



For Immediate Release

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13 Students Earn Medical Assistant Certification

Career Tech Health Sciences Preparing Future Health Care Workforce

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. – Thirteen students in the Health Sciences program at Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Career Tech are now certified medical assistants, a position in high demand throughout the health care industry due to staffing shortages and strong growth projections in the coming years.

North Ed Career Tech conducted a pilot program this school year to offer Health Sciences students the opportunity to earn a [Certified Clinical Medical Assistant](#) (CCMA) credential through [National Healthcareer Association](#).

Twenty of the top students in Health Sciences independently chose to apply and were accepted to the program. Students took their certification exam on Monday, May 1, with 13 students passing the test and obtaining their credentials. Students who didn't pass were just points away and have the option to retake the exam to gain their CCMA credential.

"This is a great accomplishment for our students and I could not be more proud of them for showing great initiative and passion in their field of study," said Pat Lamb, assistant superintendent of Career and Technical Education for North Ed. "With this certification, students are prepared to enter the workforce in a high-demand, good-paying job after graduation, where they can put the skills they learned in the classroom to good use. Several of these students are already interviewing or preparing to interview with employers looking for medical assistants, which shows the need from an industry perspective and the opportunities a program like Health Sciences can offer to young people."

The 13 senior students who earned their CCMA certification are:

- Kayle Bilkey, Kalkaska High School
- Ally Buchholz, Kalkaska High School
- Alyssa Dahl, Traverse City West Senior High School
- Alexis Deloney, Mancelona High School
- Jade Holliday, Mancelona High School
- Anabelle Horton, Kalkaska High School
- Annahbel Ketko, Traverse City Central High School
- Kianna LaBreck, Traverse City West Senior High School
- Caden Oswald, Traverse City West Senior High School
- Destany Robertson, Kalkaska High School

- Maddy Ronk, Traverse City West Senior High School
- Mackenzie St. John, Kingsley High School
- Norah Vanwingerden, Grand Traverse Academy

Due to this year's success, Health Sciences intends to build the CCMA program into the class's curriculum next school year to allow more students the opportunity to earn their certifications.

The [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) projects the medical assistant job market to grow by 16%, or 117,800 jobs, between 2021-31, which is "much faster than average." Under the direction of a physician, medical assistants perform administrative and certain clinical duties. The [average annual wage](#) for a medical assistant is \$40,700, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Health Sciences students learn and practice skills that prepare them for a career in the health care workplace and higher education. Among other core skills, students learn anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, medical ethics and health care law, and have the opportunity to participate in job shadows and work experiences while also gaining college credits through a recently adopted agreement with [Grand Valley State University](#). For more information on the program, visit the [Health Sciences webpage](#).

North Ed Career Tech, located at 880 Parsons Road in Traverse City, offers more than 20 [programs](#) to high school juniors and seniors from North Ed's five-county service area: Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau. Students are able to attend Career Tech at no cost to the individual or the school district they attend. Students attend half the school day at their local high school and the other half at Career Tech, allowing them to complete Michigan high school graduation requirements as well as explore a career interest that can give them a head start and prepare them for success in college, the workforce or military service. Programs are also open to homeschooled students. Learn more about North Ed's career and technical education programs at <https://www.NorthwestEd.org/Career-Tech/>.

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