

CTE

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CAREER • TECHNICAL • EDUCATION



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DAKOTA GOES GLOBAL

By Elgena Kuqo

Five students from Dakota High School's Medical Careers program — Chelsea Dean, Trish Nguyen, Sarah DeMartino, Marisa Canale and Elgena Kuqo — accompanied by Renee Bailey, their Medical Careers teacher and Nancy Greeley, an English teacher, recently joined with students from Oakland County to participate in a dynamic conference engineered to inform young minds about globalization and give them firsthand experience in working with the unique challenges of a global market.

As one of the Dakota participants remarked, "One of the important lines the speakers kept reiterating was 'The world is becoming flat.' As the stressful, hard-working days flew by, I finally understood as we were introduced to exciting people from all over the world using the new technologies that are part of today's business world."

For three days, students were placed in groups of four with students from other schools. Each group was asked to design a product, select a country for export, develop a marketing plan to promote their product and present their plan to a panel of interested investors. The "in-

GLOBAL TRADE MISSION: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



Global trade mission participants from Dakota High School include instructor Nancy Greeley, Marisa Canale, Trish Nguyen, Chelsea Dean, Sarah DeMartino, Elgena Kuqo and instructor Renee Bailey.

vestors" were local professors, school administrators and businessmen who evaluated the presentations. In order to make good decisions in selecting their products and country for export, students listened to

more than 20 representatives from countries throughout the world, such as Kofi Annohr, from Ghana, who described the technical needs of his small country. They listened as Lucy King, from China, now

a professor at Kettering University, explained the rapidly expanding marketing opportunities and challenges in China. They also took part in teleconferences with Dr. Ingo Konrad of DaimlerChrysler from

Germany, a U.S. Department of Commerce official in Chile and Barbara Grabowski, a commerce specialist in Poland.

As one Dakota student stated, "With GTM, we used team-

work from the first day, learning to think critically and analytically, and last but not least, to get all the work done in less than three days. I made new friends, connected with experts from around the globe and learned to work right up to the last available second. I am convinced that we are the generation that can take on the challenges of this new 'flat' world."

GTM hopes to bring its mission to area students next year by presenting a conference in Macomb County. Launched in 1999, GTM is committed to educating students about the demands of the global world where they will live and work. Gov. Jennifer Granholm delivered a welcoming speech via video conference that opened and then closed the three-day session, stressing the need for this awareness as we fight to keep Michigan competitive.

Each day as students gathered for their large group sharing and information sessions, the enthusiastic GTM facilitator, Elisa Hopper, repeatedly shouted to the energetic audience of more than 200 students, "We're going global!" In unison, students resounded with, "And I want to come along!"

With the success of this experience and more like it, we all might just come along.

Metro Credit Union brings business to schools

By Rachel Mix

Imagine that a student is walking through the halls of her school and the newest addition is a bank. It is not every day that one would find a bank — or in this case, a credit union — in a high school, but times have changed.

Near the beginning of this year, Dakota High School's marketing program opened a branch of Metro Credit Union inside the school atrium. Dakota High School is the ninth student-run high school branch that has been opened, said Wauketa Thelen of Metro Credit Union.

This pilot program will also be run at Chippewa Valley High School next year, said Chippewa Valley marketing teacher Jennifer Paterson. Any Chippewa Valley student, staff-member,

alumni or family member is allowed to join.

"Metro Credit Union approached our administration," Dakota marketing teacher Nancy Atienza said. The Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education and administration supported the idea of a student-run branch because Metro Credit Union was successful with other school branches, said marketing teacher Anne Seneker.

Metro Credit Union approached Dakota because it noticed the school wasn't just focused on academics, but on technical and relevant life skills, Thelen explained. One of Metro Credit Union's executives noticed that Dakota had everything except a financial institution. The school has a student-run restaurant, an exemplary medical careers pro-

gram, a student-run pre-school, a construction trades program that partners with Habitat for Humanity and much more.

Opening student-run branches helps to educate youth about finances for their future, said Thelen.

Dakota High School and Metro Credit Union worked on the program first semester of this school year, so that the branch could be in operation by the second semester, said Seneker. To get the branch up and running, "it really was an effort that pooled the skills and talents of a lot of different groups," she added.

Woodworking and Cabinet-making, one of the Career Technical Education programs, built the cabinets and fixtures for the branch. The Marketing program worked on developing curricu-

lum with the credit union. Chippewa Valley School's technicians and other staff contributed technical and construction-related tasks.

Seven students participate in running the credit union. The students run the credit union from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. during school days, except on Tuesdays when they focus on learning the curriculum in the more traditional way. Each of the seven has a one-hour shift during this time.

Seniors Ashley Brown and Porsha Darby, as tellers, are required to cash checks, open accounts and make deposits and withdrawals. Another one of their jobs is to promote and obtain new accounts. Being involved with the credit

union can help the students gain experience so that they can possibly continue employment with Metro Credit Union after high school, said Seneker. Junior Steve Pelletier, a student-teller, hopes to serve an internship at a branch of Metro Credit Union, Atienza added.

