



**For Immediate Release**

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**Media Contact:**

Ryan Jarvi  
Director of Communication  
Northwest Education Services  
231.922.6242 | [rjarvi@NorthwestEd.org](mailto:rjarvi@NorthwestEd.org)

## **Career Tech Students Finish in Top 10 at National Competitions for SkillsUSA, FCCLA**

*North Ed's Early Education, Graphic Arts and Film & New Media Programs Represented at Student Conferences*

**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.** – Students from the Film & New Media, Graphic Arts and Early Education programs at Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Career Tech placed among the top 10 finishers in national competitions held this summer in Atlanta, Georgia and Seattle, Washington.

“It is exciting to see Career Tech students being recognized at the national level for their incredible talents and accomplishments,” said Pat Lamb, assistant superintendent for Career & Technical Education at North Ed. “This recognition is a testament to the many hours of preparation and hard work that students put into learning their skills, and a proud moment for the Career Tech instructors and mentors who have supported their education.”

### **Skills USA**

Students from Career Tech's Film & New Media and Graphic Arts programs competed at the [SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference](#) in Atlanta, Georgia on June 24-28.

Graphic Arts student **Amelia (Mia) Clair**, of Kingsley High School, placed 6<sup>th</sup> out of 41 contestants in the Pin Design competition, in which she received an overall score of 97.2%, showing how competitive the contest was.

Clair was tasked with designing a pin representing the state of Michigan using original artwork, then presenting that design and her inspiration for it to judges in a professional manner. Clair also earned a top award among thousands of competitors for her performance on the SkillsUSA assessment that tested students' knowledge of the organization's foundational principles.

“Mia is hard-working and is always fully engaged in the challenges she pursues,” said Graphic Arts instructor Rebecca Kinnee. “She has overcome a lot and her perseverance is commendable, along with her creative talent and attention to detail. Her performance at nationals demonstrates how she has grown as an artist and a person, and I know she has a bright future ahead of her.”

The Film & New Media team – consisting of **Zoe Kline**, from Elk Rapids High School, and **Katarina Schoenow**, schooled at home – placed 9<sup>th</sup> out of 32 submissions in the Digital Cinema Production contest for their film “[Gradient](#)”.

The Digital Cinema Production contest is designed to evaluate and recognize high school students for excellence and professionalism with their filmmaking skills in the writing, producing, directing and editing of a short film.

Their film was played during a special premiere event, followed by a brief question-and-answer session.

“The students learned a lot from workshops with industry professionals, got to network with other film students from across the country, and had an editing challenge where they created a trailer for the film they made prior to the conference event,” said Film & New Media instructor Zac Wendland. “Zoe and Katarina are excellent students who are committed to their craft. Their passion for film is evident in their work and it was clearly demonstrated throughout their time in the classroom and their performance in this contest.”

To qualify for the national contest, students had to earn gold at the [SkillsUSA Michigan competition](#), which took place April 12-14 at the Amway Grand Plaza and DeVos Convention Center in Grand Rapids.

#### **FCCLA**

Students also competed in the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) national conference from June 29-July 3 in Seattle, Washington.

**Florence Stoeckel**, from Traverse City Central High School and a student in Career Tech’s Early Education program, placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the Professional Presentation competition.

The Professional Presentation competition is part of [FCCLA’s “STAR” events](#) – or Students Taking Action with Recognition. Through the event, students make an oral presentation about issues concerning family or consumer sciences and/or related occupations. They must also prepare visual materials in support of their presentations.

According to FCCLA, contest participants learn about and showcase their competence in leadership, public speaking, self-confidence, creativity and awareness within the community and world. To qualify for the national event, Stoeckel earned gold in the [FCCLA state leadership conference](#), held March 19-21 in Dearborn.

“The FCCLA conference is a great experience for students to network and meet other students who share similar interests. It’s also an excellent venue to showcase their skills and demonstrate their passion for a subject that’s important in their lives or communities,” said Career Tech Early Education instructor Mel Dahlman. “While public speaking can be a challenging and stressful event for some, Florence showed confidence and professionalism throughout, and I’m impressed with how well she performed and handled herself. She invested time and energy into preparing for the event, and that commitment clearly led to her success.”

[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.

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*\*Photos below*



Film & New Media students **Zoe Kline**, from Elk Rapids High School, and **Katarina Schoenow**, schooled at home – placed 9<sup>th</sup> in the Digital Cinema Production contest at the [SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference](#) in Atlanta, Georgia on June 24-28. In addition to the competition, the conference included networking and workshops conducted by industry professionals, including producers Chet Thomas and Darrin Fletcher. Pictured, from left: Thomas, Schoenow, Career Tech Film & New Media instructor Zac Wendland, Kline and Fletcher.



Above left: North Ed Career Tech Graphic Arts instructor Rebecca Kinnee, left, and student **Amelia (Mia) Clair** pose for a photo at the [SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference](#) in Atlanta, Georgia on June 24-28. Clair, of Kingsley High School, placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the Pin Design contest, which tasked her with designing a pin representing the state of Michigan using original artwork, then presenting that design and her inspiration for it to judges in a professional manner. Above right: Clair's pin incorporates design features inspired by Michigan's industrial and agricultural past, and natural beauty.