



2025

Michigan Career Education Conference

Conference Program



January 26 - 28, 2025

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel | Grand Rapids, Michigan

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GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Conference Attendees:

Welcome to the Michigan Career Education Conference (MICEC), our state's premier career development conference. This unique event is a valuable opportunity to connect with like-minded professionals, engage in unique, innovative breakout sessions, explore instructional techniques and initiatives not found at any other event, and connect with fellow educators equally passionate about student success.

The conference theme is "Pathways to Career Success for All" and offers opportunities to:

- Discover resources for effective career readiness activities, including the new Michigan Career Development Model (MCDM), with updated targets and strategies for early childhood, elementary, middle school, high school, and post-secondary.
- Experience firsthand how CTE programs align academic content with practical career skills, integrate the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) flexibilities, support ongoing career advisement with educational development plans, and align with local labor market needs.
- Connect with industry-leading vendors showcasing state-of-the-art technology to enhance career readiness.
- Earn college and career State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs).

As state superintendent, I am committed to creating pathways that ensure all Michigan students acquire skills that prepare them for successful career entry, advancement, and/or continuing education for high-wage, high-demand careers.

Thank you for your dedication and continued commitment to our students' futures. Best wishes for a great conference and second semester of the school year!

Sincerely,

Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
State Superintendent
Michigan Department of Education



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STATE OF MICHIGAN



CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN,
I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim

February 2025

as

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

WHEREAS, career and technical education in Michigan prepares students at the secondary and postsecondary levels to have the academic, technical, employability, and career skills to enter, compete, and advance in education and their careers; and,

WHEREAS, career and technical education offers a diverse delivery system that provides students with leadership opportunities in various career fields, allowing for the rigorous and relevant application of workplace skills while incorporating reading, writing, and mathematics; and,

WHEREAS, career and technical education programs serve as a career and college-ready connection and are the foundation of a strong and well-educated workforce and should be available to students in every corner of Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, career and technical education offers students opportunities to earn college credit, industry certification, and licenses in high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand fields, as aligned with Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan to expand secondary learning opportunities for all students and increase the percentage of adults with a post-secondary credential; and,

WHEREAS, career and technical education provides students with work-based learning experiences to provide Michigan with a highly skilled, sustainable workforce, which will help achieve the state's goal of reaching 60% postsecondary education attainment rate by 2030; and,

WHEREAS, according to the Michigan Department of Education, in the 2023-24 school year, 112,156 students enrolled in CTE programs, the third year of increases totaling more than 9,000 students, or 9%, since the 2020-21 school year enrollment of 102,988 and CTE completers have increased more than 8,000 students, or 19% from 44,226 in 2020-21 to 52,625 in 2023-24.

WHEREAS, during this month, we join with the Michigan Department of Education, the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, and the Michigan Association for Career and Technical Education to encourage youths and adults in Michigan to be ambassadors for career and technical education, and to send the message that Michigan career and technical education students are prepared for 21st-century high-wage, high-skilled, and in-demand jobs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, and Garlin Gilchrist II, lieutenant governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim February 2025 as Career and Technical Education Month in Michigan

Garlin Gilchrist II
Lieutenant Governor

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor



STATE OF MICHIGAN



CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN,
I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim

February 15 - 22, 2025

as

ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

WHEREAS, entrepreneurship is a key building block to success in the workplace and communities as it brings ideas, creativity, and innovation to life and drives economic growth on local, state, and national levels; and,

WHEREAS, according to the 2023 Small Business Profile, business owners by demographics in Michigan are women (43.5%), veterans (5.2%), Hispanics (3.1%), and racial minorities (16.3%); and,

WHEREAS, according to the Statistics of U.S. Businesses, U.S. Census Bureau (SUSB), 908,007 small firms have established themselves in the state—that's 99.6% of all businesses in Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, 1.9 million individuals are employed by small businesses in the state, comprising 47.3% of the private workforce (SUSB).

