AND DISTRIBUTED BY STONE SOUP FOOD BANK.**

### BENEFITS

**BENEFITS TO AGRISCIENCE STUDENTS:**


- Hands-on education, life and career training, and community service.
- Students' "full circle model" as students learn to raise animals, the animals become meat that is given back to families in need in the community.

**BENEFITS TO SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS:**

- Provides developmentally disabled students a supervised experience in a vocational interest and gain employability skills while interacting with typical developing Agriscience peers as mentors and role models addressing individualized Education Plans.

**BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY:**

- Provides locally grown quality meat to community members in need through Stone Soup Food Bank.
- Partnership between Lapeer County Education & Technology students and Stone Soup Food Bank.




### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

YEAR	POUNDS OF MEAT DONATED TO STONE SOUP	MEALS PROVIDED IN COMMUNITY
2003	2,534 LBS.	10,094 MEALS
2004	3,100 LBS.	12,752 MEALS
2005	4,280 LBS.	16,920 MEALS
2006	5,193 LBS.	20,772 MEALS
TOTAL	15,107 LBS.	60,538 MEALS






PROJECT RAISING HOPE NOT ONLY PROVIDES FOOD TO FAMILIES IN NEED BUT ALSO EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO AGRISCIENCE AND DISABLED STUDENTS!  
IN THE PAST YEAR PROJECT RAISING HOPE HAS PROVIDED 5,193 LBS. OF MEAT AND OVER 20,000 MEALS TO THE LAPEER COUNTY COMMUNITY!

### FUTURE

- Project Raising HOPE will continue to grow with students and animals to feed families in need.
- Additional grants will continue to be sought to assist with the program.
- Replication of this program in other school districts' Agriscience and FFA programs will be encouraged to help satisfy the hunger need in other communities.



### THE JOURNEY FROM FARM TO TABLE WITH HANDS-ON EDUCATION!

Piglets are bred and born at the school.

Piglets are raised by Agriscience students as part of their education.

Agriscience students mentor developmentally disabled students in animal care.

Agriscience students take responsibility for raising and showing animals that will later be processed for meat for families in need in Lapeer County.

Stone Soup Food Bank clients take home meat for their families providing food for their table.



**Submitted by Tammy Hyatt  
Agriscience Instructor & FFA Advisor  
Lapeer County Education & Technology Center**



### Branch Area Careers Center

#### **“Supporting Students in Special Populations to Transition from School to Work”**

The Branch Area Careers Center (BACC) is breaking new ground by helping special populations students transition from school to work. Students with cognitive impairments are now a part of the STEPS (Students' Transitional Employment Program = Success) program, an educational program run by Lisa Kontowsky and Lynette Mallow that marries a traditional high school curriculum with Career and Technical Education.

Jan Sabo, a special education teacher at the BACC, works with special education students who are on a diploma track. These students, who spend half a day at the BACC in the Career Readiness and Exploration Program, work with the STEPS students to teach them soft employment skills along with technical skills.

For instance, Sabo's students supervise the STEPS students who come to the BACC to work at the BACC's greenhouse called Growing Opportunities. The STEPS students are in charge of the growing, watering, and caring for the vegetables while Sabo's students supervise them. Sabo's students also are responsible for the business end of the greenhouse—including writing a business plan, determining profit margins, and promoting Growing Opportunities to the community.

These programs allow students to better transition into adulthood and become viable members of the community.

Great Job to the staff and students at Branch Area Careers Centers! Please see picture below.



Submitted by  
Jamie Engel  
Director Career and Technical Education  
Branch Area Careers Center

## Wexford-Missaukee ISD Career and Technical Education Center *Shares Females in Construction Interview*

David Cox, CTE Director from Wexford-Missaukee ISD, shared their Digital Media Productions Program video on a non-traditional occupation interview, females in construction, with a recent graduate and a current student of their Applied Construction Technology Program. You may link to the non-traditional interview at: <https://youtu.be/l3tEIJthuqk>; the interview is a casual conversation between the instructor and the female students.



Submitted by  
Dave Cox  
CTE Director  
Wexford-Missaukee ISD

## 2017 Breaking Traditions Awards

On May 11, 2017, the Office of Career and Technical Educational held the Breaking Traditions Awards Presentation. Michigan high school and college students were recognized who have demonstrated success in CTE programs that are nontraditional to their gender. Thirty-two students received Excellence and Merit awards. The featured speaker was Samantha Farr. Ms. Farr created Women Who Weld in 2014. This program teaches women how to weld, drill, measure, and cut metal. Women also receiving training for the American Welding Society Certified (CW) exam.

**2017 Michigan Occupational Special Populations Conference (MOSPA)**

In May 2017, MOSPA held their annual conference and awards were given in several categories. Please see below and please click [MOSPA Recognition Awards](#).

