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Public Safety Student Demonstrates Skill & Awareness During Traffic Incident

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. – Civil service sometimes hinges on situational awareness and the instinct to quickly react, and those skills were recently put to good use by a 17-year-old Career Tech Public Safety student.

The Career Tech Public Safety program at Northwest Education Services (North Ed, *formerly TBAISD*) is recognizing 12th-grade student Adalynne May Cole for her quick response to assist a driver who was involved in a winter weather-related traffic incident recently. Cole and her friend were traveling in a car Sunday, Nov. 28, on County Road 571 near Mancelona in slippery conditions when they saw another car leave the roadway and become submerged in water, as reported by UpNorthLive. The two teenagers observed that the vehicle may have been in trouble and promptly provided support to the driver who was cold, wet and in danger.

"My Public Safety class played the biggest role in knowing how to act and what to do," said Cole. "That class has truly changed me and helped me to make the right decisions when it comes to safety and helping others."

Cole attends Mancelona High School and is in her second year with the Career Tech Public Safety program whose students are instructed about the importance of being tuned in to the conditions and events going on around them -- even when not "on duty." This situational awareness and the instinct to quickly react in service of others is a hallmark of public safety.

Career Tech Public Safety Instructor Tom Lennox acknowledges Cole and her friend likely made a big difference in the situation alongside County Road 571 that day.

“Although our class focuses on career preparation in the fields of law enforcement, firefighting, medical services and military, the reality is that my students are learning to be well-prepared even while not ‘on the job,’” said Lennox. “Learning to be aware of the surroundings, and to be keen observers are key skills for serving one another at work, school, home and in the community.”

The Career Tech Public Safety program teaches its 11th- and 12th-graders about civil service in their communities through practical experiences, guest speakers and job shadowing with local police and fire departments. In particular, students are encouraged to become active listeners and learners with safety, honesty and compassion at the forefront of the work.

For more information about Career Tech Public Safety, click here.

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Above: Career Tech Public Safety student May Cole with Public Safety Instructor Tom Lennox