

Chippewa Valley medical program showcased at governor's event



Dana Bishop graduated from Chippewa Valley High School 10 years ago and is currently an RN at McLaren Macomb Hospital. Bishop discussed how the district's CTE Medical Academy program assisted in preparing her for her job for a videographer from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. This Medical Academy program was recently selected as an exemplary CTE program to be showcased at the 2017 Governor's Education and Talent Summit. Photo courtesy of CLAIRE BRISSON

By Nicole Tuttle, For The Macomb Daily

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Hannah Stewart, a Chippewa Valley Schools CTE Medical Academy student, learned about blood smears from Giovanna Geromette, a staff member of the hematology department at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital Laboratory. This program was recently selected as an exemplary CTE program to be showcased at the 2017 Governor's Education and Talent Summit. Photo courtesy of CLAIRE BRISSON

Students in Chippewa Valley Schools CTE Medical Academy program are preparing for careers in the medical field, not for their close-ups as video stars. They were able to do a little bit of both on March 22, however, as the academy has been selected for showcasing at the 2017 Governor's Education and Talent Summit.

On March 20, Chippewa Valley Schools Director of Career and Technical Education Claire Brisson announced before the Chippewa Valley Board of Education that the district's Medical Academy was selected by Michigan

Department of Education State Superintendent Brian J. Whiston as an exemplary CTE program and would be showcased at the 2017 Governor's Education and Talent Summit.

The Governor's Education and Talent Summit 2017 will be held on April 25 and 26 in Lansing. The Student Showcase portion will be on April 26. Brisson will attend the event on April 26, along with a CTE career consultant from the district's administration building and Medical Academy teachers.

A team of videographers from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation interviewed Medical Academy students for a video that will be a part of a media presentation highlighting the chosen programs at the summit.

"The Medical Academy is a two-year program of study in the 11th and 12th grades," Brisson said. "The second year of the program is competitive and students are selected based on an application process."

About 350 students participate in the academy from Chippewa Valley and Dakota high schools in any given school year, according to Brisson. Limited placements in hospitals are available to second year students, Brisson said.

Overall curriculum and standards are the same in the program for Chippewa Valley High Schools students in Clinton Township and Dakota High School students in Macomb Township, but teachers in the program use some of their own projects and approaches.

"Because we work with two different hospital systems – CVHS with McLaren Macomb and DHS with Henry Ford Macomb – there are some differences there too. In the 12th grade, CVHS students are in the hospital three days a week, DHS students are there four days a week," Brisson said.

Both hospitals that the program works with are working on pathways for students to have some priority in being hired into patient care assisting positions right out of high school, Brisson said.

"At both hospitals, students are well-prepared to apply their skills and contribute to the day-to-day functioning of the hospital. They do not just job shadow, but rather provide services like bathing, feeding, transporting, taking vitals, providing companionship and more..." Brisson said.

Brisson also said that each year, several students who successfully complete the academy get offers from colleges of direct admission to a variety of competitive programs in the medical field.

Also on March 20, Chippewa Valley Schools Superintendent Ron Roberts recognized the Medical Academy program for becoming one of the Michigan Department of Education's Top 10 in 10 model programs.

Michigan has a strategic plan to become a Top 10 education state in the next 10 years, and has several strategies aimed at improving outcomes for students.

"As I understand it, Superintendent Whiston then asked the Michigan Department of Education to help identify what best practices and exemplary programs might be in place in the state already that embody many of the identified strategies and goals. Our program was recommended by one or more of the state consultants from the Office of Career and Technical Education, which is a branch of MDE," Brisson said. "We had been audited by MDE/OCTE on more than one occasion over the past 15 years, and both times, the program was found to be exemplary..."

Brisson also said that she received an email in February from MDE/OCTE Educational Consultant Nikki Rogers in the Career Readiness Unit asking her to address goals and strategies relative to the Medical Academy.

“With contributions made by the Academy teachers, we collectively provided a written response to their request,” Brisson said.