

Winter/Spring 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.

Happy Spring! Hope you all are having a great school year! Thank you to all who contributed to this edition of the newsletter. When the first issue of this newsletter was written two years ago, it was two pages long. Now, it has blossomed into eight pages because of your contributions! It's nice to share information!

I hope you enjoy reading it. The next edition will be published in the Fall of 2017.

Have a great remainder of the school year!

Thank you!
Valerie Felder

Michigan Occupational Special Populations Conference (MOSPA)

The upcoming MOSPA conference will be held May 3-5, 2017, at Boyne Mountain Resort and Conference Center. If you would like to attend, please go to the [MOSPA](http://mospaonline.org/stateconference.html) website to find out more information and register for the conference. <http://mospaonline.org/stateconference.html>

Question from the Field

How many students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) can be in a CTE classroom?

Guidance from the Michigan Department of Education – Office of Special Education states:

There is no rule that addresses the number of students with an IEP in a CTE classroom. The Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education only address class sizes of categorical classrooms. Consideration needs to be given to the Least Restrictive Environment under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 34 CFR § 300.114 which requires that students with disabilities are educated with nondisabled peers and special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of students with disabilities from the general education environment occurs only if the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in the regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

Students from Van Buren Technology Center (VBTC)

Business Professionals of America (BPA) State Leadership Conference

On March 16 through the 19, 35 students from the Commercial Art, Cyber Security & Computer Network Technology, and Software Engineering programs at the VBTC participated in the BPA State Leadership Conference at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan. BPA is a student organization with over 43,000 students in 23 states. VBTC students were recognized for their accomplishments:

Jacob Brink, Bangor High School, VBTC Cyber Security & Computer Network Technology
5th Place, Computer Network Technology

Callum Hume, Mattawan High School, VBTC Software Engineering
Bronze - Administrative Support Concepts
Bronze - Computer Programming Concepts

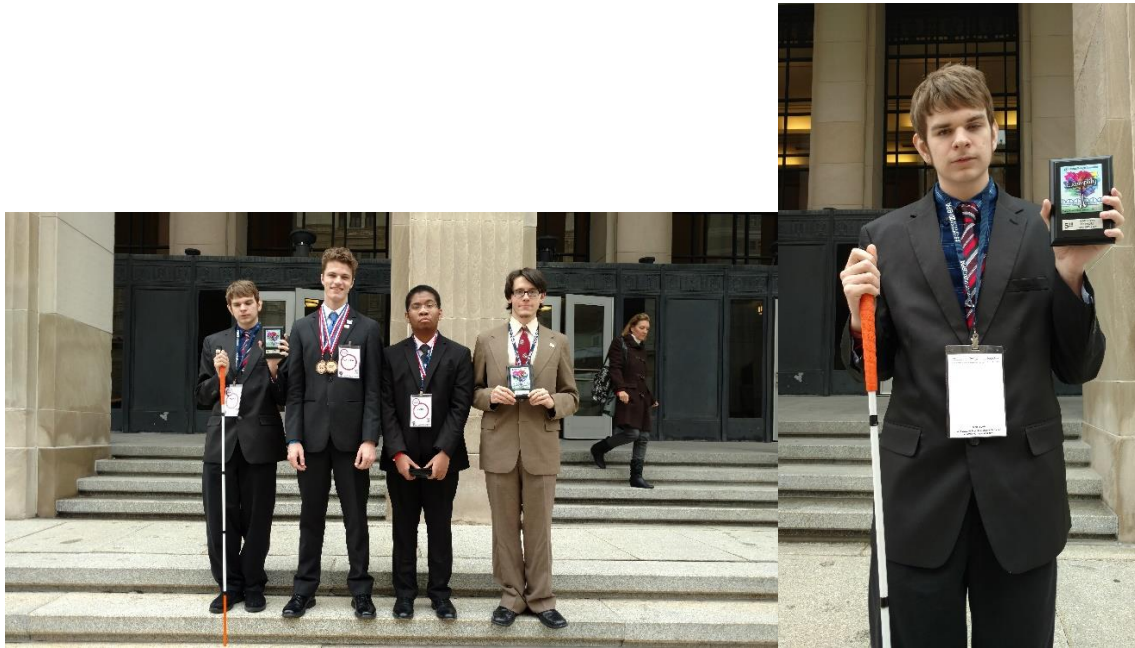
Aaron Nancy, Watervliet High School, VBTC Cyber Security & Computer Network Technology
2nd Place - Network Administration Using Microsoft

