

Ingham Impact Episode 23 – Career & Technical Education

Monique Colizzi: Every single student in Michigan should be in a CTE (Career and Technical Education) program because I feel like the, the transition from secondary to post-secondary should be seamless. And that's what CTE does for our students; prepares them for the real world. Anastasia Bennett: It's exciting to come here because you get the opportunity to learn stuff that you can use in the future and grow, and improve in one area; instead of taking normal classes and you only get an hour, you get two hours in here. So, you have a lot of time to improve and move forward. Emma Dietz: We get ahead of the game, we definitely get to do all this stuff that people normally have to wait to do until after high school. In my program, we get to do all the hair, and nails, and pedicure, and facials. Kathy Cochran: It's just delightful to be able to see these students grow technically, emotionally; I think the Wilson Talent Center really drives that force to really raise that bar for our students to exceed even their own expectations. Rick Cook: Students are coming here to get a better sense about the next step. Students will come here and be very passionate about a career, and find the best next stone for that. Just as importantly, there'll be students who come here and realize this isn't the career for me, and before I go spend a bunch of money at a college to learn that, to discover that, I've discovered it now. Anastasia Bennett: So, normally I don't do anything with computers; I came in here not knowing anything. When I got the acceptance letter that I was able to come, I was really nervous and didn't think I was able to do it. But now that we're halfway through, I feel like I know more than people coming in that knew stuff, knew. We do a lot of things in this program: we went on over 35 field trips last year; we did lots of competitions, BPA (Business Professionals of America). These experiences really help us because it helps us grow as a professional, and it also helps us meet real business people, and it gives us a real world experience. Ross Johnston: We have our advisory boards, where we work with the whole community to get these kids what everybody thinks they need to know. It's a whole lot of people working together to get these kids who, you know, come in from... They just finished 10th grade, they're just getting here and we give them all these skills they need to either come back for next year or just go out in the field and start working, and that's a pretty cool way to collaborate with people who end up employing them. Emma Dietz: They really help with students getting ready for the workforce, and giving us many opportunities, and helping us build our character. Monique Colizzi: I think they feel a part of something very important. They have a chance to meet new students, they have the opportunity in my class for 18 college credits. They're developing a lot of professional skills, things that they normally wouldn't receive at their home school. They're proud, they're proud to be here. The Wilson Talent Center is this place for students to explore. The very heart of that mission is the idea of, how do we serve? So, what do people need? But then, how do we also show them what they don't know they need? We are serving the needs of the community, but we're also turning back to the community and saying these are things that our young students need; this is the exposure. We're being innovative how that's delivered. Kathy Cochran: We don't have to have every one of our students go into cosmetology for them to be a successful completer of our program; as long as we've provided them with tools to catapult them into adulthood, and make good decisions about what they want to do with their future, that's what we do as educators.

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