



2007 Award Recipients



Outstanding CTE Senior:

★ [Kyle Stopczynski](#) ★

Senior, Dakota High School

Mr. Scott Mitchell, recommending teacher

Design Technology, Dakota High School

Kyle Stopczynski is indeed a remarkable student! Now in his fourth year of the Design Technology Program at Dakota High School, Kyle's instructor Mr. Scott Mitchell describes him as, "one of the best and brightest students I've had in all my years of teaching." He's extremely dedicated and willing to make personal sacrifices in order to accomplish outstanding results. In the 4th year course of Research & Development, Kyle is once again demonstrating his masterful ability to solve complex problems. At this level, a successful student must demonstrate initiative, conduct research, develop and implement a plan, and demonstrate the whole process through product and portfolio presentation. Kyle participates in both SkillsUSA and MITES where he has achieved top honors in Technical Drafting for the State of Michigan. He is not only an exemplary, top-notch student, who achieves the highest standards for himself, but he is always willing to assist and mentor others in the process. Kyle embodies the qualities of a leader by counseling new and prospective students, going above-and-beyond what is expected, and modeling a positive, motivating attitude in the process. Kyle plans to continue his education by pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering at Lawrence Technical University. We are proud to recognize Kyle Stopczynski as Chippewa Valley's 2007 Outstanding CTE Senior!

Other Outstanding CTE Student:

★ [Michelle Samel](#) ★

Junior, Dakota High School

Mr. Joseph Hart, recommending teacher

Automotive Technology, Chippewa Valley H S

Michelle has a genuine passion for the automobile. While she develops her automotive technology skills in class, she is also restoring a 1988 ThunderBird Turbo Coupe outside of class. Michelle recognizes that she is a nontraditional student in this field and, as such, that she is also a role model for other girls. She is very comfortable with this role and enjoys being able to demonstrate her technical skill development. Michelle is someone whom other students naturally gravitate to for advice and she is always willing to work collaboratively with others. She has the admirable qualities of paying attention to details and demonstrating good problem-solving abilities. As a member of our SkillsUSA Auto club she is preparing for the opportunity to competitively utilize her automotive skills. Michelle also shares her time and talent with the community by volunteering with the Girl Scouts, the Cub Scouts, and working as a helper in Kindergarten classrooms. Michelle's personality is always positive and she is an asset to those who interact with her both in class and outside of school. We applaud Michelle for her contributions to our school and our community and wish her the best as she continues to prepare for a career in the automotive technology industry!

Outstanding Business Partner:

★ [Decker Auto Parts](#) ★

[Mr. Larry Decker](#)

Mr. Joseph Hart, recommending teacher

Automotive Technology, Chippewa Valley HS

Larry Decker and Decker Auto Parts have always gone out of their way to support the educational efforts of the Automotive Technology program at Chippewa Valley High School. As the primary parts supplier, they provide superb service by ensuring that we always receive the correct parts, at a great price, with prompt delivery that never interrupts the learning process or the repair of vehicles entrusted to our students. But the contribution goes way beyond that. As an active member of the advisory committee, Larry Decker has been instrumental in assisting us with preparations and improvements that helped our program meet or even exceed the standards required to achieve NATEF certification. He is always willing to assist us with whatever we may need, by making donations of items we need, or facilitating donations of equipment or services from others on our behalf, or just freely sharing his expertise with both the instructor and the students. We are grateful for his involvement and dedication to serving the Automotive Technology program of Chippewa Valley Schools and we are so pleased to honor Larry Decker and Decker Auto Parts.

