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Press Release
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Traverse Bay Area Early College Earns Excellence in Practice Award from Michigan Department of Education

Award represents fourth honor in six years for this regional Career-Tech Center

Traverse City --- Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District (TBAISD) Career-Tech Center **Traverse Bay Area Early College** (TBAEC) will be honored in Grand Rapids on February 1 by the Michigan Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education with the prestigious **2016 Excellence in Practice Award**. This is the fourth time in six years the TBAISD Career-Tech Center has been a recipient of this highly competitive state award. TBA Early College was selected for success in expanding student opportunities regionally by extending the boundaries of learning across secondary, career/technical, and post-secondary education with proven success in student career and college preparedness.

Traverse Bay Area Early College is a three-year program delivered through a collaborative partnership among the TBAISD, local school districts, Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) and Ferris State University (FSU) to enable students in the Grand Traverse region the ability to earn college credits, up to an associates degree, prior to graduating from high school. Students who enroll in eligible programs through the Career-Tech Center may apply for admission to the early college program and be selected for participation in accordance to NMC and FSU admission requirements.

Traverse Bay Area Early College provides enrolled students, many “first generation” college students, with a significant cost savings and an accelerated track to earn ambitious career certifications and college degrees. One program benefit includes valuable college tuition cost savings. Funding is provided through efficient use of taxpayer dollars utilized by local school districts, serving the needs of their students who desire to supplement their school experience with career-focused college-level coursework while still attending high school. Differing from dual enrollment, early college students commit to a long-term educational plan leading to trade certification or achievement of up to an associate’s degree or higher.

This is the **fourth** Excellence in Practice Award for the TBAISD Career-Tech Center in six years. This regional education center was previously honored in 2011 for Instructional Leadership, providing quality academic integration and authentic delivery of Michigan Merit Curriculum in its career and technical programs; in 2013 the Teacher Academy was recognized for rigorous academic and work-based learning opportunities in the field of teaching; and in 2015 the Manufacturing Technology Academy was selected for exemplifying the highest standards in preparing high school students for career and college readiness.

To learn more about the Traverse Bay Area Early College (TBAEC) or TBAISD Career-Tech Center call 231-922-6273 or go to www.tbaisd.org

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