

For Immediate Release

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Media Contact:

Ryan Jarvi
Director of Communication
Northwest Education Services
231.922.6242 | rjarvi@NorthwestEd.org

Career Tech Writers Studio Welcomes Pulitzer Prize Winner

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. – It’s not every day a writing enthusiast meets a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. But nearly 60 high school students had the privilege of visiting with Anna Quindlen during a stop she made Tuesday at Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Career Tech.

A prolific journalist with The New York Times and writer of fiction and nonfiction, Quindlen was in Traverse City this week for a National Writers Series event Tuesday evening at the City Opera House. Prior to that, she spoke with students Tuesday morning in Career Tech’s Writers Studio and Film & New Media programs and others from Leland Public Schools.

“The biggest enemy of good writing, or any form of art, is fear,” Quindlen told students. And to get past that fear, you have to jump, she said. “The flying leap is the only leap worth taking.”

For students who study many writing styles in the Writers Studio program, Quindlen was an ideal guest as she has been a celebrated author of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, journalism and children’s books. She’s even had one of her novels made into a feature film – “One True Thing” in 1998, starring Meryl Streep, William Hurt and Renee Zellweger.

Quindlen’s writing often discusses themes of feminism, motherhood and the intricacy of female relationships in a modern society. She expanded on her experiences as a female journalist in the 1970s, sharing feelings of frustration for the times her male coworkers didn’t care about “women’s issues.”

After hearing Quindlen speak, Madeline Rowney, from Traverse City Central High School and a first-year student at Writers Studio, said: “I cried. The way she talked about her experiences as a woman, they were really profound to me.”

Others said they were inspired and impressed by Quindlen and noted the author’s advice on writing as a highlight.

“I think it was really interesting how she not only had larger scale tips about careers and writing, but also smaller tips, like how to log off (and be) ready to write the next day, or how to enjoy the

process of writing,” said Eli Pszczolkowski, from Traverse City Central High School, a second-year student in the Career Tech program.

Writers Studio instructor Teresa Scollon said students in her class get experience writing in different styles that apply to a range of careers, from journalism to playwriting, often with help from professionals working in their respective fields.

“Part of our goal at Writers Studio is exposing students to the many professions writers can have, and hosting a Pulitzer Prize winner in the classroom with us was an incredible opportunity for our students,” Scollon said. “We could not be more grateful to Ms. Quindlen for sharing her thoughts and life lessons with us. Her words are inspiring to so many, and hearing them come directly from her is an experience our students will surely remember.”

Quindlen’s visit was coordinated with the National Writers Series as part of an effort to showcase her book *Write for your Life*, in which she argues the importance of writing down what we are thinking and feeling to connect with ourselves and those around us.

The Career Tech Writers Studio is an intensive writing program for high school juniors and seniors who love to write. It covers several creative genres, professional writing, journalism and audio production. Students work in a collaborative and creative atmosphere to explore and develop writing skills which can be used in almost any field. Visiting authors, relevant projects and publication opportunities enhance the program. To learn more or to apply, visit the [Career Tech website](#).

The Film & New Media program at Career Tech prepares students for work in the film industry, teaching skills like video communication and editing, film and audio production, and more. The program also provides students with opportunities like job shadowing, and co-op and work experiences. For more information, visit the [Career Tech website](#).

The following Career Tech Writers Studio students contributed to this press release: Minnie Bardenhagen, Suttons Bay; Sydney Boettcher, Greenspire; Reegan Craker, Suttons Bay; Mason Moran, TC Central; Eli Pszczolkowski, TC Central; Vincent Redman, TC Central; Maddie Rowney, TC Central; Isabel Schmidt, Suttons Bay; Megan Speers, TC Central; and Alicia Streeter, TC Central.

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North Ed Career Tech offers [20+ programs](#) to high school juniors and seniors from Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties. Students are educated in career and technical fields offering hands-on practical experiences, job shadowing, career exploration and early college opportunities, along with rigorous academic integration. For more information about North Ed Career Tech, [click here](#).