Joel Vernon, Dowagiac High School, Cyber Security & Computer Network Technology
Bronze - Financial Math & Analysis
Bronze - Information Technology Concepts
4th Place - Systems Administration Using Cisco
4th Place - Computer Security

Denis Huffman, instructor at VBTC, is very proud of all four of his students. One of his students, Jacob Brink, is blind and has excelled not only at winning 5th place at BPA, but can take a computer apart and

put it back together, works on computers, servers, and routers. Denis describes Jacob as being an amazing student and leading the class! Please see photographs and link with Awards session video below of Jacob Brink and the other students receiving their awards! We are all very proud of Jacob and all of the students who competed at BPA! Click on [Awards Session Video](http://www.MichiganBPA.org/live) at <http://www.MichiganBPA.org/live>.

Thank you to Denis Huffman, instructor at VBTC, for sharing this information about his amazing students!



Special Populations Students at Calhoun Area Career Center (CACC)

Juliana Unger from Calhoun Area Career Center Culinary Arts Program and Battle Creek St. Phil competed at the State SkillsUSA competition the weekend of April 7-9 at the Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids. The competition that she competed in is called Action Skills. She demonstrated how to fabricate a chicken and talked about the importance behind this skill. Juliana spent many hours practicing and perfecting her demonstration. As a result of Juliana's hard work, she won the state competition and has qualified to compete at the national level in Louisville, Kentucky in June right after school gets out. We are all very proud of Juliana!

Student and Career Services Scholarship will be awarded to four students this year at the Senior awards assembly. In order to be able to apply for the scholarship, students need to obtain a B- or higher and less than seven absences for the first semester at CACC. This scholarship will award the students \$1,000 in order to further a student's education, get student assistance entering the work field, or other tasks that will assist the students to further their success for life after high school. The four award winners for this year's scholarships are as follows:

Joel Leatherman - CACC/Welding and Harper Creek
Colin Merry - CACC/Welding and Battle Creek Central
Tyler Ivy - CACC/Criminal Justice and Pennfield
Michael Foreman - CACC/Power Equipment and Pennfield

Thank you to Kristine Jenkins, Assistant Superintendent of Regional CTE, from Calhoun Intermediate School District, who contributed this wonderful news about her students!

Good Golightly Career and Technical Education Center

Exposure of Students to Nontraditional Career Pathways

The Good Golightly Career and Technical Center kicked off CTE Month with hosting a Gender Equity Career Industry Mentor Panel Discussion. The purpose of the event was to expose students to nontraditional career pathways. There was representation from the Michigan State Police Department (Public Safety/Law Enforcement) and Henry Ford College of Computer Science (Computer Systems Networking) and HNBT (Graphics & Printing). Students were very engaged and asked some great questions!

This was an AWESOME event hosted by Principal, Mr. Neal Morrison, and CTE Special Populations Counselor, Mrs. Ora Smith! Way to GO Golightly Career and Technical Center (The Good Go-Go)! Please see pictures below of the event!

Thank you to Arese Robinson, from Detroit Public Schools Community District, Office of Career and College Readiness, for sharing this event.



Wexford-Missaukee Career and Technical Center (WMCTC)

Students Receive Financial Assistance to get their Driver's Licenses

A driver's license is one of the first credentials a student needs to ensure future success and employment opportunities. Due to the high cost of the driver's education courses, and high schools not providing the training, many students who live in poverty have been priced out of the licensing process. In Northern Michigan, the price of the entire process (Segments 1 and 2 and the road test) can cost families up to \$400. Currently, 40% of the seniors graduating from high schools at the WMCTC do not have a driver's license. The statistic jumps to 60% among students with IEPs or 504 Plans.

With the goal of career success in mind, the WMCTC brainstormed many possible solutions, but finally settled on one viable fix. The Bob Rowland Memorial Driver's Education Scholarship was created with the hope of granting high school juniors an opportunity to attend driver's education courses at a reduced rate, or in some cases, at no charge. Students with a C+ or better in their WMCTC course for the first semester, and who have five or fewer absences, are eligible to apply for the scholarship. The goal is to target potential co-op students, students that work while attending school, and who would be able to take the driver's education courses during the summer between their junior and senior years. When the students return to WMCTC in the fall, they will be more prepared for an opportunity as a co-op student.

