



TBAISD Career-Tech Center  
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## Press Release

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### **TBAISD Career-Tech Center Receives National Excellence in Action Award for Innovative Teacher Academy Program**

**Traverse City, MI** - Today, the Teacher Academy at Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District Career-Tech Center received the prestigious national Excellence in Action Award from [Advance CTE](#). Career-Tech Center program instructor Susan O'Connor and district administrators accepted the honor at an April 5 award ceremony as part of the Advance CTE spring meeting in Washington, D.C

The award honors innovative and effective Career Technical Education (CTE) programs across the nation. The TBAISD Career-Tech Center Teacher Academy exemplifies excellence in providing relevant work-based learning opportunities through sustained partnerships with education, community and industry leaders; integrates rigorous academics; meets college and career readiness standards; and has demonstrated substantial evidence of student success and achievement. The Teacher Academy received the award in the Education and Training Career Cluster.

Launched in 2002, the Teacher Academy was established as a response to a projected national and regional teacher shortage and provided expanded options of study for high school students interested in a career in teaching. The program averages 80 students each year who participate in educational theory, research, and psychology coursework. Most notably, Teacher Academy students are placed in area classrooms to assist seasoned teachers who can mentor the students and benefit from a fresh approach to education. The program is dedicated and passionate about creating seamless transitions to postsecondary education and career.

Over the course of three years, 92 percent of Teacher Academy learners qualified to earn articulated college credits. Work-based learning experiences are extensive. Graduates will have worked in eight different classroom settings and earned over 400 hours of field experience. The program continues to demonstrate a positive impact on student success. Since 2014, 100 percent of Academy students earned an industry-recognized credential, participated in work-based learning and graduated from high school.

“We are fortunate to have active professionals throughout the five-county region supporting our programs by providing tools, professional mentors, job shadowing, and internship opportunities to our young people. You can see these kids get energized from meaningful interaction within a career that is leading them toward a successful future,” says Jason Jeffrey, Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent for General and Career Technical Education.

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Kalkaska High School graduate Daryl Dimon, Class of 2004, spent his junior and senior years of high school with aspirations of becoming a teacher through the works of the Teacher Academy at the Career-Tech Center. Upon graduating, Cum Laude, from Central Michigan University, May 2009, Mr. Dimon has come full circle and is back in the Kalkaska Public School District teaching in the middle school.

“We are so proud to have not only one, but several of our own graduates, come back to be hired by schools within the region, and to teach and make a difference in this community,” says Teacher Academy instructor, Susan O’Connor.

"The programs of study that we honor today all share a steadfast commitment to the highest expectations for CTE," said Kimberly Green, Executive Director of Advance CTE. "This dedication to quality and excellence leads to strong learner outcomes, creating opportunities for a lifetime of career and education success. Today's honorees serve as national models of what high-quality CTE looks like and can achieve."

More than 1,100 students from school districts in the five-county Traverse Bay area attend CTC’s 24 career and technical programs tuition-free during their junior and senior years in high school. The CTC programs supplement the students’ academic coursework at their local high school. For more information about TBAISD Career-Tech Center go to the TBAISD website or call (231) 922-6273.

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*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 educational system in the world. For more information go to the [TBAISD website](http://www.tbaisd.org)*

### **Additional resources:**

2018 Advance CTE Excellence in Action Award [here](#).

Teacher Academy Program Excellence in Action Award two-pager [Overview](#)

[Teacher Academy Video](#) – created by Dr. Adam Manley, Western Michigan University

### **About Advance CTE:**

*Advance CTE: State Leaders Connecting Learning to Work is the longest-standing non-profit that represents State Directors and state leaders responsible for secondary, postsecondary and adult Career Technical Education (CTE) across all 50 states and U.S. territories. Established in 1920, Advance CTE supports visionary state leadership, cultivates best practices and speaks with a collective voice on national policy to promote academic and technical excellence that ensures a career-ready workforce.*