



TBAISD Career-Tech Center
880 Parsons Road, Traverse City, 49686-3692
Phone (231) 922-6273 Fax (231) 922-6364
www.tbactc.org

PRESS RELEASE

February 3, 2011
For Immediate Release

For more information contact:
Patrick Lamb, CTC Principal/Director
(231) 922-6260

Traverse Bay Area Career-Tech Center Earns Best in State Honors for Instructional Leadership

January 31, 2011 --- Staff and administrators from the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District Career-Tech Center (TBAISD CTC) were honored in Grand Rapids by the Michigan Department of Education with the prestigious **2011 Excellence in Practice Award**, recognizing exemplary practices in preparing Michigan's students for higher education and careers. The Career-Tech Center (CTC) is acknowledged for providing quality academic integration and delivery of Michigan Merit Curriculum in its technical programs through authentic delivery methods and contextual lessons that meet both the technical and English Language Arts and math curriculum standards.

The intent of the Excellence in Practice Award is to recognize successful Tech Prep and state-approved Career and Technical Education programs that provide students with rigorous academic and technical preparation for high-demand and high-skill employment, as well as rich work-based learning opportunities and postsecondary credit options. CTC was able to demonstrate outstanding outcomes, produce measurable results for students, and meet the challenge of high academic rigor, making a crucial difference in the success of Traverse Bay Area students, their schools, and communities.

The essence of CTC's initiative was to blend academic rigor and relevance with a supportive and balanced relationship to support local district needs. Since 2003, CTC has worked closely with its 21 local public school districts, parochial, and charter schools to assure that their students enrolling in career and technical education (CTE) programs were receiving instruction and gaining mastery in academic content expectations consistent with those students not enrolled in the CTC. With the onset of new graduation requirements for the 2011 graduating class, this academic initiative has proven most valuable to those students who have chosen to pursue these elective career and technical training opportunities.

For more than 10 years, TBAISD CTC staff have analyzed and aligned their curricula to state academic standards and benchmarks, and, most recently, The Michigan Content Expectations for English Language Arts, Algebra I and II, Geometry, Chemistry, and Physics. From this academic integration initiative, contracts were designed to guide students through the understanding that enrollment for academic credit from CTC programs required commitment of program completion with minimum absences and a passing grade. When the initiative began, 39



Page 2: Best in State Honors for Instructional Leadership

contracts for academic credit were filed; currently, 330 student contracts are on file for the 2010-11 school year.

CTC has been noted as a model technical institution through the collective efforts of 100% of staff members- teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, and support staff. As a result of the highly-qualified academic and technical teachers' efforts and their progressive technical and academic instructional practices, the Career-Tech Center has exceeded state standards and has demonstrated outstanding leadership in secondary education. All 22 CTC programs have at least one academic instructor assigned to the technical program. All students in each program are receiving academic instruction, aligned to the content expectations and as a natural part of the career and technical education curricula. Student achievement is a constant focus and the Traverse Bay Area Career-Tech Center has raised the bar to support the goal of having all students ready for college, ready for careers, and ready for a 21st century world.

To discover more about career and technical experience programs offered to eleventh and twelfth grade students from within the five-county region, go to: www.tbactc.org

#####

Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District serves Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau counties. We are LEADING LIFETIME LEARNING to make the Traverse Bay Area THE BEST PLACE to live and learn for ALL students. For more information about TBAISD visit www.tbaisd.k12.mi.us.