



## For Immediate Release

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## Career Exploration Showcase on Feb 1 and 2

*North Ed Career Tech to host tour for hundreds of area high school students*

**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.** - Remember having childhood dreams of being a firefighter, veterinarian, nurse or a teacher? Or maybe driving an excavator, building skyscrapers or fixing things was your groove. Career exploration doesn't have to wait until after high school graduation or two years into the expense of investing in trade school or postsecondary education.

February is Career & Technical Education Month and Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Career Tech will host hundreds of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students from regional high schools for an up-close look at the [21 education programs](#) offered at the Traverse City facility. On Feb. 1 and 2, students will be able to visit programs that pique their interests, and talk with instructors and school counselors about career and technical learning opportunities they are eligible to enroll in for the 2023-24 school year.

Career Tech programs are an option for junior and senior students, and it can open a world of opportunity to gain industry-relevant knowledge, hands-on learning and accelerate future success when entering the workforce, enrolling in college or pursuing apprenticeships following high school.

Students who are homeschooled and currently engaged in upper high school-level instruction are also eligible to participate in career and technical education and can earn elective credits toward a high school diploma.

“Career Tech staff members enjoy connecting prospective students with all the opportunities that can enrich their education and open their eyes to pathways that inspire them,” said Pat Lamb, assistant superintendent of Career & Technical Education at North Ed.

Students and their families will also have an opportunity to participate in informational meetings offered by Northwest Education Services Early College, a program housed at the Career Tech facility. North Ed Early College offers high schoolers college credits as an opportunity to earn up to an associate degree while completing high school graduation requirements and learning in-demand industry skills at the tech center. An in-person meeting will be held from 6-7 p.m. March 14 at North Ed Career Tech, located at 880 Parsons Road in

Traverse City. Virtual information sessions will be from 5:30-6:30 p.m. March 16 and 21. Those interested in learning more may visit the [Early College website](#) or contact program coordinator Ashley Darga at [adarga@NorthwestEd.org](mailto:adarga@NorthwestEd.org) for a virtual meeting link.

More than 1,100 students from school districts across Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties attend North Ed Career Tech's 21 programs tuition-free during their junior and senior years of high school. Each career tech program supplements the student's academic coursework at their local high school or homeschool. Parents and prospective students are encouraged to visit the North Ed Career Tech website at [NorthwestEd.org/career-tech](http://NorthwestEd.org/career-tech) or call 231-922-6273 for more information.

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