The WMCTC staff met with local charitable organizations and businesses in the hopes of raising awareness and donations for the scholarship. The staff also wrote grants to local community foundations. Over \$10,000 was raised for the scholarship, and 34 WMCTC students will be given the opportunity to access a driver's education and ultimately their driver's license and hopefully the beginning of a successful career and future.

Thank you to Mindy Cucinella, Teacher Consultant, at the Wexford-Missaukee ISD – Career and Technical Center for sharing this great opportunity for students!



Inspiring Stories

Teacher Cadet Program at Chippewa Valley Schools – Dakota High School

Ally Slone shares an inspiring story of working with an ESL student and how she learned about the power of patience, kindness, and time. Please go to www.michigan.gov/octe and click on Special Populations, or click on the following link to read about this amazing story!

[My Experiences with an English as a Second Language \(ESL\) Student – by Ally Slone \(DHS class of 2017\)](#)

Makayla Trivett shares her success story, despite overcoming her obstacles of having a disability. Makayla is now in her last academic semester at Oakland University and will begin a full-time, student teaching internship in the Fall of 2017. Please go to www.michigan.gov/octe and click on Special Populations, or click on the following link to read about Makayla's road to success!

[Teacher Cadet: An Important Part of My Unique Journey – by Makayla Trivett \(DHS class of 2013\)](#)

We are very proud of both Ally and Makayla!

Thank you to Claire Brisson, Director of Career and Technical Education, Chippewa Valley Schools, for sharing these inspiring stories of students who attended CTE programs!

Teaching Tools and Helpful Resources!

Teaching Hard vs Soft Skills to Students

At the Michigan Career Education Conference held January 29-31, 2017, Colleen L. B. Webb, President of the Michigan Business Education Association, gave a phenomenal presentation on teaching hard vs. soft skills to students. Colleen stressed the need to teach students soft skills to be successful in the workplace and sometimes these skills are not easy to teach. Soft skills are people and self-management skills, and these skills may be learned at home, in school, at the workplace, from role models, and through student organizations. Colleen then shared a list of hard vs. soft skills and gave some excellent strategies on how to teach these skills to students. To receive a copy of Colleen's presentation and/or a listing of soft skills, please contact Colleen Webb at webb164@gmail.com or Valerie Felder at felderv@michigan.gov.

IWitness

Julie McDaniel, who is a Student Safety and Well-Being Consultant, at Oakland Schools shares what she has learned about IWitness. IWitness is an online tool that allows students to connect with the past, engages them in the present, and motivates them to build a better future. There are over 1,500 video testimonies, multimedia activities, digital resources – that allows students to participate actively in learning. Please see [Julie's article](https://sfi.usc.edu/profiles/julie-mcdaniel) at the following link <https://sfi.usc.edu/profiles/julie-mcdaniel> and then within this article, click [IWitness](http://iwitness.usc.edu/) (<http://iwitness.usc.edu/>).

Thank you to Michele Quarton, from Oakland Schools, for sharing this resource.

ADA, IDEA and Section 504 – What is the difference?

At the Michigan Transition Services Association Conference held March 13-15, 2017, Andrea Sneller, from Disability Network of Mid-Michigan gave a presentation on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and Section 504.

The [ADA](#) is a civil rights act signed in 1990 that protects people from discrimination based on their disability. The ADA covers several areas: employment, public services, and accommodations.

[IDEA](#) is an education act that provides federal financial assistance to state and local education agencies. This act guarantees special education and related services to eligible children with disabilities who are ages 3-26 and provides for a free, appropriate public education (FAPE).

[Section 504](#) is a civil rights law to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities, public and private, which receive federal financial assistance.

For more information on the comparison of ADA, IDEA, and Section 504, please click on the following link: [Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund](https://dredf.org/advocacy/comparison.html): <https://dredf.org/advocacy/comparison.html>

Helpful Resources

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](http://mospaonline.org/bureau.html) at <http://mospaonline.org/bureau.html>.

If you know someone who is willing to be added to this site, please contact Valerie Felder at 517-335-1066 or felderv@michigan.gov.

If you have information that you think would be beneficial to others, please contact:

Valerie Felder at felderv@michigan.gov or at 517-335-1066.
