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February Is CTE Month in Brevard

[BREVARD, N.C., February 7, 2025] – Transylvania County Schools’ Career and Technical Education (CTE) program ranks first in WNC and second in the state across all school systems for its credential attainment rate, with students having earned a total of 1,754 industry certifications and credentials during the 2023-2024 school year.

According to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 41% of adults aged 25 and older have only a high school education. CTE programs allow high school students to earn industry-recognized credentials and engage in work-site learning experiences for free before graduating, enhancing their ability to gain valuable skills and economic momentum before entering the workforce. Thanks to our county’s dedicated CTE educators and hardworking students, many of our high school graduates walk the stage every spring having acquired experience in everything from carpentry to culinary arts.

In recognition of CTE’s goals of “empowering all students to be successful citizens, workers, and leaders in a global economy,” Brevard Mayor Maureen Copelof proclaimed February 2025 CTE Month at City Council’s February 3rd meeting. CTE Director Kerry Putnam, BHS teacher Laura Smith, and BHS students Zia Brown, Ayanna Carter, and McKinley Newton (all DECA officers) received the proclamation.

At the meeting’s conclusion, Councilman and local architect Lauren Wise emphasized the need and opportunities for individuals with these skills. “I work with a lot of builders,” Wise explained, “and we are dying to get good people working, and there is such a fantastic opportunity out there for young people. You can essentially write your own ticket if you want to get into it, and CTE is the way to go.”

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