



## Career & Technical Education

### Director Mike Miller Reports on CTE News:

**SkillsUSA** (Written by Linda Ward) - Students at the MOCC have been preparing to showcase their skills at the Michigan SkillsUSA State conference. Their hard work and dedication paid off! The MOCC received the “High Five” Award for the highest increase in membership and state participants earning a \$250 reimbursement. Also, 100% of our students earned the Michigan Statesman Award for their knowledge of the SkillsUSA organization!



(Erika Galbraith, Zaria Martin, and Jenna French)

The individual results were equally as impressive. Samantha Stilson and Alex Withers placed in the top ten highest scores among all state participants on the written Leadership Test! The following students earned medals:

**Gold Medal:** (Representing Michigan at the National Conference in June)

- Jenna French - Cosmetology Post-Secondary
- Sawyer Thebo - Firefighting

**Silver Medal:**

- Zaria Martin and her model, Erika Galbraith- Esthetics Post-Secondary
- Samuel Krakau – Firefighting
- Jakob Martinson, Kalib Robinson, Keegan McKinnon, Alex Withers, Zane Hardy, Elliott Seay, and Langston Hughes - Opening and Closing Team

**Bronze Medal:**

- Parker Younge - CNC Turning
- Jonathan Withers - CNC Milling Specialist
- Ashley Davis - CPR/ First Aid
- Donald Shepherd-Bowen - Action Skills

Congratulations to the instructors that worked with all students and are passionate about student success: Chris Battle, Kelli Bolin, Shelli Hallman, Mike Harvell, Joy Paquette, Jennifer Upham, and Doug Ward!



(Keegan McKinnon, Alex Withers, Kalib Robinson, Zane Hardy, Jakob Martinson, Elliott Seay, and Langston Hughes)

**MOCC Honor Cords** - On Thursday, April 26, MOCC seniors who have maintained a 3.0 GPA or higher received their purple CTE Honor Cord, which is recognized by all MOISD local districts and authorized for wear during high school graduation ceremonies. These students received overwhelming support from family and friends as evidenced by the large turnout. One student's mother even wrote about her son's experience at MOCC and the significance of the Honors Ceremony on her blog (<https://t.co/xynJRCp2tr>).

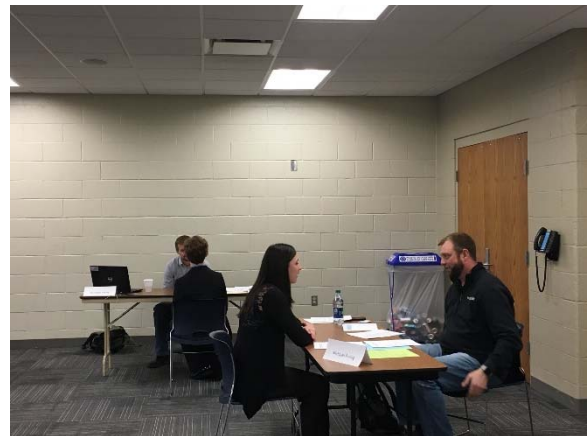


Additionally, three students were awarded scholarships. Olivia Thompson and Kylee Purcell were each awarded \$1,000 for winning the MOCC Scholarship, and Erin Flowers received \$1,250 for winning the Robert D. Miller Scholarship. Erin received her scholarship from Dave Hamelund on behalf of the Mecosta County Community Foundation.

These students will again be recognized at their respective high school honors ceremony. We're very proud of each of these student's achievements and look forward to seeing what great things they will accomplish after high school.

**Mock Interviews** - Over a dozen business and industry professionals donated time out of their busy schedules on April 24 to conduct mock interviews for MOCC students. For

months, students have been practicing their interviewing skills on both MOCC staff members and each other. The mock interview with a regional employer is the culminating event of all their hard work and prepares them for the real thing. In addition to their verbal and non-verbal communication skills, students also receive feedback on their resumes and cover letters.



Although many are initially nervous, the bulk of our students report that this is a highly beneficial activity that well prepares them. Moreover, the feedback we receive from employers is overwhelmingly positive. Kudos to the MOCC staff members for the time and effort they devote to preparing our students to perform so well, and a special thanks to Mrs. Ray for organizing this event!

**Youth Career Law Enforcement Program** - On April 22, three MOCC Public Safety students received scholarships to attend the American Legion's Youth Career Law Enforcement Program July 15-20 at the Michigan State Police Training Academy. They are Devon Guth, Anthony Nawrot, and Rebekah Bouman. This is a collaborative effort between the American Legion and the Michigan State Police.



