

JOSEPH — Career Readiness Certificate

Joseph Carpenter, a junior at Ludington's Oriole Academy, has demonstrated exceptional dedication and perseverance as he works toward earning his Career Readiness Certificate from Michigan Works! West Central. The Career Readiness Certificate program helps participants build the skills, experience and confidence needed to succeed in today's workforce through career exploration, employability training, resume development, interview preparation and hands-on learning opportunities. Participants complete a professional portfolio and earn a certificate recognizing their achievement and work readiness.

Throughout the school year, Joseph actively embraced opportunities to prepare for future employment, consistently showing a strong work ethic, a positive attitude and a genuine desire to learn.

A key part of Joseph's success has been his participation in employability skills workshops offered through Michigan Works! West Central. Over the course of the past year, he attended an impressive 32 workshops covering topics such as resume development, interview preparation, workplace professionalism, communication, financial literacy and



other essential career-readiness skills. Even when attending sessions more than once, Joseph remained engaged and enthusiastic, often noting that each workshop offered new insights and valuable perspectives. His willingness to participate, ask thoughtful questions and stay committed to continuous learning made him stand out among his peers.

Reflecting on his experience, Joseph shared, "I didn't know anything about getting or keeping a job. I have learned so much."

Through these experienc-

es, he has gained not only practical workforce knowledge, but also the confidence needed to pursue future career opportunities.

Joseph has also taken advantage of several hands-on learning experiences beyond the classroom. He traveled to Michigan's State Capitol, where he met with his State Representative and discussed the skills and opportunities he has gained through Michigan Works! West Central. As his first visit to the Capitol, the experience was both educational and memorable.

In addition, Joseph ex-

plored various career pathways through a Talent Tour with UA Local 174 Plumbers, Pipefitters and Service Trades, gaining firsthand exposure to skilled trades careers. He also attended the Dreams to Destinations Youth Conference, where he joined students from across the six-county region to learn about communication, leadership, entrepreneurship and community resources.

Joseph's growth and commitment have left a lasting impression on those around him. His Michigan Works! West Central Talent Specialist, Ann Walker, describes him as "a delight to work with."

"He is motivated, driven and always willing to take on the next activity or challenge," she said. "He never shies away from hard work and consistently takes advantage of opportunities to learn and grow."

Joseph's journey is a powerful example of what can be accomplished through curiosity, determination, and a willingness to step outside of one's comfort zone. As he prepares to enter his senior year, he will continue building on the strong foundation he has established, bringing him one step closer to achieving his career goals and a successful future.