Special Populations Newsletter

Winter 2019

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 New Year! Wishing you all the best in 2019!
Please enjoy reading this issue of the Newsletter and thank you to everyone who shared!

Valerie Felder

Students within Special Populations Progress!

CTE Enrollment and Completion Rates

CTE enrollment of students in Special Populations increased from 46,832 in 2016-2017 to 51,885 in 2017-2018. This is a 9.0% increase. Special Populations enrollment increased at about the same rate as overall enrollment of CTE students, which increased from 109,005 in 2016-2017 to 110,316 in 2017-2018. This is a 9.8% increase. Special Populations students who *completed* CTE programs increased from 15,889 in 2016-2017 to 19,181 in 2017-2018. This is an 8.3% increase. Enrollment and completion rates of students within special populations has steadily increased over the past three years.

Eaton County Students Tour Michigan Career and Technical Institute (MCTI)

With the goals of student career exploration and high wage-high demand career training and attainment, Eaton County students are exploring their futures at MCTI. On December 5, 2018, over 100 high school students, 30 staff, and several parents from Eaton Rapids High School, Greyhound Central Performance Academy, Maple Valley High School, Charlotte High School, Charlotte Project Success, Potterville High School, Meadowview School, Grand Ledge High School, and Relevant Academy toured MCTI. The campus visit planning and efforts were a joint project between Eaton RESA's Career and Technical Education, Special Education, and Prevention Services departments. Additional support came from Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS), Capital Area College Access Network, and our local districts – the day was a true team effort! "This was positively eye-opening to see the opportunities for our students that I was unaware of," said a Charlotte teacher.

MCTI is a postsecondary training facility with free tuition, room, and board for eligible students. Eligibility includes students with IEPs, 504s, or other barriers to employment, such as mental

health support or substance abuse history. Housed on 72 acres of land along Pine Lake in southwestern Barry County and supported by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, it is the second largest rehabilitation-training center in the United States, yet has a very "college" like feel. "I really enjoyed seeing the bowling alley, pool, gym, and dorms – it really is like any other college here, which is really cool," said a senior from Maple Valley.

Students toured the campus and visited the 13 training programs: Automotive Technology, Cabinetmaking/Millwork, Certified Nursing Assistant, Culinary Arts, Custodial, Electronics, Graphic Communications, Grounds Maintenance and Landscaping, Machine Technology, Office Automation, Pharmacy Services, Retail Marketing, and Weatherization. "Wow, after seeing these programs, I could really picture myself working in a pharmacy," stated a junior from Grand Ledge. They also learned about MCTI's support services available for students, including career assessment services, medical and counseling services, occupational therapy, interpreters for deaf students, and classroom and job accommodations.

"Seeing this program gives me hope that my son will be equipped with the tools and skills to be a productive, independent adult," said a Potterville parent. Eaton RESA is hopeful more students will sign up for postsecondary training at MCTI, with the hope of not only supporting a career path for individual students, but also with the long-term goal of supporting a strong local economy back home in Eaton County. MCTI's job placement services provide a direct connection to employment for nearly 90% of recent graduates, with a 96% employer satisfaction rate of those students. "It was so special to watch our students who may have had difficulty in a traditional school setting see a college that can cater to their learning styles while also training them to join an array of exciting and fulfilling trades," said an AdviseMI College Adviser.

After touring, students learned about their next steps during a luncheon in the MCTI library with pizza from Doster Country Store, a favorite eatery of MCTI students. Next steps include a referral to MRS, along with career exploration and work-readiness training. This includes the chance to participate in an on-site, dorm stay summer "camp" style program for career

exploration while still in high school. (see pictures below.) For more information on MCTI, please contact Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

Submitted by Kathleen A. Szuminski, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent for Career and Technical Education

and Heather Algrim, Eaton RESA, Career Pathways Specialist

Downriver Career Technical Consortium Health Science Programs

Special Populations Students gain Work-Based Learning Opportunities with Atria Kinghaven Senior Living

Developing work-based learning opportunities that work for Health Science students takes time. The confidentiality and Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) have provided challenges for career and technical programs to develop meaningful real-world experiences at work sites. The Downriver Career Technical Consortium Health Science programs have worked with a facility that has made this a work in progress to meet students' needs and apply their classroom learning in the real world. This collaboration comes by Atria Kinghaven Senior Living participating in the advisory board meetings and understanding the needs of students and the contributions to the health care facility as well.