Students will learn:

- Proper gun safety while live-firing handguns under the supervision of the Michigan State Police firing range officers.
- Self-defense techniques
- Underwater rescue and recovery in the training center pool
- Crash site investigation
- First aid
- Police K-9 units and their incredible abilities
- Basic "CSI- Crime Scene Investigations"
- Intense physical training
- How to work as a team

## Special Projects

**Director of Special Projects Karen Roy Reports:**

Happy Mother's Day to All!

By the time you read this, we will have hosted our first ever, Eastwood End of Year Celebration. When the budget is tight, you stay home for vacations or in this case field trips! Our Family Engagement Specialist and Parent Liaison have been working to pull off an end-of-the-year extravaganza for GSRP and Head Start students and their families.

Parent Coalition members have been our trusted advisors in the planning of this event, and we are thrilled with the level of collaboration we are getting from within our organization and from community partners.

We have the best chefs in town--Mr. Locke and Mr. Klumpp! They will be flipping "dogs" and entertaining us in the process! The Public Safety students and cosmetology students are helping out with traffic safety and face painting, respectively. The public library will be here signing up kids to receive library cards, Meceola Tech, we have a bounce house, sucker tree, obstacle course, treasure hunt and other fun games for families to enjoy as their end-of-the-year fun! Come join us from 10-2. . anytime!

GSRP staff will be spending a half day learning with our General Education Science and Math consultants to hone their questioning skills within the subject area and in the context of their curriculum. We are looking forward to some hands-on, fun learning with Larry and Justin.

Our programs are ending on May 18, but next year's student applications are rolling in for the 2018-19 school year. We have implemented universal trauma screening for all applicants. We are hoping to use the data to plan community, parental, and staff training opportunities.

Thanks for your continued support!

## General Education

**Director of General Education Tonya Harrison Reports:**

**The Gen Ed Team** - Our team continues to stay busy throughout the ISD. We are



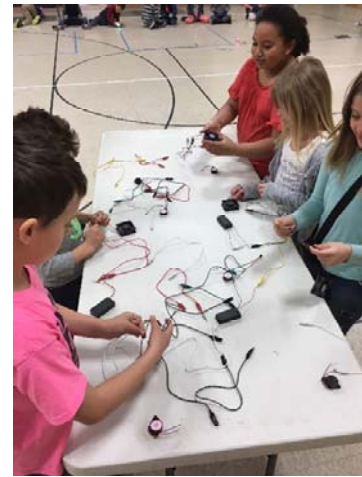
currently meeting to plan our goals for next year. Our team is planning for learning that will center on The Essential Practices in Early Literacy, The Next Generation Science Standards, Math Recovery, and combined learning with the Special Education team on topics like trauma. Our team continues to sit on State Education groups including the Michigan Collaboration Hub (formally TRIG Steering), the Data Hubs Advisory Team, the Reading Now Leadership Team, and the Early Literacy and Math Task Force Teams. On April 24, we held our last principal meetings for the year. The last Curriculum Directors' meeting will be on May 9. Our attendance at these meetings continues to be positive, with a majority of our districts being represented.



*Secondary Principals Learning Together*

**Early Literacy** - Our Literacy coaches continue to work hard in the local districts working with individual teachers on practices in early literacy and building classroom libraries. Amy and Cathy are presenting at the State Surveys of Enacted Curriculum Conference on April 30. Cathy was also recently elected to the Michigan Reading Association Board. Our coaches are also participating in Instructional Rounds through the RNN/Hill Project throughout the Western Michigan region.

## Math and Science



*Students Working On Circuits*

On April 18, Justin Fox and Larry Wyn went to Mecosta Elementary. Students in 2nd through 4th grade had the opportunity to learn about robotics, coding, and electrical circuits. STEM Consultants, Larry and Justin, created an experience for the students to use sphero robots to learn how to make the robots follow their commands, move about a course, knock over obstacles, and change colors. Also, the students used basic circuitry components like wires, fans, buzzers, and LED lights to wire up circuits with switches and clips to make various items work, or not work, depending on their wiring decisions. It was a great day of learning for both students and the consultants.



*Justin Fox Working with Students*

On April 19, Larry Wyn brought the circuit playground to Evert's Family Science night. The workshop room was packed with students and parents building circuits using the various components. Students were excited to see what they could build and power just using batteries. We knew the event was successful when we had students creating circuits well beyond our expectations and spending a considerable amount of time just exploring.



*Evert Parent/Teacher and Student*

**Behavioral Specialist** - On April 25, we had over 25 participants at a Mindfulness Learning event. The goal was to learn about positive ways to interact with students of trauma, while understanding the impact on the brain. In addition, we learned about classroom techniques to help prepare students for learning and how to take steps for “self-care,” as adults, who work with behaviors and students impacted by trauma.



*Mindfulness Participants*

Along with helping plan and facilitate a variety of professional learning activities, Michael has also been working in several school districts. He is assisting in building capacity on behaviors with teachers, para-professionals, and administrators. On April 25, he co-presented with representatives from CMH on trauma in the lives of our students.

