

2018

Excellence in Action Award

Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District Career-Tech Center

Teacher Academy Program

Education & Training Career Cluster

OVERVIEW

In 2001, a statewide decline in the number of practicing educators in Michigan led college instructors, teachers and district administrators to develop a Career Technical Education program of study to encourage learners to consider teaching as a career pathway and grow their own teacher pipeline. The Teacher Academy at the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District Career-Tech Center in Traverse City, MI, brings together juniors and seniors from 26 high schools across five rural counties to experience all aspects of the teaching profession.

The Teacher Academy blends academic, technical and real-world knowledge and skills. Throughout the two-year program of study, Teacher Academy learners work directly with students in a variety of classroom settings and earn more than 400 hours of field experience. Academy students can receive up to four industry certifications and earn credit toward local two- and four-year colleges.

Student Demographics (76)	Percentage
Male	17%
Female	83%
Low Income	34%
Minority	8%

WORK-BASED LEARNING FOR ALL

All Academy students are required to participate in work-based learning and receive one-on-one support and guidance throughout their experiences. Throughout the program, a placement services coordinator meets with students to develop postsecondary and career pathway plans, ensuring that learners are supported in their career and education goals and can make informed decisions upon graduating high school.

In addition to ongoing career advisement, learners rotate workplace settings each quarter to ensure that they have a wide breadth of experiences. At each site, students are paired with host teachers who serve as mentors and provide opportunities for students to be engaged in classroom and school-related activities,

such as school board meetings, lesson planning, parent/teacher meetings, one-on-one tutoring and other professional development experiences.

As a result of these hands-on experiences, learners gain a realistic understanding of the demands of teaching in the 21st century.



DUAL CREDIT AND CERTIFICATION

In addition to significant work-based learning, learners have seamless pathways to postsecondary education. To prepare learners for their postsecondary options, the Academy partners with Northwestern Michigan College, Central Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, Ferris State University and Baker College, ensuring multiple pathways toward postsecondary education, where learners can pursue an associate or bachelor's degree in elementary, secondary or early childhood education. As a result, last year, 92 percent learners earned postsecondary credit, and all of those students enrolled in postsecondary programs upon graduating from high school.

As the program looks to the future, an Early College Pathway is being developed for students to spend an additional year in high school to earn an associate degree or up to 60 college credits toward a postsecondary certification or degree. Learners enrolled in the Early College Pathway can earn the Michigan Early/Middle College Association technical certification.

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to classroom settings, work-based learning opportunities are provided through strong and sustained partnerships with local businesses and nonprofits, including facilitating early childhood exploration days at the Grand Traverse Children's Museum and running the afterschool programs at the YMCA. Learners are exposed to a variety of teacher settings and populations, which they may serve in their career.

A partnership with the nonprofit organization SEEDS, which implements local solutions to global issues at the intersection of ecology, education and design, allows Academy students to plan activities for students interested in outdoor education. Additionally, through the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District Migrant Education Program, learners receive training on the unique needs of migrant populations, and qualified students are hired to work with preschool to 6th grade migrant students across the region.

"Students like ours, from rural, economically depressed areas, have opportunities that they never would without this program, and it has positively influenced not only those students who have been in the program over the past 14 years, but also our school as a whole."
— Christi Hulett, Teacher Academy Mentor

Success by the Numbers



100%

Participated in Work-Based Learning



100%

Graduated High School



92%

Enrolled in Postsecondary Education



100%

Earned an Industry-Recognized Credential



91%

Earned Postsecondary Credit

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