Atria Kinghaven in Riverview, Michigan has provided support to the Health Occupations for the Special Populations Students for more than 20 years. Students in the first year of the program are given the opportunity to practice communication skills and employability skills learned in the classroom. All students in the program interact with residents weekly through intergenerational activities that include, playing the piano, singing holiday songs, balloon volleyball, reading, and

taking residents for walks in the gardens around the property. Students practice taking vital signs on the various residents in the spring during a health fair. Students are excited to practice this routine health assessment that all health care workers do in a clinical setting. They again are practicing their communication and employability skills during these activities. The success is so exciting for all students as well as the residents. The teamwork experienced by the staff and students is evident which reinforces the concept that is vital to a working relationship.

Second year students participate with Atria Kinghaven residents through a community project for Breast Cancer Awareness. October brings the opportunity for students to participate with the residents by walking them around the facility to raise money for the Breast Cancer project. Students push wheel chairs with residents and assist residents who use walkers. The residents who walk unassisted visit with the students and pose for pictures. After the walk they take pictures and release many pink balloons into the sky. Refreshments and a sing along follow up the afternoon. Residents and students share this experience with family and friends.

Over the years Atria Kinghaven continues to seek new employees to help with the activities department and dietary through the Health Occupations program. They have shaped the program by providing practice in the health care setting that allows Special Populations students to gain confidence and success. This speaks to the success of the interaction students and Atria Kinghaven have forged over the years. Karen Roberts, the Activities Director, is always coming up with activities that can involve all the Health Occupations students in the first and second year.

Yearly, in May the students and residents come together for a Junior/Senior Prom. Students wear their homecoming or prom dresses. Residents also dress up and their families attend. Students socialize through dancing, eating, and visiting. Singing and dancing, while the resident’s favorite songs are played by the DJ, is so much fun. This event is shared and talked about for many years. Pictures are taken similar to the ones taken at real proms.

Submitted by Ginger Mason, Student Services Coordinator,

Downriver Career Technical Consortium

Breaking Traditions Awards

Sixty-three students statewide were winners of the 2018 Breaking Traditions Awards. The OCTE is seeking nominations for outstanding students, who have been successful in a CTE program area that is nontraditional for their gender, to participate in Michigan's statewide Breaking Traditions Awards. The Breaking Traditions Award is an excellent opportunity for students in CTE programs and schools to receive recognition and positive publicity. It provides an avenue to recognize and highlight student achievement in nontraditional career training and to provide role models for other students considering a nontraditional career.

The application is attached and can also be found on the OCTE website. Click here: 2019 Breaking Traditions Application. Instructions for submission can be located within the application. The deadline is **February 15, 2019.** There will be an awards ceremony in Lansing on **May 16, 2019.**

Michigan Occupational Special Populations Association (MOSPA)

On behalf of the MOSPA board, we invite you to nominate an outstanding individual, program, or community partner who has gone above and beyond to support Special Populations and/or Occupational Programs/Career Technical Education. Five award categories are available for nominations and one winner from secondary and one winner from postsecondary will be selected for each category. Nominations submitted between now and the February 18, 2019, deadline will be reviewed by the Awards Committee to identify award winners. The nomination form and criteria can be found here: MOSPA Nomination Form

Award winners and nominators will be notified of the committee's selection in March 2019. The recipient and up to two guests will be invited to attend the recognition banquet held at the MOSPA state conference on May 2, 2019, at Boyne Mountain Resort located in Boyne Falls, MI. MOSPA will cover the cost of the meal for each recipient and two guests.

