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Student-created Photovoice exhibit at Career Tech zooms in on diversity through the eyes of teenagers

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. – What does diversity mean to local young people? That is the focus of the 2024 Photovoice project. The student-created exhibit at Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Career Tech officially opens on April 26, 10 - 11:40 a.m. at Career Tech’s Commons Area located at 880 Parsons Road in Traverse City.

The public is invited to attend the April 26 Career Tech Photovoice opening to view the exhibit, meet the student creators and hear about their inspirations. The Photovoice gallery will remain open through May 3, offering the public an extended opportunity to view the exhibit at Career Tech each school day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For the second year, Career Tech students are participating in a Photovoice project and this year’s exhibit is designed to showcase how students experience diversity in this region. The diversity theme was selected in honor of April’s “Celebrate Diversity Month,” which was initiated in 2004 to recognize and honor how diversity enriches the world.

Career Tech students have embraced the project as a way to contribute to their communities. “Photovoice gives us a chance to express our experiences around cultural diversity. We all come from different backgrounds and living in this area with less diversity, we hope the project will help create a sense of community and build empathy and understanding,” said Career Tech Health Sciences student Miaja Williams (TC Central High School).

“We’re excited to empower students through the Photovoice project and amplify their perspectives,” said Career Tech School Social Worker Laura Gabel Miller, LMSW. “Student ideas are sometimes overlooked, and we believe providing a space for their voices to be heard is valuable.”

Photovoice is a practice developed in the 1990’s by University of Michigan Professor Caroline Wang and Ford Foundation Program Officer Mary Ann Burris. It is used in many educational and research settings, where photographic images are assembled to tell a story about a community’s strengths or concerns. The projects often highlight the observations of individuals that may otherwise be overlooked. Photovoice exhibits are intended to invite dialogue about a topic and to inspire decision makers to take action on needs within communities.

[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.

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