

Student of the Week: Chippewa Valley's Bobzin wants to make a difference

- [By Don Gardner dgardner@medianewsgroup.com](mailto:dgardner@medianewsgroup.com); [@skeeoos](https://twitter.com/skeeoos) on Twitter

January 20, 2020



Katie Bobzin

To look at Katie Bobzin's background, it's pretty obvious she wants to affect change.

A member of student council since she was in middle school, the Chippewa Valley senior is annually involved in various levels of student government and leadership roles. So it comes as no surprise that she'd want to make a difference as an adult as well.

Katie Bobzin is The Macomb Daily Student of the Week.

Bobzin plans to attend Michigan State University to major in biology and then attend the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, with the end goal of becoming a dermatologist. At first, she wanted to pursue private practice, but through classes at school and working for school credit at McLaren Macomb hospital in Mount Clemens, she's developed a love of working with the medical staff, watching the various teams work together as a community to work on the proper end result. She's learned things she never thought possible as a high school student, being allowed to take patients' vitals while doing whatever she's asked to assist.

She developed an interest in skin while doing a research project on 3-D bioprinting. The process uses 3D printing-type techniques to combine cells, growth factors, and biomaterials to fabricate biomedical parts that maximally imitate natural tissue characteristics.

"From an early age, I have wanted to go into the medical field to help people, after seeing doctors helping my family in various ways," she said.

"I've always found skin interesting in school, especially recreating skin for burn victims," she added. Bobzin said 3-D bioprinting experimentation is taking place with other organs, too, but skin has been the easiest to replicate.

She said she's seen a lot of teens her age using Accutane for severe acne, something that concerns her since the product has so many negative side-effects.

"I see a lot of teens using Accutane very effectively, but I also see them constantly having blood drawn (to make sure Accutane was not having negative affects) and have liver problems or other consequences," she said. "It can make the skin worse before it gets better. I think it's over prescribed. Kids don't understand it takes a long time to work and it can cause discomfort."

As all previous and current teens know, acne can really damage self-esteem. Bobzin hopes to work with teens in the future as an advocate to help with their self-esteem. While Bobzin said she's never had severe acne issues, she knows what it's like to be teased. Her slight speech impediment has been a subject of peer barbs. That's just another reason why she wants to help make change in young people's lives.

"From a young age, I have also been teased and picked on a bit for the way I speak, and I hope to make the community more positive around myself in order to hopefully make sure other kids don't have to go through similar things," she said. "I also am lucky enough to have a family and parents who are supportive and provide everything they can so I can be everything I want to be, accomplish everything I hope to and I hope to find a way to support others in the way I have been supported."

Bobzin has served as Chippewa Valley student government vice president as a senior after serving as a member the three prior years. She served as class president in ninth and 11th grade and as a senate representative in 10th grade. She served as Coalition Teen Council secretary, while also serving as a member in ninth through 11th grades.

The Coalition talks to fellow students, as well as elementary and middle school students, about not doing drugs or alcohol, and each member signs a contract to avoid both.

She currently serves as treasurer of HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) and served as its secretary as a junior. She has served as a peer mediator and a Be The Change advocate, trying to develop a more positive, accepting school community. She's also played four years of tennis, singles as a freshman and sophomore and as a doubles player in her junior and senior years. And she swam as a freshman.

She enjoys taking equestrian lessons and volunteering at McLaren.

"According to her classmates, Katie always goes above and beyond, giving 110% to everything she does. She is also very kind and helpful and treats everyone with respect," Principal Todd Distelrath said. "As a leader, Katie takes charge, is organized and takes the time to do things right. She is a leader who unites everyone together. She makes people feel included, needed and appreciated, and she's great at teaching others how to be good leaders. Katie has had a tremendous impact on both our school and our community."

Among Bobzin's awards, she has been named the Leader of the Year for her freshman and junior classes and for CTC in 10th grade. She won the Behind the Scenes award for student council as a sophomore, an Optimist Club award as a junior, and the Unsung Hero award by the Michigan Association of Student Councils (MASC).

The Macomb Daily Students of the Week are selected in advance by the schools with the approval of the Macomb County Secondary Principals Association in cooperation with The Macomb Daily and the Macomb Intermediate School District.