



For Immediate Release

April 23, 2025

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Agriscience Student Signs 2-year Commitment to Keystone Cooperative's SEED Program

Professional Development Program Offers Full-time Employment, Benefits

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. – Before he even officially receives his high school diploma, Ben Landis has secured a paid, full-time job where he gets to continue exploring his passion in the agricultural industry.

Landis, a Bellaire High School senior in the [Agriscience](#) program at Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Career Tech, signed a two-year employment commitment through the SEED (Securing Experience + Employment Development) program with Keystone Cooperative.

The SEED program represents both a two-year development initiative and an employment commitment designed to cultivate emerging talent within the agricultural industry. The program allows high school graduates to spend two years exploring what it's like to work in the grain, energy, agronomy, and swine and animal nutrition industries, as well in a corporate setting through Keystone Cooperative, where they are hired as full-time employees.

“We are incredibly proud of Ben’s work in the classroom and the effort he has made to achieve this opportunity,” said Brian Matchett, instructor of the Agriscience program at Career Tech. “Our program focuses on providing tangible skills relevant to modern agriculture – exactly the kind of expertise valued by industry leaders like Keystone Cooperative.”

Landis was one of 18 students selected to be part of the 2025 Class of SEED Professionals. He was chosen among 51 applicants from across the Midwest. North Ed Career Tech partnered with Keystone Cooperative to host a “signing day” event Tuesday morning to commemorate Landis’s commitment to the SEED program. The event was held at North Ed Career Tech, 880 Parsons Road, Traverse City.

The Agriscience program at North Ed Career Tech immerses students in plant and animal science, natural resources, agribusiness and agricultural mechanics. The robust curriculum provides a comprehensive foundation for diverse careers and further education within the agricultural sector.

“Ben’s commitment with Keystone Cooperative’s SEED program is a wonderful illustration of what North Ed Career Tech aims to achieve,” said Pat Lamb, assistant superintendent of Career and Technical Education at North Ed. “Our mission is to provide students with unique opportunities to develop in-demand skills through hands-on learning. Programs like Agriscience

offer the training and skills development that open doors for students, whether they're heading to additional learning opportunities or stepping directly into a career pathway right after graduation.”

The SEED program, which had its inaugural class in 2024, allows graduating high schoolers and FFA members to explore different sectors of Keystone Cooperative's operation while enjoying all the benefits that come with being a full-time employee, such as employer-funded trainings and professional accreditations. The program is designed to keep SEED Professionals as close to home for the program as possible, while still gaining hands-on experience in all five business rotations. If a professional needs to move in order to receive a well-rounded experience, Keystone covers the expense of housing.

“Our second class of SEED Professionals represent passionate and qualified students across Indiana, Ohio and Michigan,” shares Sarah Morehouse, SEED professional coordinator. “These young professionals, including Ben, are not just excited about agriculture, but are exceptional leaders in their schools and communities. Our Keystone team is excited to meet them in early June and see each of them excel in our organization.”

Headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana, Keystone Cooperative is a 100% farmer-owned cooperative serving customers across Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Illinois. To learn more about the SEED program and Keystone Cooperative, [click here](#).

North Ed Career Tech offers more than 20 [programs](#) to high school juniors and seniors from Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties. Students are educated in career and technical fields, offering hands-on practical experiences, job shadowing, career exploration and early college opportunities, along with rigorous academic integration. For more information about North Ed Career Tech, [click here](#).

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Photos below



Sarah Morehouse, SEED program manager with Keystone Cooperative, standing right, speaks to an audience about the program, as Ben Landis, a Bellaire High School senior in the [Agriscience](#) program at Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Career Tech, is shown seated with his parents, Chris and Kristin Landis. Ben Landis signed a two-year employment commitment through the SEED (Securing Experience + Employment Development) program with Keystone Cooperative on Tuesday at the Career Tech facility in Traverse City. Landis is one of 18 students to be selected as the Class of 2025 SEED Professionals.

Below left, Landis signs the agreement with Keystone Cooperative. Below right, Landis is shown with his parents, Morehouse and Talon Felker, a Keystone farmer-member liaison.





Above, Ben Landis is shown with his parents, Chris and Kristin Landis (seated), his grandparents, Mary and Don Landis, and his brother, Josh Landis.

Below, Ben Landis is shown with his parents, and (standing, from left) Pat Lamb, assistant superintendent of Career and Technical Education for Northwest Education Services, and Brian Matchett, instructor of the Agriscience program at North Ed Career Tech.

