

Washtenaw CTE Partner Spotlight – Mike Kapolka Video Transcript

Mike Kapolka, Superintendent – Chelsea School District:

One of the greatest things I think that we do in public education is helping students find an area of passion, and with career and technical education courses, it's an opportunity for those students to be able to find that and then take courses that potentially could turn into careers for them. One trait that doesn't get talked about enough in education is the sense of resiliency in students. In career and technical education, those courses, those experiences give students the opportunity to fail forward. They have a chance to work out problems. They have a chance to work and collaborate with others, to problem-solve.

But more importantly, there are times that not everything goes according to plan, and their ability to adapt to that and be resilient in the outcome of that is something that is exciting to see with CTE programming. Students are telling us very definitively that they want these opportunities, to find their area of growth, find their area of passion, whether it be they're flying a drone, they're working on and building a robot, whether they're going to doing their clinicals. That's where students and parents get completely excited about the opportunities in career and technical education.

The demand for those positions continue to increase, so if you have students that are waitlisted that are unable to get into those programs, you are potentially negatively impacting the ability to then increase your workforce in our communities in Washtenaw County. Students and families should care about career and technical education because it is a very tangible path for students to find something that they're passionate about. This is a way for us to illuminate that path really early on and hopefully ignite that spark of curiosity for students.

[Graphic: The Future Moves with Us]

[Graphic: Washtenaw CTE (Career Technical Education) logo]