



TBAISD Career-Tech Center  
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## Press Release

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### **Victory for Victoria! HAIL Scholar, National Scholar, and Beyond**

*Local student reflects on her decision to attend the TBAISD Career-Tech Center*

**Traverse City, MI** --- TBAISD Career-Tech Center (CTC) Allied Health student Victoria Garrow beat odds throughout her life and opened the door to many exciting opportunities that will launch her into a medical career that she assumed would be far out of reach. The senior from Elk Rapids plans to attend the University of Michigan next fall as a recipient of the university's HAIL Scholarship, and to-date she has earned over \$27,000 in additional regional, state and national education grants and scholarships that will allow her to reach for the stars in pursuit of higher education and reduce the impact of student loans in the years ahead. Victoria's reaction to the news she is receiving... "My decision to attend CTC was, without doubt, the best decision I've ever made," says Victoria.

Today Victoria is on top of the world as a recipient of the coveted full-ride University of Michigan HAIL (High Achieving Involved Leader) Scholarship, and through encouragement from her CTC counselor, she applied for and recently received a Horatio Alger National Scholarship of \$25,000. Furthermore, State Superintendent Whiston has confirmed Victoria as one of 120 Michigan candidates (five of which are Career and Technical Education students, including Victoria) for the Presidential Scholars Program, to be announced in April. Her hard work and diligence throughout her high school career deserves recognition, but she humbly points to the guidance and encouragement she received from her teachers along the way.

An honors student with the drive to succeed, Victoria always wanted to attend college following high school but knew her family couldn't afford it and was uncertain how she was going to do it alone. During her sophomore year at Elk Rapids High School, she and her classmates were introduced to the educational opportunities at the TBAISD Career-Tech Center through a field trip to tour the programs offered to incoming juniors and senior across the region. Alongside her best friend, they chose to attend three CTC presentations: Allied Health, Graphic Arts, and the TBA Early College programs. Victoria never saw herself attending the center because of the "stigma that a career-tech center isn't for honor students who want to pursue a college education." Also, the thought of attending a school other than Elk Rapids, without her familiar classmates, was never something she considered.

Victoria and her best friend came away from the CTC tour with eyes wide open and excitement about the opportunity to learn their career interests through hands-on experience with options to earn college credit along the way. "Why wouldn't I take advantage of the opportunity to attend college classes as a high school student and earn transferable credits without incurring big debt?" Victoria adds.



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Inspired by family members who work in the medical field, Victoria felt a desire to pursue a career in medicine and saw a path through the Allied Health program at the Career-Tech Center. In the fall of her junior year Victoria hit the ground running by excelling in her academic studies and taking advantage of leadership opportunities wherever she could. She was inspired by her peers to run for HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) office and was elected by her classmates as president of the CTC chapter. In the spring, she ran for state office and captured the title of HOSA Michigan State Officer Parliamentarian at the HOSA State Conference.

Inspired by her instructors and her peers to take on new challenges, these experiences have delivered additional opportunities for Victoria including, cooperative experiences at a local senior living facility and the Munson Hospital A4 Heart Unit, a paid position at a local pharmacy, active membership of the Rotary Interact Club, a Rotary Charities volunteer experience in Haiti installing bio-sand water filters for needy families, and a leadership role as vice president of the CTC National Technical Honor Society.

“The support I have received from my teachers and advisors at the Career-Tech Center and Elk Rapids High School has been amazing. I never would have thought I would be where I am today and I have my friends, teachers and counselors to thank for guiding me toward opportunities all along the way.”

Victoria’s school experience is just one example of the opportunities that lie ahead for high school students across the Traverse Bay region. “I encourage everyone to consider what career and technical education has to offer. Parents included,” she says. “My mom was surprised by my interest to go to CTC, and once she saw for herself, she was excited for me and fully supported my decision to enroll in the program,” Victoria adds.

For more information about the TBAISD Career-Tech Center go to the [TBAISD website](#) or call 231-922-6200.

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**Additional note:**

Victoria is one to watch in the months ahead. She is currently preparing to compete again in regional and state HOSA competitions, she awaits results of the Presidential Scholarship Award, and she has her eye set on running for the HOSA International Leadership Council in the spring of 2017.

*Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District serves Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau counties. We are LEADING LIFETIME LEARNING to make the Traverse Bay Area the BEST educational system in the world. For more information go to the [TBAISD website](#)*