## Director of Technology Fred Sharpsteen Reports:

### Community Broadband Network



Recently I was contacted by Sheryl L. Mase, Director Mid-Michigan Library League. The Mid-Michigan Library League is located in Cadillac and they serve 36 public libraries in this region. She contacted me to inquire about the Michigan State Education Network (MiSEN) and expressed interested in how they may be able to participate in a collaborative network for Internet access. This Library League covers the Mecosta-Osceola ISD and Wexford-Missaukee ISD. We will be inviting them to the next Midwest Michigan Broadband group meeting to see where we have common ground.

This month there was also a big announcement by Gov. Snyder's office about a project called, “Michigan Consortium for Advanced Networks.” This is a comprehensive plan to improve access to broadband services in Michigan and will be developed under an Executive Order signed by Gov. Rick Snyder. The Executive Order

creates the Michigan Consortium for Advanced Networks, which is directed to establish a roadmap to help strengthen statewide broadband access and connectivity.

**Data Driven Decisions** - You will start to hear the term Data Governance over the next few months. What is Data Governance? What this simply means is that you need to have accurate data entered into the system in a particular way so that you can integrate this data into other systems as the Data Hubs. You will then be able to run reports that have fidelity and accuracy for making student-based decisions. Each school organization enters data slightly different. One example of this is the naming of data fields for the relationship to the student. We must continue to work with the ISD Offices, the LEA's, and the State of Michigan to normalize the data so that we can report it and use it for student achievement growth. We will be setting up some training and working with the other state groups on this project.

## Special Education

### Director of Special Education Kim Tufnell Reports:

The ISD Team working with Chippewa Hills/MIBLSI and I attended the state MIBLSI conference in Lansing April 12 & 13. There were incredible learning opportunities with keynote speakers like Dr. Brandi Simonsen reminding us to "Make Every Moment Count," and Dr. David Kilpatrick who started Day 2 with "Recent Advances in Understanding Reading Difficulties. There were also a plethora of amazing break-out sessions that often times it was difficult to

choose which one to attend. With us so early in the process, it was the perfect time to hear and learn from others around the state who are successfully navigating the MIBLSI world. It was also fun to be able to connect and collaborate with our Chippewa Hills partners in a more relaxed setting. The work with MIBLSI is rigorous, and my hat is off to Chippewa Hills for the amazing work they are doing!



*Mary Corder, Melissa Stirn, Karen Goll, Christy Veit and Michael Bausano listen as Teri Johnson Chapman, Director of the Office of Special Education at MDE, welcomes the MIBLSI participants at the 14th Annual MIBLSI State Conference*

As previously discussed in past board updates, the Office of Special Education at MDE has been undergoing some changes and challenges in regards to how the federal Part B funds are distributed to the ISDs. Through that process it was determined that the ISD is a subrecipient, and therefore, the ISD has the supervisory role over local districts to ensure that all the students with disabilities are receiving a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). They had eliminated the Planner/Monitor position at the ISD level with the understanding that all monitoring would be done by the state. The monies that were provided for Planner/Monitors (e.g. the Enhancing Opportunities for Students with Disabilities EOSD grant) would still exist, but the intent of that grant was to provide technical assistance to local districts as part



of our subrecipient responsibilities of ensuring FAPE. Fast forward two years, and the EOSD and Transition grants have been combined to one grant and increased by 10%. This new grant is the General Supervision Grant (GSG). In order to fulfill the requirements of the GSG we are to establish a process of how we will use those funds to support the development and implementation of the General Supervision System--a system that we are to create. Carol Phelps and I participated in the first MDE webinar and hope to receive further clarification at the May 9 State Directors' meeting in Lansing.

I attended our Region 1 Directors' meeting on April 27 and shared our plan for supporting our local districts with behavior with a focus on Train the Trainers in CHAMPS, trauma, resilience, together with push in services to support and coach Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (Classroom PBIS). While all in attendance were impressed with our plan, one ISD has already reached out to get copies and inquire as to how we are "reimagining behavior support" at MOISD with hopes of doing the same. It is exciting when we are the model and others want to learn from us!

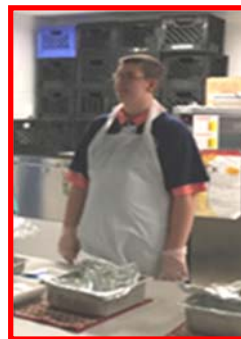
### **Special Education Supervisor Beth Bond Reports:**

We are excited about some upcoming program changes for our transition programs for next year. The transition teachers and I have visited and gathered information from other programs. We are geared up for empowering our young adults to make individual choices and receive intentional programming to support their dreams for the future. There will be a lot more planning and

information to parents as we re-imagine this program.