The Awards Committee is seeking an additional member. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the committee or learning more, please contact the At-Large Representative, Leigha Compson, at 231-591-3549 or LeighaCompson@Ferris.edu. Thank you for your time and consideration!

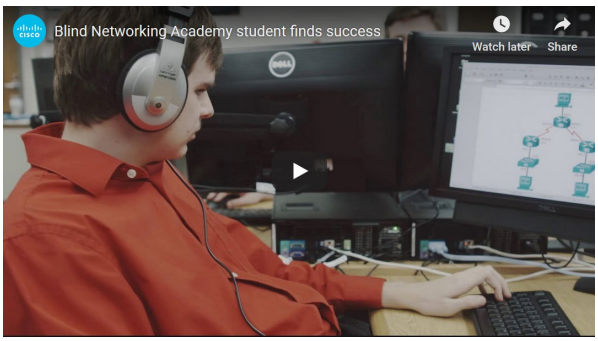
Last but not least, SAVE THE DATE for the 2019 MOSPA Conference, which is scheduled for May 1 – May 3, 2019 at Boyne Mountain Resort.

Submitted by Leigha Compson, MOSPA At-Large Representative

Follow-Up on Students

Jacob Brink – Van Buren Technology Center (VBTC)

Jacob was featured in the 2017 and 2018 issues of the Newsletter. Jacob attended the Van Buren Technology Center and graduated from Bangor Public Schools in May of 2018 and is doing very well! Denis Huffman, Jacob's former teacher, followed up on Jacob and states that during the summer of 2018, Jacob had the opportunity to attend the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) Training Center in Kalamazoo, MI and participated in personal adjustment training that teaches individuals how to independently live. Jacob is attending Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor and is majoring in Networking. Congratulations to Jacob on his continued success!



Submitted by Denis Huffman, instructor at VBTC

Ayre'Anna Young – Detroit Public Schools Community District

Ayre'Anna was featured in the Fall 2017 issue of the Newsletter. Ayre'Anna graduated from Detroit Public Schools, Randolph Career and Technical Center. Valerie Felder had an opportunity to follow up on Ayre'Anna. Ayre'Anna will begin an HVACR apprenticeship in February of 2019 at Operating Engineers Local 324 in downtown Detroit. Congratulations to Ayre'Anna on her continued success!

Submitted by Valerie Felder

Amber (Bryce) Scotti – L'Anse Creuse High School

Amber is a 2012 L'Anse Creuse High School — North graduate who took Career and Technical Education classes at the Frederick V. Pankow Center. Now she is a successful Paint Technician for Penske Vehicle Services, where she mixes just the right amount of art and science to do specialized painting on vehicles of all makes and models. Please click on the following link to read more about Amber. Amber Scotti

Submitted by Kelly Allen, Dean Sabelhaus, and Melissa Tilley from L'Anse Creuse Public Schools

Helpful Resources

How ESSA and IDEA Can Support College and Career Readiness for Students with Disabilities

A significant graduation rate gap remains between students with disabilities and the overall rate in the U.S. This indicates that students with disabilities are not receiving the support and experiences they need to be college and career ready. The brief in the following link provides information on how ESSA and IDEA can be used to promote the development of meaningful pathways for students with disabilities.

College and Career Readiness for Students with Disabilities

Michigan Transition Services Association Conference (MTSA)

The MTSA provides support to assist students and young adults with disabilities as they transition through school to achieve their post-school goals. The annual MTSA conference will be held on March 11-13, 2019, in Traverse City, MI. The theme of the conference is Transition: Making the Difference, and the Keynote Speaker is Randy Lewis who integrated students with disabilities into the workforce at Walgreens. He also created the *No Greatness Without Goodness* (NOGWOG) Disability Initiative. This non-profit organization is dedicated to the expansion of hiring persons with disabilities by Fortune 500 companies based upon the Walgreens' experience. Please click the following link to receive more information about the Conference: MTSA Conference

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.