WHEREAS, during this week and as we work toward a better Michigan, we encourage youth and all citizens throughout the state to explore innovative ways in which entrepreneurship education can bring together the core academic, technical, and problem-solving skills essential for the success of our state's future entrepreneurs; and,

WHEREAS, a total of 14,265 identified firms exported goods worth \$52.5 billion from Michigan in 2021. Of those exporters, 12,688 (89.9%) were small. Exports by small firms reached \$12.1 billion, making up 23.1% of exports by identified firms.

WHEREAS, according to the Ipsos for Junior Achievement (JA) USA, more than half of Junior Achievement alumni report having started or owned a business (or multiple businesses) at least once in their life (51% overall – 45% White JA Alumni, 53% Black JA Alumni, 67% Hispanic/Latino JA Alumni); and,

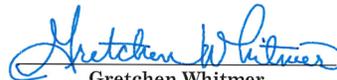
WHEREAS, the State of Michigan offers a network of support hubs and funding resources to help high-tech entrepreneurs and small businesses access mentoring, networking events, product development, grant writing, business planning, technology mining, market analysis, and more to support their business growth; and,

WHEREAS, during this month, we join with other states in engaging public and private organizations to spark entrepreneurial initiatives that can serve as a catalyst for new economic opportunities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, and Garlin Gilchrist II, lieutenant governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim February 15-22, 2025, as Entrepreneurship Week in Michigan.



Garlin Gilchrist II
Lieutenant Governor



Gretchen Whitmer
Governor





EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING



Working together to promote a flexible, innovative and effective workforce system by developing customized solutions for businesses and individuals.

Check out Employment & Training's Pathfinder booth at the conference to discover Michigan's free, online career exploration tool!

Michigan.gov/LEO
LEARN MORE TODAY!



Thank you **MI**LEARNER WALLET!



To get your SCECH credits scan the QR Code to setup your MI Learner Wallet and start earning your credits today!

Try It Out!





HELP STUDENTS CURATE CAREERS THAT CATER TO THEIR LIVES.

Discover the world of opportunity in hospitality.

Hospitality is one of Michigan's fastest growing industries. We can help your school put students on the fast track. The Michigan Hospitality Foundation has the state's leading and most comprehensive programs that provide high school students with hands-on experience, local apprenticeship and mentorship to guide them to success.

Come find us by the MHF prize wheel at Booth #24 to learn more about hospitality programs for your school. We'll also tell you how you could win a complete set of HTM books for your classroom!



MiHF.org/CareerEd



Celebrating Our Students

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION



Olivia Stepnioski
Centerline High School

Through four years in Junior ROTC at Centerline High School, Olivia Stepnioski developed leadership, communication, and self-discipline, serving as Battalion Commander and RAIDERS Team leader. As the first female RAIDERS commander at Center Line High School, she led diverse cadets, promoted inclusion, and fostered teamwork in rigorous competitions. These experiences deepened her understanding of leadership styles and psychology, inspiring her passion for developmental neuroscience. With guidance from Staff Sergeant Pruitt and Mrs. Akroush, Olivia earned 11 college credits, achieved numerous academic honors, and prepared to study psychology and neuroscience at the University of Southern California. Her journey reflects the dedication to growth and understanding others.

WELCOME OUR CTSO MEMBERS



DECA
Carter Hostetler
Grandville High School

Carter Hostetler, DECA State Secretary, is a senior at Grandville High School. His DECA advisor is Parker Stewart.



FCCLA
Audrey Overley
Saint Johns High School

Audrey Overley, FCCLA Vice President of Chapter Development, is a junior at Saint Johns High School. Her FCCLA advisor is Allie Svoboda.



SkillsUSA
Wyatt Boggs
Owosso High School

Wyatt Boggs, SkillsUSA National Secretary, is a senior engineering student at Owosso High School. Wyatt served 2 terms as a SkillsUSA Michigan State Officer before his election to national officer. His SkillsUSA advisor is Carrie Warning.



