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Twice as nice

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VALPARAISO | The Porter County Career and Technical Education Center recently received two Indiana Career and Technical Education Awards for Excellence this year, the most for vocational education in the county.

The modern machining technology program received the award for Best Vocational Program. Lisa Whitworth, a Portage High School senior in the dental health occupations program, was chosen as one of 10 students in the state to receive the Outstanding Vocational Student Award.

Whitworth's mother, Jeanette, was in tears during the award news conference on Wednesday.

"Out of 60,000 kids," she said, referring to the number of eligible students. "I was floored."

Lisa Whitworth thanked her teachers and the county for offering the program. She said she plans to pursue a pre-dental major at Indiana University Northwest next year.

Center Executive Director Jon Groth had Lisa Whitworth and Greg Carmack, the modern machining technology instructor, peel a sticky note off of the award plaque to unveil their respective name plates.

In his short speech, Carmack dedicated the award to his students and others that contribute to the program.

"I try to teach them more than machining," he said. "There's something out there that everybody's good at."

[EXTRAS]

About the award recipients

Outstanding Vocational Student Award

Lisa Whitworth

Age: 18

Portage High School senior

Courses: Medical Terminology/Anatomy-Physiology; Dental Health Occupations

Activities: Varsity swim team, captain; golf team; track team; NWI representative to Health Occupations Students of America; Porter High School National Honor Society

Awards: Academic excellence, Portage High School; Certificate of achievement, Porter County Career and Technical Education; Certificate of award for the best personality, medical terminology class

Quote from nomination packet: "It has been a pleasure to work with such a caring, motivated and intelligent young woman. Lisa exhibits all of the qualities of a true Health Care professional, athlete and a natural helper." -- Lynn Wilson, Portage High School Health Academy director

Best vocational program

Modern Machining Technology

Instructor: Greg Carmack

Program description: Modern Machining Technology is a two-year course. It is structured to not just teach machining but to explore many more possible careers related to manufacturing, such as general machining, production machining, CNC programming and machining, manufacturing and general production, mechanical engineering, manufacturing engineering, and quality assurance.

Quote from nomination packet: "There are many criteria that we look for in anyone we hire, including students, and some of those are appearance, demeanor, attitude and work ethics. We have found the students from your program possess all of those traits, thus making good employees." -- Stewart McMillan, president, Task Force Tips

