



Copper Country

# Connections

Fall-Winter 2015-16

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*Serving Baraga, Houghton  
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## The ISD's Role in Professional Development

Although most people have likely heard of the Copper Country Intermediate School District (CCISD), many may not know what this organization does. From time to time, we will be writing articles to help explain many of the functions of the CCISD. There are by law, 56 ISDs across the state that serve every school in Michigan's 83 counties. The CCISD serves 13 separate school districts within Houghton, Keweenaw and Baraga counties.

The CCISD has many functions. For this article, we focus on the training of teachers, often called professional development (PD). ISDs offer literally thousands of training sessions each year to educators, keeping them informed about the latest research and teaching methods. They also offer sessions to help member districts learn about often-complex state and federal educational standards and provide individualized support to the lowest-performing schools.

Over the last three years, the CCISD's General Education Department, along with its Mathematics and Science Center, have provided, on average, 60 different professional development workshops each year. This amounts to approximately 700 hours of PD per year. This PD has been delivered to 1,300 teachers each year, not only in the Copper Country, but also to the schools in the Gogebic Ontonagon ISD through the Mathematics and Science Center.

All new teachers are required by law to receive five extra PD days during their first three years of teaching. The CCISD has supported local school districts by providing a "New Teacher" training and mentoring workshop series where all new teachers, along with their mentors, learn strategies to help new teachers handle the challenges of the first three years, when it is typical for

teachers to have struggles starting out in the profession.

The CCISD works very hard to provide PD focused on all academic areas, including special needs areas. The 60 different workshops each year are fairly equally split into the core content areas. Some examples of recent mathematics PD are *Rethinking Elementary Mathematics Instruction* and *Implementing the Standards for Mathematical Practices*. Some examples for English Language Arts are *Decoding and Encoding* along with *Writing Book Studies*. The CCISD provided NOAA *Science and Engineering in Elementary* for Science teachers and a *Labor and Immigration Institute* for local Social Studies teachers. These are but a few examples of the PD classes the CCISD has provided.

The cost to provide this professional development to teachers is on average \$170,000 a year. The CCISD works hard to find grants to help offset the costs. The CCISD also collaborates with Michigan Technological University to provide this PD. In fact, many grants that Michigan Tech faculty receive benefit our local teachers. There is a strong working relationship between the CCISD and MTU which benefits all involved.

Teacher professional development is a function the ISD prioritizes. The CCISD will continue to seek out new ways to help our local schools and teachers. In future articles, we will inform the public about other services of ISDs and how the CCISD is specifically providing them for our local schools and community.

Article by George G. Stockero, Jr.,  
CCISD Superintendent

## New CTE Staff for 2015-16

Career & Technical Education has welcomed two new instructors this fall.

Amanda Hermanson is the new Health Careers instructor. She is a registered nurse with several years of experience in the acute care setting. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from NMU and plans on continuing her education to obtain a teaching certificate. She is a Certified Childbirth Educator and an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant. She looks forward to bringing her enthusiasm and expertise to the students in the Health Careers classroom. Amanda lives in Chassell with her husband and four children.



Amanda Hermanson

John Hanold is the new Automotive Technology instructor. John is a Michigan licensed and ASE certified Master Mechanic. For the past several years, he has worked as both a paraprofessional in an automotive technology classroom and

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## 2015 Rally America Road Race at the Career Tech Center

On October 15, 2015, the Auto Tech classroom opened its doors to Rally America road rally cars from all over the country. Based in Williston, Vermont, the Rally America National Championship holds a number of regional rally championships from coast-to-coast. The eight-event Rally America National Championship stops at venues across the country, from Portland, Oregon to Newry, Maine. Rally America competitors can reach speeds of well over 100 mph in modified street cars on natural-terrain courses consisting of gravel, dirt or snow over a course covering hundreds of miles. Rally America attracts top rally drivers from the international racing community and action sports industry.

One of the road rally events is a two-day race throughout the Copper Country. The road rally cars make their first stop at the Career Tech Center for their tech inspection, which is required before each race. Every car needs to be inspected by certified tech inspectors. These inspectors make sure the cages are correct, the harnesses are within date, safety gear is where it should be, and driving suits are certified and legal. Forty-nine cars were inspected. Auto Tech Students had the opportunity to look over the car engines and watch the certification of the vehicles. They were also able to talk with race drivers and other members of the



teams. They could find out all that is involved in getting a car ready for back-country racing, where if something goes wrong, the team relies on the driver or co-driver to get the car back in the race. This a great opportunity

for the students, as well as very helpful for the race organizers and teams to have this space available for them every year.

Article by Christina Wilmers, CCISD Career Tech Secretary



## MACUL 2016—Engage Learning

Michigan's premier educational technology event will be held March 9-11 at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids. Over 5,000 educators attended last year's MACUL conference, which beat the previous attendance record set in 2014.

