

CENTER LINE

Career Academy helping students prepare for college and careers

The Career Academy model at Center Line High School has only been in place a few years, but graduates are already seeing dividends of the program as they further their education and find their way into the workforce.

Christina Khoshaba, a 2019 CLHS graduate, took the Emergency Medical Technician course that is part of the Health and Human Services Academy, and now works as a licensed EMT as she works toward a degree in the medical field.

"I always knew I wanted to be a doctor. When I was in high school I wanted to take classes that might help me understand the medical field better," Khoshaba said. "I didn't expect to fully get the license, but I really enjoyed the class a lot so I did get the license. Now I'm going to use it as a stepping stone for my future career."

Class of 2020 grad Gordon Armstrong had a similar experience as he completed the EMT course and passed the National Registry exam. Armstrong is now in the pre-med program at Michigan State University, and hopes to work his way through school as an EMT.

"The CTE class helped prepare me for college" Armstrong said. "The structure of the class felt like a college course. It really helped introduce me to what college courses were going to be like. I definitely credit how well I did my first semester of college to that course."

Max Stricker, an undergrad pre-med student at Baylor University from the Class of 2018 also completed the EMT course and credits it for finding his way into the medical field as he also works as an EMT when not in school.

"It's a fantastic way to get involved in the field. If you are interested in health care when you are older, there's nothing better than doing this," Stricker said. "It's an experience I wouldn't trade for anything." Without the program in high school, Stricker is unsure where he would be now. "I wouldn't have been afforded the chance to work as an EMT. I wouldn't have had the opportunity to help all the people I've come in contact with. I would have missed out on a fantastic experience," he said.

In addition to the EMT course, the Center Line Health and Human Services (HHS) Academy also includes classes such as Law Enforcement, Fire-fighting, JROTC, Lifeguarding, and Careers in Education.

Jazmine Buckley, Class of 2020, used her experience in the Educational Careers Program to become a certified paraprofessional and now works at Roose Elementary School in Center Line as she pursues a teaching degree. Buckley initially



Jazmine Buckley works with an elementary student as part of her field experience in the Center Line High School Educational Careers program. Jazmine used the skills and knowledge gained in the program to become employed as a licensed para-pro, and is now also working toward a degree in elementary education.



Samuel Williams, a 2020 CLHS graduate, developed a love for working on computers in his Graphic Communications class at Center Line High School. He is now majoring in 3D Animation at Macomb Community College.

saw herself working in the medical field, but after exploring different career classes in high school, she found that teaching was the right choice for her.

"I really liked going to see all the kids and they were excited to see me. That made me want to choose this as my job," Buckley said. She now encourages younger students to take advantage of the opportunities for career exploration offered at Center Line High School. "Don't be afraid to try something you think you wouldn't want to do. You might realize you really like it and that it's cool," she said.

Ryan Miner, Class of 2019, had an interest in

the military from a young age and was a member of JROTC at Center Line High School for four years. He credits the program for giving him a new perspective and instilling discipline. "It gave me discipline, and I'm a lot better at listening," Miner said. "When told to do something, I'll instantly start working on it."

Miner is now a Command Sergeant Major, the highest rank for cadets, in the Michigan National Guard and was able to rank higher because of his JROTC experience. "The JROTC sergeants really helped me out with where I am right now," Miner said.

The Industry, Technology and Innovation (ITI)

Academy is another option for Center Line High School students. ITI classes include FANUC Robotics, Graphic Communications, Business Management, Marketing, Accounting, Welding, and Engineering.

Samuel Williams, a 2020 graduate, took Graphic Communications in high school, which led him to enrolling in 3D Animation at Macomb Community College. Without his career academy classes, Williams feels he would have been lost as to what to do after high school. "Part of me didn't know what I wanted to do after graduating," Williams said. After completing different projects like creating posters for the



A 2019 CLHS graduate and four-year JROTC cadet, Ryan Miner now serves as a Command Sergeant Major in the Michigan National Guard.



Max Stricker completed the Emergency Medical Technician program at Center Line High School and now works as an EMT and is a pre-med major at Baylor University.

auto show, Williams discovered that graphic communications was right for him.

Class of 2019 graduate Sha Azim took CLHS classes in business and engineering, and earned a summer internship through Center Line High School's partnership with Ford. After exploring both pathways, he chose to pursue business and is now a Finance major at Wayne State University and works part-time at a bank.

Of his work with Ford, Azim said: "I'm still proud of the internship I completed and it looks great on my resume. The knowledge I obtained I'll carry on forever." Azim also encourages younger students to use the CLHS Career Academies to explore all options for their

future. "Do what you want to do and what you enjoy, instead of what your friends are going to do," Azim said. "At the end of the day, it is about you and your life and making the most out of it."

These are just a few success stories of recent graduates using their classroom experiences at Center Line High School to prepare them for their future. CLHS's goal is to have 100% of graduates leave high school with college credit and/or an industry-recognized certification. Through work with experienced teachers, partnerships with local community businesses, and the support of Ford Next Generation Learning, students are leaving prepared to pursue their post-secondary aspirations.

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