Nicholas E. Ceglarek, Ed.D., Superintendent
Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District
1101 Red Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684
231-922-6200 FAX: 231-922-6270
www.tbaisd.org

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Media may contact:
Heather Jewell
TBAISD Communication Services
hjewell@tbaisd.org

TBAISD Career-Tech Center Students Win Trifecta in State-Level Digital Cinema Production Competition

Traverse City, MI -- Three teams of TBAISD Career-Tech Center (CTC) students swept the top three spots in the highly competitive SkillsUSA digital cinema production state competition in March. The students are enrolled in CTC's Film and New Media program for high school juniors and seniors. The three teams from the Traverse Bay region were amongst a pool of 14 of Michigan's most talented high school teams in the competition.

The SkillsUSA digital cinema production state competition begins with a film concept prompt which was sent to participants on March 2. From that day, the two-student teams were given one week to write, shoot, edit and deliver their final 5-minute film for evaluation by a panel of industry professionals. Their work is judged based on a set of 19 technical and artistic parameters set by SkillsUSA.

Below are the winning team members and the local high schools they attend in addition to CTC:

SkillsUSA Digital Cinema Production State Competition
First Place (https://youtu.be/A8juzLrRvm8)
Chloe Dutton, TC Central High School
Brooke Dourron, Leland High School

Second Place (https://youtu.be/qn7RXph7AIY)
Sander Breneman, TC West High School
Alison Arlt, Kingsley High School

Third Place (https://youtu.be/RJrJCUWk9fs)
Tyler Ketz, Elk Rapids High School
James Kwiatkowski, Suttons Bay High School

CTC teams have won this state competition in the past and have continued to past SkillsUSA National competitions to face up against first-place teams from nearly every state. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, this year's national competition has been canceled. The CTC Film and New Media student video projects, including the SkillsUSA winners can be found at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCueokI8dQhHUOELW3S31_wA/videos
"This success comes as no surprise to me," said Career-Tech Center Film and New Media Instructor Tom Mills. "These kids are passionate about their work and that enthusiasm translates to excellent quality productions. I'm very proud of all of them."

March 9 submissions for the state competition in this category could be submitted to the competition safely in spite of the concerns around Coronavirus. Soon after, schools throughout the state were closed. "I'm thankful that my students are well-connected by technology even while we are out of school," Mills

explains. “In fact, they are a tight and collaborative group who really never stopped meeting on a daily basis even when school closed for in-person sessions.”

Assistant Superintendent Pat Lamb congratulates the SkillsUSA honorees and is grateful that the competition continued this year. “Career-Tech Center students and instructors dedicate a ton of time and effort to build and practice skills all school year. For many of them, these competitions represent the culmination of all of that hard work; and win or lose, it is meaningful to do the work and enter the contest.”

SkillsUSA programs help establish industry standards for job skill training in the lab and classroom, and promote community service. SkillsUSA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and is cited as a “successful model of employer-driven youth development training program” by the U.S. Department of Labor. The programs include local, state and national competitions in which students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills.

More than 1,100 students from school districts in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau counties attend TBAISD Career-Tech Center’s 23 career and technical programs tuition-free during their junior and senior years in high school. The CTC programs supplement the students’ academic coursework at their local high school. For more information go to the TBAISD website.

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Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District serves Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau counties. For more information go to the TBAISD website