Audio Engineering & Video Editing program

Harbor Springs Public Schools

The MICEC welcomes the Harbor Springs Public Schools Audio Engineering & Video Editing (AEVE) program as they create content. Please be aware that you may be asked for an interview or filmed during the conference.



Color Guard
Jessica Couch, Instructor
Hopkins High School FFA

Excellence in Practice Awards



Business and Community Partnerships

Pontiac City School District

[Bryan Schuerman](#) - CTE Supervisor,
Pontiac City School District

[Dr. Tomoko Wakabayashi](#) - Assistant Professor,
College of Human Development and Child Studies,
Oakland University

The Early Childhood Education Program at Pontiac High School was created through a collaboration with Oakland University. Through this program, students will take college-level coursework in high school through Oakland University while also receiving high school credit through part of a State Approved Program (13.0000: Education, General). This program will funnel students into the Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education at Oakland University with requirements already met upon high school graduation. This project will collaborate with Oakland

County Michigan Works! to offer eligible students paid work-based learning opportunities, including registered apprenticeships supported by state grants. Michigan Works! also provides resources to overcome employment barriers, like transportation or supplies.

Additionally, the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA) will provide credit-based practicum and apprenticeship sites for CTE students, along with workshops and service-learning opportunities. OLHSA, a Head Start/Early Head Start grantee, has sites across Oakland County. CTE students will also visit Oakland University's NAEYC-accredited Lowry Early Childhood Center weekly, gaining hands-on experience in a high-quality early childhood program located near Pontiac High School.

Engaging Instruction

Northwest Education Services Career Tech

[Dawn Anton](#) - Instructor

[Elizabeth Miller](#) - Instructor

[Alison Stephens](#) - Instructor

[Sarah Bernstein](#) - ELA Instructor

[Kristie Reicha](#) - Paraprofessional

[Dawn Hankins](#) - Paraprofessional

[Kate Clair](#) - Paraprofessional

The Health Sciences program at Northwest Education Services Career Tech in Traverse City, MI, boasts a strong track record of success. With an historical Completer rate exceeding 90%, the program is dedicated to preparing students for careers in the field. Partnerships with Munson Medical Center and Grand Valley State University offer students opportunities for hands-on experience and academic advancement. The integrated Language Arts instruction ensures students develop strong communication skills, essential for healthcare professionals. The instructional team, composed of

experienced healthcare workers and teachers, brings their expertise to the classroom daily, providing students with valuable preparation for the industry.

Each year, the Health Sciences program hosts a Teddy Bear Clinic for over 100 local Kindergarteners. Children bring stuffed animals and, with guidance from Health Sciences and Early Education students, explore stations like eye exams, CT scans, and dental check-ups. Upon arrival, each child becomes "Doctor" for the day, creating name tags and engaging in non-threatening, educational healthcare experiences. The clinic reduces fear of medical visits while fostering empathy and child development best practices. Health Sciences students apply their knowledge, preparing for future careers in healthcare, while positively impacting the community by nurturing skilled professionals for local hospitals, clinics, and laboratories.

Excellence in Practice Awards



Student Assessment

Kent Career Tech Center

[Craig Weigel](#) - Kent Career Tech Center Principal

The Kent Career Tech Center Automotive department services approximately 250 students and is closely aligned and accredited through the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) formerly NATEF. They are providing students with high level work-based learning in local dealerships and working on an apprenticeship program with the US Department of Labor.

Students in the automotive program are assessed through hands-on performance tasks and written state certification tests. They demonstrate skills

by maintaining and repairing actual vehicles and undergo biannual Performance Evaluations by the Advisory Committee, which include timed tasks like brake replacements completed to industry standards. While written state certification exams present unique challenges, students excel, earning ASE Entry-Level Certifications: 230 in 2022-2023 (5 areas) and 221 in 2023-2024 (10 areas). According to the 2022-2023 Secondary Annual Performance Evaluation, 66.2% of students earned recognized postsecondary credentials, far surpassing the state average of 7.5%, highlighting their exceptional mastery of automotive skills.

