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TBAISD Career-Tech Center Teacher Academy Program Earns Best in State Honors

Traverse City --- Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District Career-Tech Center **Teacher Academy** staff and administrators were honored in Detroit on February 11 by the Michigan Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education with the prestigious **2013 Excellence in Practice Award**. The Teacher Academy program was recognized for exemplary practices of providing students with rigorous academic and work-based learning opportunities that have led its graduates to success in postsecondary training and careers in the field of teaching.

In the eleven years since the program's inception, the Teacher Academy has successfully delivered expanded options for students interested in a career in teaching, combining current research and practices in the field of teacher education with a unique program delivery model that ensures students ample opportunity to experience the challenges, demands, rewards and successes that are inherent in the teaching profession.

The Career-Tech Center Teacher Academy program couples future teachers with mentor and host teachers to provide students with experiences in all aspects of school-related activities from classroom and professional development experiences to school board and parent/teacher meetings. Students enrolled in the Teacher Academy are exposed to current best practices in curriculum design, pedagogical practices, educational technology, and, *most importantly*, actual teaching experiences. As a result of their involvement in the program, students gain a realistic understanding of the demands of teaching in the 21st century, leaving them better prepared for postsecondary training.

"It is incredibly rewarding for me to see this program receive recognition by the Michigan Department of Education," explains Teacher Academy Instructor Susan O'Connor. "Gratitude is due to the talented and dedicated group of mentor and host teachers across the region and at the Career-Tech Center who have supported the academy and challenged me every step of the way. I am extremely proud of how the Teacher Academy has evolved."

This is the second Excellence in Practice Award for the TBAISD Career-Tech Center in three years. This regional education center was previously honored in 2011 for Instructional Leadership for providing quality academic integration and authentic delivery of Michigan Merit Curriculum in its career and technical programs.

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The Teacher Academy is a program of the TBAISD Career-Tech Center. The center offers a choice of 22 tuition-free career and technical education programs to eleventh and twelfth grade students in the five-county Grand Traverse region. Additional information is available at www.tbactc.org

Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District serves Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau counties. LEADING LIFETIME LEARNING to be the BEST educational system in the WORLD. For more information about TBAISD please visit our website at www.tbaisd.org.