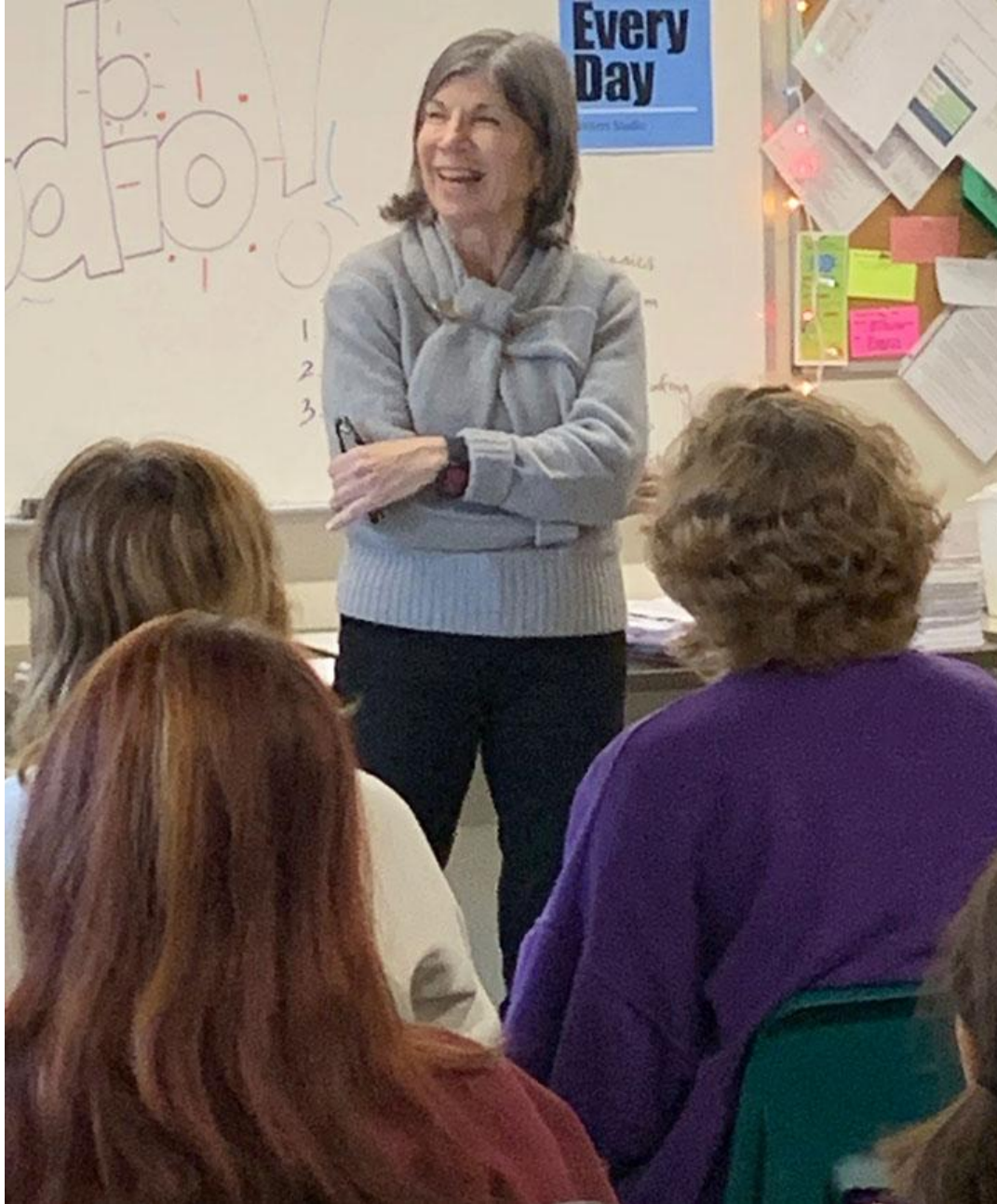


Photo caption: Best-selling author Anna Quindlen made a stop at North Ed Career Tech this week for a Q & A with writing students in Career Tech’s Writers Studio and Film and New Media programs, along with Leland High School students. Quindlen’s literary success, vast experience and sense of humor was motivational to the aspiring authors. (Photo courtesy of Northwest Education Services)