



For Immediate Release

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Professional Presentations by Career Tech Students Score Gold

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. – With scholarships at stake and leadership skills taking shape, Early Education program students at Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Career Tech put their best feet forward recently. Twenty five students traveled to Dearborn in March to learn, network and compete at the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) state leadership conference.

The annual FCCLA state event was held March 19-21 and assembled students from throughout Michigan, advisers and guests to participate in leadership sessions, exhibits, competitions, networking sessions and more.

Several Career Tech Early Education students who entered the Professional Presentation competition received gold honors, including:

- Paige Bell (Grand Traverse Academy)
- Serafina Boonstra (Kingsley High School)
- Rylee Ellison (TC Central High School)
- Karoline Haapala (TC Central High School)
- Jalynn Morris (Mancelona High School)
- Johanna Okeke (Elk Rapids High School)
- Kira Roy (TC Central High School)
- Bailey Stege (Mancelona High School)
- Kailey Stover (Benzie Central High School)
- Isabelle Tulgetske (Benzie Central High School)

In addition, one Career Tech student received gold honors and advances to the FCCLA national competition in Seattle June 29-July 3:

- Florence Stoeckel (TC Central High School)

“Our student competitors invested significant energy into their presentations focused on education and families,” explained Career Tech Early Education Instructor Mel Dahlman. “They choose topics to present that they are passionate about. It’s challenging to inform the judges with persuasion, poise and creativity – all while balancing the pressure of competition – but I’m so proud of our students and how well they performed.”

The Professional Presentation competition is part of [FCCLA's "STAR" events](#) – or Students Taking Action with Recognition. Through the event, students make an oral presentation about issues concerning family or consumer sciences and/or related occupations. They must also prepare visual materials in support of their presentations.

According to FCCLA, contest participants learn about and showcase their competence in leadership, public speaking, self-confidence, creativity and awareness within the community and world. FCCLA is a national student organization that offers opportunities for students to pursue careers that support families, expand their leadership potential, and develop skills for life such as planning, goal setting, problem-solving, decision making, and interpersonal communication.

Career Tech's [Early Education](#) program serves 11th and 12th grade students from throughout North Ed's five-county region. It enables students to explore best practices for teaching developmental skills to young learners and provides them experiences and opportunities to understand the career path. [Career Tech](#) has more than 20 programs designed to introduce and prepare students to enter in-demand industries.

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