Access and Equity

Star International Academy

[Dr. Ali Bazzi](#) - Superintendent of Schools
[Joumana Hamadeh](#) - Career and Technical Education (CTE) Director and Title III Coach
[Fatima Atieh](#) - CTE Teacher & School Nurse (RN)
[Lara Dgheish](#) - District Pupil Accountant

The Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) program at Star International Academy provides students with the essential skills and knowledge to excel in healthcare. Through a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on clinical experience, the program prepares graduates to become compassionate, competent CNAs capable of delivering high-quality patient care. Focused on both technical proficiency and personal development, the program ensures students are equipped for success in diverse healthcare settings, while also offering support for certification and career advancement. Recognized for its excellence, the CNA CTE program is a key contributor to meeting the

growing demand for skilled healthcare professionals.

The CTE Center of Star International Academy prioritizes access and equity in its CNA program. The program actively recruits a diverse range of students, including individuals from underrepresented communities, economically disadvantaged backgrounds, those with disabilities, English learners, and various racial and ethnic groups. To promote gender equity, the program encourages all students to explore CNA career pathways through targeted outreach to high schools, community organizations such as ACCESS and Zaman International, and healthcare institutions. Support services include financial aid guidance, tutoring, counseling, career advising, ADA accommodations, and bilingual materials, ensuring that all students have the resources needed to succeed.

Dr. Chery Wagonlander Early Middle College Excellence in Practice Awards

CELEBRATING EMC EXCELLENCE

The Michigan Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education (MDE-OCTE), in partnership with the Michigan Early Middle College Association (MEMCA), is excited to announce the winners of the Dr. Chery S. Wagonlander Early Middle College Excellence in Practice Awards at this year's Michigan Career Education Conference. The awards recognize one secondary and one postsecondary Early Middle College (EMC) practitioner for their leadership/influence, execution, and contributions to successful EMC programs in Michigan. Nominees include EMC administrators, counselors, administrative staff, EMC coordinators, EMC teachers, and postsecondary staff in EMC roles.



CELEBRATING DEDICATION TO EMC SUCCESS AND STUDENT SUPPORT

This year's award winners demonstrate Excellence in Practice in Early Middle Colleges in their communities and across the state. Their commitment to developing high-quality EMC programs, partnerships, and support for students is commendable. They are mentors for others, seeking to improve access and equity to EMCs for all students, and are champions for EMCs.



Michigan ACTE Award Winners



**2025 MI ACTE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

Joe Tasch
*Advisory Member of Oakland Schools
Technical Campuses*
Thomas Sebald and Associates



**2025 MI ACTE COUNSELING AND
CAREER DEVELOPMENT
PROFESSIONAL AWARD**

Karmin Olds
Counselor
**Northwest Education
Services Career Tech**



**2025 MI ACTE LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Dr. Katherine Manley
Professor of CTE
Ferris State University



**2025 MI ACTE NEW
TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

Chad Spence
Public Safety Instructor
**Centreville Public Schools/St. Joseph
County CTE Consortium**



**2025 MI ACTE OUTSTANDING
BUSINESS/EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP**

Cambron Engineering
*for their impactful partnership with Bay Arenac
ISD Career Center*



**2025 MI ACTE POSTSECONDARY
PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR**

Dr. Adam Cloutier
Vice President of Academics
Glen Oaks Community College



**2025 MI ACTE TEACHER
EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**

Gina Rios-Smith
Educational Careers Instructor
Ingham ISD/Wilson Talent Center



2025 MI ACTE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Gabriel Kooyers
Advanced Manufacturing Instructor
Van Buren Tech



**2025 MI ACTE ADMINISTRATOR
OF THE YEAR**

Patrick Lamb
Assistant Superintendent of CTE
**Northwest Education Services
Career Tech**

Keynote Speakers

DR. KEVIN J FLEMING



Dr. Kevin J Fleming is an educator, speaker, producer of multiple viral animation videos, including Success in the New Economy, and author of the bestseller, (Re)Defining the Goal.