Travis Taylor, one of our Transition II students, would like to work in a buffet-style restaurant and would like to be a writer. We are providing opportunities for him to reach his goals by teaching skills in our MOEC cafeteria and publishing an article he wrote for our April newsletter.

### **Self-Advocacy: Learning to do the Right Thing - by Travis, Taylor, Transition II Student**



Self-advocacy teaches students to learn how to be independent and to **Believe in Yourself**. To try to learn new things. MOISD also teaches their students to accomplish their goals. To make good choices everyday. It is also good to be honest everyday and to use self-talk from getting themselves mad at their own self.

Students try to do good choices so they can do good deeds. When students are doing self-advocacy they get awards and also, getting their picture taken for a award. Then it goes on the wall and people who comes to the school they can see picture of them. And when the people see the pictures. They will give you respect from doing those good deed. When students are doing good deeds those students are doing self-advocacy.

Self-advocacy is also about doing stuff on your own like doing your work independent. Self-advocacy also about self talk yourself out of trouble and **Believe in Yourself** that you can do it and do it again. Self-advocacy also means when a teacher tells you what your suppose to do or when to stop doing something and listen to the teacher and that means you are doing self advocacy. Also when someone tells you to get out of their bubble nicely and you do it that means you are also doing self advocacy.

**MOEC Graduation** – This year’s graduation will take place on Wednesday, May 23, at 12:30. We will be holding the ceremony in the MOEC gym/cafeteria. All are welcome to attend.

**Certificate of Accomplishment for completing his/her 12<sup>th</sup> grade year:**



Megan Fredrick



Daniel Tribe



George Garcia



Lylianna Sanchez



Kevin Cavender



Jovantae Swartz



Ashleigh Scharlow

**Students receiving their Certificates of Accomplishment:**



Phalan Wilhelm



Mariah White

Transition I Program



Dakota Lewis

Transition II Program

One more spring tradition, the SCI I 3<sup>rd</sup> annual plant sale will be taking place on Saturday, May 19, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the southern (M-20) end of the MOEC.

The SCI -1 Program focus this month has been learning about plants: how they grow, how to water and transplant, and what kind to choose for the upcoming sale. Previously our students held two fundraiser plant sales and were able to use the monies earned for a field trip to Frederik Meijer Gardens to view the butterflies and learn about various native plants. We also bought projection lamps, a Xorbee, manipulative toys, and donated 1/3 of our profits to the Inclusive-Playground fund. Our program is planning a 3<sup>rd</sup> plant sale to be held 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 19 at the southern (M-20)



end of the Education Center. Our students have begun the process of potting donated plants from various school staff and parents.



SCI I 2018 BUTTERFLY TRIP

### Special Education Supervisor Pat Craven Reports:

The last few weeks have been very busy on the US 10 Corridor. Along with many of our students participating in state testing, our staff and students at Muskegon River Youth Home have celebrated the success of three students who have either completed the requirements for their high school diploma or GED certification. Friends, family, community stakeholders, and educators all came together to participate in their ceremonies. One of our young men took the time to share with us his journey and how the experience has impacted his life.

**A Student's Thank You** - Friday, April 13, 2018 is a day I will never forget. This is the day that I put on a cap and gown and received my high school diploma. In the past, I didn't foresee myself actually graduating, but it was something that I knew I had to do. The teachers that I have had from the ISD really motivated me to elevate and gave me the proper tools to be successful. It was very exciting to see how

enthusiastic everyone was about my graduation. For my family and I, it was shocking (in a good way), to see how well everyone prepped and the effort everyone put into my ceremony to make it a joyous memory for us all. All of the people that came out to support me and show their love for me was also a good thing to see. It spoke in volumes on various levels seeing who all cared about me, my future and my success. I am very appreciative of all of the support from friends, family and the ISD. It was awesome to see the Superintendent, the President and Vice President of the school board attend as well. Their appearances emphasized the importance of my graduation ceremony. - SH



### Special Education Supervisor Christy Miller Reports:

The MOISD partnered with Hope Church and local agencies to host a community conversation night on April 17. Approximately 50 members of the community, including representatives from the MOISD, Big Rapids Public Schools, CMH, MRS, parents and employers, joined us at Hope Church in Big Rapids to discuss the subject of increasing meaningful job opportunities for individuals with disabilities

in our community. Several ideas for increasing opportunities and connections came out of the event. The Community Conversation Steering Committee will be meeting in May to discuss how to take those ideas and move them forward. A big thanks goes out to Carol Phelps, Chris Jane, Beth Bond, Traci Chetter, Shavon Jane, and Gina Durfee for serving on the steering committee and helping to plan the event. Thanks also to Hope Church and the Pie Hole for providing the space and treats for the event!