<b>Category</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
Professional Secondary	Kari Hayes	Lake Orion Schools
Professional Postsecondary	Brigitte June-Irby	Wayne County Community College District
Support Staff-Secondary	Kenneth Williams	Breithaupt Career and Technical Center
Program-Secondary	Culinary Arts	Kalamazoo RESA
Student-Secondary	Taiya Watts	Breithaupt Career and Technical Center
Student-Postsecondary	Terren Mohn	Grand Rapids Community College
	Katelyn Thornton	Glen Oaks Community College
Business/Industry	Atria Kinghaven	Downriver Career Technical Consortium
	Senior Living	
Meritorious Service Award	Mary Kaye Aukee	Oakland Schools

**Michigan Occupational Special Populations Conference Nomination**

Mr. Ladipo Akinfenwa, a teacher from Detroit Public Schools Community District, Randolph Career and Technical Center (CTC), in Detroit, Michigan wanted to acknowledge his student, Ayreanna Young, who he nominated for Outstanding Secondary Special Populations Student. Ayreanna is the only female in the HVAC class at Randolph CTC and Mr. Akinfenwa states that Ayreanna is an excellent student. She has the capabilities of wiring electrical switch boards, wiring a furnace burner, and completing many other challenging tasks. Mr. Akinfenwa states that "Ayreanna is bold and not scared of handling any task." She also willingly assists other students when she completes her tasks. She has demonstrated perseverance and personal growth during her participation in the HVAC program as well as during the SkillsUSA Competition. Ayreanna is now in her second year and is preparing to compete in the SkillsUSA competition. Mr. Akinfenwa is very proud of Ayreanna!





Submitted by  
**Mr. Ladipo Akinfenwa**  
Detroit Public Schools Community District  
Randolph Career and Technical Center

### 2018 Michigan Occupational Special Populations Conference

The 2018 MOSPA conference will be held May 2-4, 2018 at Boyne Mountain Resort and Conference Center. More information about the conference will be on the [MOSPA](http://mospaonline.org/stateconference.html) website in the coming months.

<http://mospaonline.org/stateconference.html>

### Helpful Resources

ESSA and Supporting College and Career Readiness and Success for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

During the 2014-2015 school year, more than 1.26 million homeless students were enrolled in public school, double the number of students identified as homeless in 2006-2007. Research indicates that homeless students experience greater school mobility, are at higher risk of chronic absenteeism, and are more likely to be held back or drop out compared to their peers. Given the increase in student homelessness over the past decade, it is critical that states and districts provide the necessary educational supports and stability for these youth to complete high school prepared for success in postsecondary education and the workforce. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that all students have access to a well-rounded education that will prepare them for college and career and aims to highlight achievement gaps among vulnerable student groups, including youth experiencing homelessness. ESSA amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, federal legislation that has supported homeless

youth for the past thirty years. This webinar discussed ESSA's new requirements pertaining to students experiencing homelessness, highlighted promising state and district examples supporting college and career readiness for these youth, shared a young person's experience with school and related supports, and explored policy and practice recommendations.

The YouTube presentation link below co-sponsored by the College & Career Readiness & Success Center, the American Youth Policy Forum, and SchoolHouse Connection have some interesting facts on Homelessness. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JjQCquXHQU>

### Webinar on Social & Emotional Learning for Traditionally Underserved Populations

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) plays a critical role in preparing young people for success in college, careers, and life. This webinar will discuss the importance of SEL for three traditionally underserved groups: students with disabilities, English language learners, and youth involved in the juvenile justice system (justice-involved youth). The American Youth Policy Forum will conduct this webinar on Monday, December 4.

Panelists will include:

- **Logan Beyer**, American Youth Policy Forum and author of [Social and Emotional Learning and Traditionally Underserved Populations \(Policy Brief\)](#)
- **Dr. David Lichtenstein**, Psychologist and Classroom Team Leader, Bradley Schools (Rhode Island)
- **Dr. Sara Castro-Olivo**, Associate Professor of Educational Psychology, Texas A&M University
- **Melissa Svigelj-Smith**, Teacher, Cuyahoga County Juvenile Detention Center (Ohio)

Click the following link to register and participate in this webinar. [Social & Emotional Learning for Traditionally Underserved Populations](#)

### Speakers Resource Bureau

Please forward names of individuals that you think would like to be part of the Speakers Resource Bureau. These individuals would have the opportunity to speak with students about nontraditional career fields.

The website is located on [MOSPA's website](#) at <http://mospaonline.org/bureau.html>.

If you know someone who is willing to be added to this site, or have information that would be beneficial to others, please contact Valerie Felder at 517-335-1066 or [felderv@michigan.gov](mailto:felderv@michigan.gov).

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