Students chosen to participate have to be in marketing class or banking-finance class, said Seneker. Applications are reviewed and then some are chosen for an interview, just as would be done in a real hiring process. The students' attendance records and grade-point averages are taken into consideration as well, although they are not the primary selection criteria.

A benefit that Metro Credit Union receives by opening stu-

dent-run branches is that "they can train a pool of potential, future employees and they may generate new clients," Atienza said. Because of its convenience, students may become members now and continue to do business after graduation.

"One of Metro Credit Union's main goals is youth education," Seneker said. The credit union wants students to learn how to establish good credit and financial literacy. This is not only beneficial to the credit union, but also to the students.

"It teaches the students to get ready for the real world," Darby said. "It allows us to gain valuable work experience."

The new Dakota branch has been a success, which is why Chippewa Valley will open a branch next year, said Paterson.

Next Week's CTE Page will feature Roseville High School

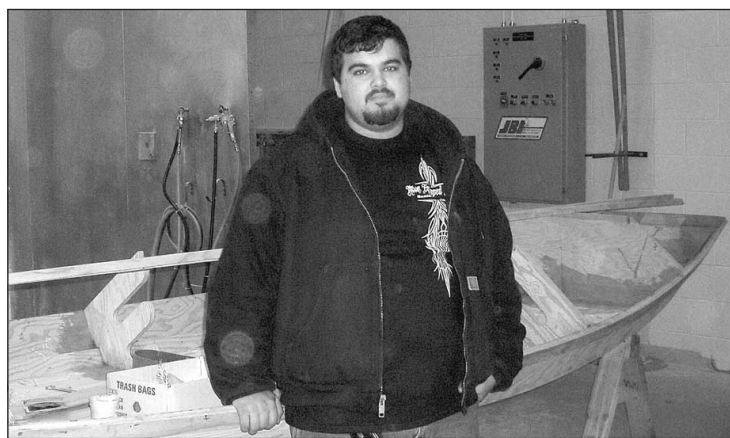
Chippewa and Dakota Students Make their Mark

By Lauren Gentile

Chad Campau is a graduate of Chippewa Valley High School. During his four years at Chippewa he took many woodworking, cabinetry making and furniture design classes with Cliff Durand. Durand shared with Campau a love of woodworking, from the initial design to seeing the big picture in the end.

After graduating, Campau went to Northern Michigan University and majored in furniture design. After college, he built cabinets and custom furniture. But, he always dreamed of becoming a woodworking teacher, just like his mentor from his high school years. When Durand retired, Campau's dream came true.

Campau, a teacher of nine years, is in his second year of teaching woodworking, cabinetry and furniture design in Chippewa



Nick Durling shows off all of the hard work he put into his boat at Dakota's woodshop.

Valley Schools to both Chippewa and Dakota students. He enjoys showing hands-on techniques that help students achieve success with their projects. He teaches more than 200 students per day throughout all of his classes and he wants them all to

feel a sense of accomplishment when they leave class each day.

These past few months Campau and a select group of students have been working on cabinetry and counters for the new branch of the Metro Credit Union located in the atrium of Dakota

High School. Funding for the materials came from a Career Tech Education grant. The woodworking class saved the school district the cost of labor, and for the students involved, the assignment was a work-based learning experience directly related to their curriculum, Campau added.

"It was a step-by-step process for each student. I encouraged them to work at their own pace from the start. We took on this task right after Christmas break and it was a great way to break up the school year, but still be able to fit my entire curriculum in," Campau said.

The project to make four custom cabinets, including a handicapped-accessible counter, took about two months. Campau said this was a challenging task even for professionals. The students had to follow all architectural codes because it is a fully operational credit union for students,

staff, families and alumni of Chippewa Valley Schools. Campau had a team of about 10 Chippewa and Dakota students work on the project.

Chippewa Valley senior Cameron Leto said, "I remember when we started the project and I thought this would take forever. But now, I look back and I feel accomplished and proud that I gave something back to the community which has given me so much."

While building the cabinets and counters, the students were also preparing for the Michigan Industrial Technology Education Society regional competition, to be held at Dakota High School in May. MITES is a non-profit organization with more than 600 members statewide. Members believe in career technology education and hands-on experience for all high school students, Campau stated. At MITES competitions, each stu-

dent is judged on different criteria corresponding to the classification of what they made.


"At the regional level, the top five qualify for the state competition. Chippewa and Dakota always do well at both MITES competitions," Campau said.

Students in Campau's woodworking and furniture-making program receive the hands-on experience of the woodworking process from design to project completion. On April 3 students, staff and others will celebrate not only the opening of this new branch that provides a unique learning opportunity for students who operate the credit union, but an occasion to recognize the talents and contributions that these woodworking students have made. Just as Campau couldn't leave the Chippewa Valley Schools, the talent of these students will stay in Dakota at the new Metro Credit Union branch.


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