



For Immediate Release

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Career Tech Graphic Arts Students Celebrate Stellar Year with Numerous Honors, Awards

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. – Graphic Arts students at Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Career Tech are both creative and competitive, earning significant awards and prizes throughout the state in a variety of contests that tested their skill, artistry and entrepreneurship.

Only weeks into the 2022-23 school year, Graphic Arts students kicked off by creating appealing products to sell at Traverse City's Crooked Tree Art Center's Merry Marketplace. They raised \$400 on sales of their own greeting cards, lanterns, stickers and more.

"Our students begin the Graphic Arts program as high school juniors and continue through their senior year, gaining design problem-solving skills as they progress," said Career Tech instructor Rebecca Kinnee. "By participating in art shows and competitions, they learn through other students and judges how their work is perceived and ways they might expand and improve their work to make favorable impressions."

Graphic Arts is led by instructors Kinnee and Sarah Schwendeman, who joined the project in school year 2022-23. Students explore the print and design industry through drawing, typography, photography, graphic design, illustration and animation. In addition to job-shadowing and other work experiences, students gain access to a print lab that provides hands-on workspace to generate products like T-shirts and stickers. The program provides them with core skills like design principles and color theory, animation and character design, print production and more. To learn more about the program, visit the [Graphic Arts webpage](#).

With the holiday marketplace under their belts, the Graphic Arts students' competition season picked up steam and kept them busy preparing and fine-tuning their artwork. The results over the course of the year are impressive:

Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, Kendall College of Art and Design

In December, Career Tech students below earned Gold, Silver and Honorable Mention awards for traditional and digital arts in this event. The award program is known as the nation's longest-running and most prestigious recognition program for creative teens.

- **Gold Awards:**

- Nina Cook, junior, Traverse City West Senior High School (TC West)
- K Detweiler-Smith, junior, Suttons Bay
- Kaiden Frost, senior, Traverse City Central High School (TC Central)
- Rosalie Stallman, senior, TC Central
- **Silver Awards:**
 - Alyson Boven, junior, Traverse City Christian
 - Marie Doezema, junior, TC Central
 - Alexandra Lewis, senior, TC Central
 - Caylin Sell, senior, TC Central
 - Lily Terrell, junior, TC West
 - **Honorable Mention:**
 - Ayden Blackmer, senior, Kingsley
 - Annabella Martinez, junior, Benzie
 - Maret Wickle, junior, Suttons Bay

Crooked Tree Art Center Youth Art Exhibit

Northern Michigan middle and high school students are invited to participate in this art event in which representatives from Kendall College of Art and Design evaluate submissions. The following Career Tech students were awarded Kendall College of Art and Design Scholarships:

Chase Snell (\$3,000), senior, Grand Traverse Academy (GTA)

Kaiden Frost(\$3,000), senior, TC Central

Olli Craker (\$2,000), junior, TC Central

Ayden Blackmer (\$2,000), senior, Kingsley

Crooked Tree awarded honorable mention recognition to:

Ayden Blackmer, senior, Kingsley

Allie Lewis, senior, TC Central

August (Haily) Stanton, junior, Suttons Bay

Aiden Womack, senior, TC Central

Career Tech Scholarship Golf Outing Poster Design Contest

Each year, Graphic Arts students compete for the signature poster design that adorns all promotions for Career Tech's annual [Scholarship Golf Outing](#). The event raises thousands of dollars to support student education and career development. Approximately 60 students submitted entries and the following students earned recognition:

Winning Poster Design (\$200 prize): Paige Adams, senior, TC Central

Second Place (\$125): Izzy Blaskeslee, junior, Elk Rapids

Most Unique (\$100): Charlotte George, senior, Kalkaska

Third Place (\$75): Chase Snell, senior, GTA

Professionalism(\$75): Sky Palmer, senior, Kingsley

Michigan Industrial Technology Society (MITES) Competition

Career Tech Graphic Arts students traveled to Kalamazoo in May for the annual MITES competition and convention. They are celebrating an excellent showing where they went head-to-head against students from all over the state in 13 event categories. Many came out at the top and many more earned top 10 and honorable mention placements. In total, Career Tech

students submitted 45 entries in a field of approximately 400, earning top finishes in several categories.

A special group project, a coloring book to benefit the animal welfare group, AC Paw was submitted to MITES earning first place. The extensive design work was completed by 30 students in both Graphic Arts programs. Other recognitions included:

- **First Place in MITES categories:**
 - Digital Illustration + Best in Show: Paige Adams, senior, TC Central
 - Animation Best in Show: Carina Ingersoll, senior, TC West
 - Full Color Graphic Design: Ava Bartz, junior, TC Central
 - Spot Color Poster: Eliza Bardenhagen, senior, St Mary's
 - Commercial Photography: Jayden McPeake, junior, TC West
 - Screen Printing Paper: Lily Terrell, junior, TC West
- **Second Place in MITES Categories:**
 - Commercial Photography: Aiden Womack, senior, TC West
 - Screen Printing Paper: Sky Palmer, senior, Kingsley
- **Third Place in MITES Categories:**
 - Screen Printing Textiles: K Detwieler-Smith, junior, Suttons Bay
 - Screen Printing Paper: Kaiden Frost, senior, TC Central
 - Spot Color Poster: Seth Edwards-Adcox, junior, TC Central

Northwestern Michigan College Juried Student Art Show

The artwork of three Graphic Arts students was chosen to be exhibited at NMC Dennon Museum in March. This distinguished honor went to the Career Tech students below:

Third Place (Mixed Media): Allie Lewis, senior, TC Central

Honorable Mention (Acrylic Painting): K Detwieler-Smith, junior, Suttons Bay

Honorable Mention (Colored Pencil Drawing): Charmaine Gates, junior, Suttons Bay

Suttons Bay Art Festival Poster Contest

Youth Art Prize Winner: Bella Covert, senior, TC Central

National Cherry Festival Poster Contest

First Place (\$1,000): Josee Hanna, senior, TC Central

Third Place (\$500): Olli Craker, junior, Suttons Bay

Best Use of Theme (\$100): Allie Lewis, senior, TC Central

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.

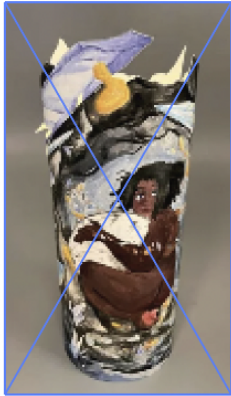
Students are able to attend Career Tech programs at no cost to the individual or the school district they attend. Students attend half the school day at their local school and the other half at Career Tech, allowing them to complete Michigan high school graduation requirements as well as explore a career interest that can give them a head start and prepare them for success in

college, the workforce or military service. Programs are available to homeschooled students as well.

Learn more about Northwest Education Services career and technical education programs at <https://www.northwested.org/career-tech/>.

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See image below



August (Haily) Stanton, Crooked Tree



Kaiden Frost, KCAD Award



Lily Terrell, 1st Place MITES



Allie Lewis, NMC Art Show, 3rd



Olli Craker, KCAD Award



Paige Adams, 1st Place SGO



Group Project GAA/GAB, MITES, 1st Place



Ayden Blackmer, KCAD Award



Ava Bartz, MITES



Josee Hanna, Cherry Festival, 1st Place



Bella Covert, 1st Place Youth

Caption: North Ed Career Tech students in the Graphic Arts program competed in events throughout the school year in many categories, earning multiple awards and honors for their artistry, skill and creativity.