



For Immediate Release

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Job Interview Skills Earn Career Tech Student Silver Award at National Leadership Conference

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. – Understanding the right – and wrong – things to say in a job interview can be the deciding factor in whether a person is hired for the position. There are likely few recent high school graduates who know that better than Ben McGuire, who attended the Business Careers program at Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Career Tech.

A recent graduate from Traverse City Central, McGuire’s job interview skills were on full display earlier this summer and earned him a second-place finish in the Job Interview contest at this year’s National Leadership Conference. The conference is organized annually by Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). This year’s event was held in San Diego from June 27 to July 3, and attracted more than 7,100 students, advisers and guests to participate in leadership sessions, exhibits, competitions, networking sessions and more.

“Ben did an outstanding job competing against his peers from across the country, and he deserves this national recognition,” said Pat Lamb, assistant superintendent of North Ed Career Tech. “His performance is a direct result of his work ethic and commitment to learning, and a demonstration of the skills he has acquired as a student. Career Tech is fortunate to have exceptional educators who are committed to seeing their students succeed and who put their whole hearts into our educational programming to best prepare high schoolers for careers and life after graduation.”

The Job Interview contest is part of FCCLA’s “STAR” events – or Students Taking Action with Recognition. Through the event, students participate in an interview to display their communication skills and personal understanding of a job’s requirements. They must also prepare a portfolio and job application. To participate in the national contest, participants must also be top finishers in state-level competitions.

According to FCCLA, students reported learning a variety of skills by participating in the Job Interview event, including self-confidence, leadership, public speaking, responsibility, time management, and communication, observation and writing skills.

To prepare students for seeking employment after graduation, Career Tech hosts annual mock job interviews with Career Tech instructors and other North Ed staff, which allows students the

opportunity to fine-tune their interview skills. Each spring, Career Tech also hosts a career fair featuring hundreds of regional employers, providing students an opportunity to network and discover potential career paths. In addition to a [job board for students and recent graduates](#), Career Tech also offers placement services to help students obtain work experience, job shadowing opportunities and mentorships.

Career Tech's 21 programs are designed to introduce and prepare students to enter many high-wage, in-demand industries. For more information, visit [Career Tech's website](#).

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Ben McGuire