

CTE students, local businesses honored at MISD



Chippewa Valley High School student Stephen Perkins is one of 42 students who will be recognized at the Macomb Career Technical Education Administrator Association awards event on Feb. 5 Photo courtesy of CLAIRE BRISSON

By Nicole Tuttle , For The Macomb Daily

Posted: 02/08/16, 10:05 AM EST |



Dakota High School senior Rachel Zaprawa is one of two students selected from the Chippewa Valley Schools district to be honored at the Feb. 5 Macomb Career Technical Education Administrator Association awards event. Photo courtesy of CLAIRE BRISSON

A breakfast of champions took place at the Macomb Intermediate School District on Feb. 5, as the best and brightest Macomb County career and technical education (CTE) program students and business partners were recognized by the Macomb CTE Administrators Association.

This year marked the 26th that career and technical education administrators of Macomb County have honored top CTE students according to Scott Palmer, CTE regional administrator for the MISD.

Each school district selected two students and a business partner for honors with 42 students from county schools and Macomb Community College being honored, as well as 20 businesses.

School districts work internally to select students and business partners for the awards, Palmer said. The Macomb Career Technical Education Administrators Association provides awards nomination forms, asking for

information about the student's skills, post-graduation plans and contributions to the school district and community.

“In many cases it is those students that do rise to the top, they are recognized as really doing some great things. It could be anything from some of the projects they have done and work they have done on a job as part of a school to work program. They really excel and apply what they have learned in school in a workplace setting,” Palmer said.

In the Chippewa Valley Schools district, Dakota High School senior Rachel Zaprawa was nominated by teacher Scott Mitchell for her work in the design technology program.

“Rachel leads by example and many people here find her enthusiasm and dedication both inspiring and motivating. Her research on her current electric vehicle project was invariably thorough and comprehensive, and her design concepts were consistently creative and always appropriate and timely,” Mitchell wrote on Zaprawa's nomination form.

Chippewa Valley Schools also selected to honor senior Stephen Perkins, who participates in the CTE accounting program.

“Stephen is impressive in his ability to handle a full academic course load as well as several extra-curricular activities. Stephen has an impeccable GPA (4.019) to match his equally impressive college level courses he takes here at Chippewa Valley High School,” nominating teacher Kristy Walker wrote on Perkins' nomination form.

Students in all school districts in the county have the opportunity to attend career and technical education programs, although different districts have different types and numbers of program offerings.

There are 201 CTE programs offered county-wide, with 26 program areas, offering all 16 national career clusters in 33 operating buildings with a total of 13,500 enrolled students. Some CTE career choices offered include graphics communications, business administration management, automotive technician, mechanical drafting/CAD, therapeutic services and personal and culinary services.

Business partners selected often have strong and demonstrative support of school career and technical education programs, such as offering scholarships or other programs to help students obtain an experience as close to the real world as possible, according to Palmer.

“Many times they come in and speak to students about what they do or bring students to their place of business, make equipment donations or take school to work students as interns,” Palmer said.

One example is Debbie Hampton, the executive director of Church of Christ Assisted Living in Clinton Township. Hampton was nominated by Chippewa Valley Schools CTE Internship Coordinator Brad Morris for her work with the school's medical academy program. According to information supplied by the school district, Hampton was nominated for providing many of the district's medical academy students with paid internships.