Dissatisfied with the status quo, he has dedicated over two decades advancing career education forward as both a faculty member and administrator. Dr. Fleming serves as the Founder and CEO of Catapult, which delivers the world's best thought leaders, through hybrid-flexible masterclasses, that truly inform, motivate, and transform our institutions forward faster.

Dr. Fleming is a passionate advocate ensuring all students intentionally equip their potential, enter the labor market with a competitive advantage, and find their purpose, on purpose.

Sponsored by



**OPERATING
ENGINEERS 324**

CELENA MILLS

The State Director of CTE, Celena Mills, will be presenting an engaging update on statewide initiatives, highlighting innovations and progress over the past year.

Director Mills will also moderate a dynamic panel of current and former students. The discussion will showcase impactful success stories, the transformative power of career education, and its role in preparing students for future workforce demands.

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xello



DARRELL "COACH D" ANDREWS



Darrell "Coach D" Andrews is an internationally recognized education/workforce development consultant, strategist, motivator, and author. He and his team of experts conduct motivational live and virtual programs at thousands of schools, school districts, and workforce development organizations throughout the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean.

He developed the H.Y.P.E. (Helping Youth Pursue Excellence) Program. HYPE is one of the top-rated contracted youth programs nationally under the WIA (Workforce Investment Act) Grant in dropout prevention, soft-skills development, career development, and academic excellence.

Sponsored by



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EMPLOYMENT
& TRAINING



THE NEST
Star International Academy



Acknowledgments

The Michigan Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education (MDE-OCTE) would like to thank the planning committee, technical assistance staff, presenters, and monitors for their hard work, which has made this conference possible. The success of this conference is due to their efforts and the efforts of many others behind the scenes.

2025 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Program Chair

Candace Vinson, Office of Career and Technical Education, MDE

Conference Facilitators

EDGE

Danielle Lenz, Vice President

Sophia Rishar, Director of Events

Tiffany Hall, Event Assistant

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

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Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, & Potential

Education Partnerships: Family Engagement
Higher Education: MI Student Aid
Tribal Liaison

Michigan Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs

Michigan Department of Transportation

Michigan Department of US Department of Labor

Thank You

The Michigan Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education (MDE-OCTE) would like to acknowledge the cross-office, department, and agency collaborative efforts to support this conference.

GET SOCIAL WITH US!

Share your photos and tips you have learned throughout the conference.

Use #MICEC25 to share.





Happy Career & Technical Education Month

February 1 -28

#MiCareerTechEd #CTEMonth

CELEBRATE TODAY,
OWN TOMORROW!



CTE Month® is a public awareness campaign that takes place each February to celebrate the value of CTE and the achievements and accomplishments of CTE programs across the country.

Visit Michigan's page to access the CTE Month Toolkit and many other resources and ideas to support the celebration!



bit.ly/CTEMonthMI



Instagram
@MICTEStory



www.michigan.gov/mde/services/octe/students/cte-month

SAVE THE DATE 2026 MICEC

Michigan Career Education Conference



MICHIGAN
Department of
Education

January 25-27, 2026

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel | Grand Rapids

Turning Achievements into Opportunities

Talent Profiles

- 1 PROFILE CREATION
- 2 VERIFY CREDENTIALS
- 3 CUSTOMIZE FOR EACH JOB
- 4 SHARE WITH EMPLOYERS

CAREER READINESS

AUTOMOBILE TECHNICIAN
Great Lakes Career Center
(ASE CERTIFIED)

PUBLIC SAFETY PROTECT SERVICES
Great Lakes Career Center

MECHATRONICS
Great Lakes Career Center

ANIMAL HEALTH & VETERINARY SCIENCE
Great Lakes Career Center

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS
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CONSTRUCTION TRADES
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