

PRESS RELEASE

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488 local students earn Career Readiness Certificates

The Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC) recently received final word from ACT that 488 of its students earned the *National Career Readiness Certificate* in 2008. This is the first time the certificate has been made available to Muskegon Area students through the MACTC. The certificate is awarded to students who successfully complete three *WorkKeys* assessments. *WorkKeys* is a job skills assessment system measuring “real-world” skills that employers believe are critical to job success. The NCRC, which is awarded at gold, silver, and bronze levels, is a portable credential that verifies to employers anywhere in the U.S. that a student has essential core employability skills for various levels of work. The NCRC gives students a distinct advantage when applying for jobs, as many employers use it as a primary screening tool.

High school students in Michigan already take two of the *WorkKeys* tests, *Reading for Information* and *Applied Mathematics*, as part of the *Michigan Merit Exam*. In the spring of 2008, MACTC utilized its newly awarded certified testing center status and paid the additional fee for students to take the third test: *WorkKeys’ Locating Information Test*. Results of the three tests determine whether or not a student is eligible to earn a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC).

Eighty percent of the MACTC students who completed the testing earned their National Career Readiness Certificate. Mike Carpenter, MACTC Principal, said, "We are very pleased with this initial success and see it as a clear indication of the high caliber of students and staff in Muskegon County."

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