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Driving Toward Health and Hands-on Education

CMU Mobile Health Central visits North Ed Career Tech

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Central Michigan University’s (CMU) Mobile Health Central, a health clinic on wheels, rolled into Traverse City today for a multipurpose mission with Career Tech students and educators. A collaboration to promote health and education, the event included hearing screenings for Career Tech students and staff by CMU audiology students and audiologists. At the same time, Career Tech Health Sciences students engaged in interprofessional activities to gain valuable experience “in the field.”

“We try to provide Career Tech students with several opportunities throughout the year to work alongside and learn from the people working in the field so they can get a true sense of what a specific career may look like,” said [Career Tech Health Sciences](#) Instructor Dawn Anton. “Audiology is a very specialized area of health care, and today’s visit from CMU staff was a practical way for our students to learn firsthand from professionals about a health field that could become a career interest for them.”

Students enrolled in the Health Sciences program study the foundations of health care while also honing practical skills that prepare them for college and careers in a medical workplace. It is one of [22 programs](#) operated by [Northwest Education Services \(North Ed\) Career Tech](#).

CMU’s [Mobile Health Central](#) is a nearly 39-foot mobile health vehicle for research, preventative health education and recruitment that’s operated through The CMU Herbert H. & Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions.

"Participating in this interprofessional educational event not only underscores our commitment to collaborative healthcare but also highlights the pivotal role audiology plays in patient care and well-being. At the CMU Audiology Clinic, we're dedicated to fostering interdisciplinary learning opportunities that empower future healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver comprehensive care," said Nicole Ferguson, Au.D., Director of Clinical Services & Instruction, Audiology.

Pat Lamb, North Ed's assistant superintendent of Career and Technical Education, welcomed the opportunity for Career Tech students to engage in the [CMU Mobile Health Central](#) visit.

"North Ed's Career Tech programs have advisory committees made up of industry professionals and postsecondary partners who advise us on the latest technologies and practices in their field, and this visit from CMU is a great example of how we try to incorporate that into learning experiences for our students," Lamb said. "As residents of a rural or semi-rural area, it was beneficial for our Health Sciences students to encounter the mobile services atmosphere because it is an innovative way to meet the health needs of communities where access to full-service medical care may be quite a distance away."

CMU's Mobile Health Central visit was part of [Northern Michigan Startup Week](#) and aligns with the event theme of Rural Health Innovation. It includes a forum intended to establish partnerships among health sector leaders, educators and the community to maximize health resources in the region and explore the challenges and opportunities.

[North Ed](#) is one of 56 intermediate school districts in Michigan. It serves 16 public school districts, six public school academies, and 12 private schools in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties. North Ed provides services to improve student learning, serve children's special needs, develop teachers' expertise and maximize resources on a regional scale.

[North Ed Career Tech](#) offers 22 [programs](#) to juniors and seniors who attend high schools or are homeschooled in North Ed's five-county region. Students are educated in career and technical fields, offering hands-on practical experiences, job shadowing, career exploration and early college opportunities, along with rigorous academic integration.

Based in Mount Pleasant, [Central Michigan University](#) offers more than 200 higher education programs to more than 14,000 students.

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Career Tech Health Sciences students observed audiology screenings using technology that provides clear photographic images of the ear canal and ear drum. CMU audiology students performed the screenings and demonstrated the audiology technology tools.



Career Tech Health Sciences students received detailed reports summarizing their audiology screenings.



Kaitlin Gerds (left) is a 12th grade Career Tech Health Sciences student and attends TC Central High School. While she has general knowledge of audiology, the medical specialty was new to some of the Career Tech students who visited the mobile clinic.