

CTE  
**SUCCESS**  
STORIES

It's Working!  
**cte**  
CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
COPPER COUNTRY ISD

## ON THE ROAD: Roger Hill & Michael Scott

“The Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs of the Copper Country ISD are very important to our local students and community. We currently have five employees that have been through the Automotive Technology program, including myself,” states Roger Hill, Owner of Keweenaw Automotive.

Roger credits his own experiences in a CTE Auto Technology class in high school as the catalyst to getting him where he is now, **“It was a great experience and I always looked forward to class. I had great teachers that taught me well.”** Roger got a job right out of high school working for an auto dealership and later for an independent repair shop. All of his past experiences made it possible for him to open his own shop.

Roger sees great value in the Auto Technology class at the CCISD. Not only has he hired former students, but he opens up his business to students by providing internship opportunities to them. This year, that student is Michael Scott.

**“Auto Tech is by far my favorite**

**class,”** says Michael. **“I have never gained so much from any other class. The Copper Country ISD’s Auto Technology class has taught me real life skills that I can use to support myself after high school. In Auto Tech, I have learned problem solving skills that I can apply everywhere in life.”**

Roger Hill sees great value in Career and Technical Education classes like Automotive Technology. “I see firsthand how these programs are helping our local students get a great educational experience, helping them become prepared for a career in the skilled trades. This is necessary for today’s workforce and our local community.”

The Auto Technology program has been a very important class in the Copper Country for many years. If you need to bring your car in to a dealership or an independent garage, it is very likely that the person working on your car got their start in a high school Career and Technical Education program. Hill took advantage of his time in a high



“Because of CTE, when I took on a new job, I felt I had a foundation to build from. I had confidence going in to many jobs and interviews, because I applied what I had learned from my CTE class.”  
-Kyle Pihlaja, Graphic Designer,  
Horner Flooring

“Because of CTE, I gained the confidence and basic skills to be able to continue with my education in college and pursue a career in the medical field.”  
-Tayler Quarless, Exercise Physiologist,  
UP Health System—Portage

“Because of CTE, I developed a strong work ethic, which helped me to further my education and advance me for my life long career.”  
-Tom Hicks, Technician,  
Copper Country Ford

“Because of CTE, I received on-the-job training which was the most beneficial learning to me. It allowed me to meet many people, created potential jobs, and build many ‘bridges.’ I accepted a full time job at L’Anse Manufacturing to start right after graduation.”  
-Carl Olson, 2017 Graduate,  
Machinist, L’Anse Manufacturing

school CTE class and is now owner of a successful business. He also saw the value of making sure that the current students have the same

### Michael Scott



opportunity. When asked about CTE in general, Roger stated, “I would recommend any CTE class. If a student has an interest in a certain field, take the class and you will be amazed at what you will learn. CTE classes will prepare you to join the workforce right out of high school, and it can give you a head start should you choose to go to college.”



## The Community Says.....

“We must provide the young people in our community with opportunities to succeed. Graduating students from high school with the necessary education and experience to immediately thrive in the workforce serves not only the student and eventually their families, but also fills a vital role in the future success of our local businesses and industry. Obtaining college degrees is the path for some, but many will choose to immediately join the workforce. We need these young people today, now. Providing our high schools with a strong Career and Technical Education (CTE) program insures that every student has ready access to a brighter future while simultaneously filling the needs of business and industry. With these imperatives in mind, I adamantly support the opportunities provided to high school students by a strong CTE program.”

### Todd Brassard, Vice-President/COO, Calumet Electronics Corporation

“We need to do a better job of ensuring our children are career ready. Career Technical Education is a profound part of that mission. There is no question that there are careers at the ready, as employers across the U.P. repeatedly tell me that they are in real need of individuals with technical skills and ability.”

### Tom Casperson, State Senator, District 38

“While the Copper Country has a proud tradition of educating and preparing our high school students for college degree programs, we have clearly underinvested in preparing our students who do not seek higher education. The answer, invest more in career and technical education at the high school level to prepare these students for entrance to the local work force upon high school graduation.”

### Glenn Anderson, Hancock City Manager

“CTE programs provide the best trained labor forces, because they respond to local needs and are an investment that stays local; more importantly, they have made a real difference in the lives of students.”

### Kipp Beaudoin, Principal, Hancock High School



#### Constituent Local School Districts in the Copper Country ISD:

- Adams Township School District
- Arvon Township School District
- Baraga Area Schools
- Public Schools of Calumet, Laurium & Keweenaw
- Chassell Township Schools
- Dollar Bay-Tamarack City Area Schools
- Elm River Township School
- Grant Township School District #2
- Hancock Public Schools
- Houghton-Portage Township School District
- Lake Linden Hubbell Public Schools
- L'Anse Area Schools
- Stanton Township Public Schools