Once again, REMC1 is planning on chartering a bus to bring participants to MACUL. There will be plenty of room on the bus, so you don't have to worry about traveling in winter weather. The bus will also have wifi internet, movies, and colleagues to collaborate with all the way down and back. The cost per person last year was only \$25, but will depend on the number of participants. If you would like to take the bus, you can reserve a seat at <http://sl.remc1.org/2016 bus>.

If teachers are planning on attending this great conference, we recommend that you make your hotel arrangements as soon as possible, as the hotels will fill quickly. A list

of MACUL discounted hotels near the DeVos Place can be viewed at <http://sl.remc1.org/hotel16>. We are recommending the Holiday Inn if you are planning on riding the "REMC1 bus." Please note, it is best to book your hotel on the MACUL registration page instead of contacting the hotel directly. Registration and hotel information can be found at <http://maculconference.org>. The MACUL group will also be coordinating a "highlights" version of this conference in Kingsford, Michigan on May 6. The UP MACUL is a one day event, very affordable and is well worth attending!

Questions regarding these two terrific technology conferences can be directed to Steve Kass at [steve@remc1.org](mailto:steve@remc1.org).

Article by Steve Kass,  
Educational Technologist, REMC 1

## CNA/Health Careers Happenings

### Volunteering:

Community service is an integral part of the Health Careers and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) programs. Every year students spend time volunteering in various activities for Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, Omega House and Houghton County Medical Care Facility. Some of the activities the students have participated in at the Omega House include planting daffodil bulbs along the Houghton Waterfront for a



Memorial Garden, volunteering and participating in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual memorial walk, "Hike for the House," where they helped with registration and participated in the hike, and stuffing over 25,000 envelopes with other community members for their capital campaign. For Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, students delivered Christmas packages to elderly friends throughout the Copper Country. Over the past 15 years,

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## Health Careers Program Awarded Grant

The CCISD's Health Careers Program was awarded a Keweenaw Community Foundation Youth Advisory Committee grant to create empathy suits based on MIT's Age Lab AGNES—Age Gain Now Empathy Suit. Shea Donnelly, a Houghton High School junior in the Health Careers Program, demonstrated the suit for the Youth Advisory Committee (see photo below).

The suit will be used in classroom activities for students to experience what it feels like to be older. Another goal of the suit is for students to develop lesson plans for the suit to be used in local districts and the community.

Article by Teresa Shoup,  
CCISD Health Careers Instructor



## New CTE Staff,

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owner and operator of a small automotive repair shop in his home town of Iron River, Michigan. He is very excited to begin a new career as instructor for the Auto Tech program here at the ISD. His real-world experience in the automotive field is a great benefit to the program. John is currently living in Iron River with his wife and two sons.



John Hanold

Article by Christina Wilmers,  
CCISD Career Tech Secretary

Copper Country Connections is published twice per year by the Copper Country Intermediate School District as a means of informing the educational community and the public of programs and services offered by the district. This publication is provided free of charge and is available for download in the "About Us" section of our website. To be added to our mailing list to receive printed copies of this newsletter, please contact:

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## CNA/Health Careers Happenings



students have delivered hundreds of packages to elderly friends. The students look forward to these deliveries, because they get the opportunity to spend some time with elderly of the community, and the elderly look forward to the time they spend with the "youngsters" sharing their life stories. Other activities students have participated in include time at Little Brothers' Wood Lot making sure the elderly had



enough wood for the winter, and helping out at the Halloween Party where they have the opportunity to dress up in costume. The CNA classes have participated in many activities at the Houghton County Medical Care Facility, including dressing up for Halloween and having a parade, carving and painting pumpkins, caroling with the residents during Christmas, as well as helping with their Christmas party where they were joined by the Health Careers students, and honoring the veterans on Veteran's Day. Students sang patriotic songs and handed out flags, cards and a pin.

Another way our students contribute to the



community is by teaming up with the Portage Health Auxiliary, WalMart and Sew Crazy. This year's project was to sew 100 clothing covers for residents at Portage Pointe. Not only was the goal met, but it was a fun project for all involved!

### Guest Speakers:

Many guest speakers are invited to classes throughout the year. Dr. Debbie Johnson from Finlandia University shared her experiences with a hearing impairment and living with a disability. She shared her moving story of challenges she has faced due to an accident that left her with significant hearing damage. Houghton Police Chief John Donnelly visited the Health Careers

classes during Basic Life Support and First Aid training. He challenged students to step up when your community needs you



and not be afraid to help when there is a medical emergency. He shared stories about how he and his officers use first aid and basic life support skills. MTU graduate student Lindsay Davis spoke to the students about her Peace Corps experiences, career journey, and environmental and public health. She also engaged the students in some creative problem solving and leadership activities.

Article by Christina Wilmers,  
CCISD Career Tech Secretary