

## For Immediate Release

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## North Ed Staff Honored for Impacts in Classrooms, Community and Beyond

*Marshall Collins, Jared Diephouse hailed as leaders in education, service*

**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.** — A common rallying cry at Northwest Education Services (North Ed) is that educators are most impactful when they adopt an attitude of servant leadership. That approach, combined with expertise and a lot of hard work has led to honors for two North Ed staff members: Marshall R. Collins Jr., who was appointed to serve on one of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s advisory councils; and Jared Diephouse, who was selected as 2024’s Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Association of Career and Technical Education.

### Marshall R. Collins Jr.

In December 2023, [Gov. Whitmer appointed Marshall R. Collins Jr. to the Black Leadership Advisory Council](#). Collins is a member of North Ed’s instructional services team and serves as the organization’s regional health and Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) coordinator. He is also a founding member and leader of North Ed’s [Culturally Responsive Education Group \(CREG\)](#), which is working to build understanding, trust and relationships that span diverse backgrounds and needs throughout the region’s schools.

Collins is respected for his work in supporting North Ed’s Farm to School, social studies and health curricula, as well as his professional development efforts.

“Marshall’s dedication to educating teachers and students is a valuable asset to our schools,” said Matt Olson, North Ed’s assistant superintendent of professional learning and innovation. “His insights and his commitment to furthering social justice and DEIB efforts is a significant service to our region, and now to the council and the entire Great Lakes State. Marshall’s steadfast investment in this arena shines in his work and his character, and his impact resonates throughout the community.”

The Black Leadership Advisory Council acts in an advisory capacity to Gov. Whitmer and develops, reviews, and recommends policies and actions designed to eradicate and prevent

discrimination and racial inequity in Michigan. Collins is appointed to represent Black leadership in public policy, a term commencing Jan. 1, 2024, and expiring Dec. 31, 2026.

### **Jared Diephouse**

North Ed Career Tech instructor Jared Diephouse has been selected as the 2024 Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Association of Career and Technical Education (MI ACTE). Diephouse teaches high school students in the field of [power equipment](#). His instruction supports active learning in a shop setting and includes disassembling, measuring and reassembling engines and equipment. His students gain experience, skills and certifications as they prepare for college, military or the workforce.

Diephouse will be recognized on Jan. 29 at the MI Career Education Conference in Grand Rapids for his significant contributions toward career and technical education. The Teacher of the Year Award comes following nomination by his North Ed Career Tech colleagues who touted his commitment to developing work-based learning and mentorship, giving students a significant advantage in skill and work readiness. Industry partners in the field also value Diephouse's expertise in preparing students to make immediate impacts to local workforce development.

“Jared is an exceptional educator who has a unique talent, and we're incredibly proud of this well-deserving recognition,” said Pat Lamb, North Ed's assistant superintendent of career and technical education. “He continually builds great relationships with students and creates a classroom culture that's focused on learning and developing skills that support students as they enter the workforce or seek higher education.”

Career Tech instructors noted that they appreciate Jared's leadership in instructional strategy by offering to model lessons and building up staff engagement and cooperation.

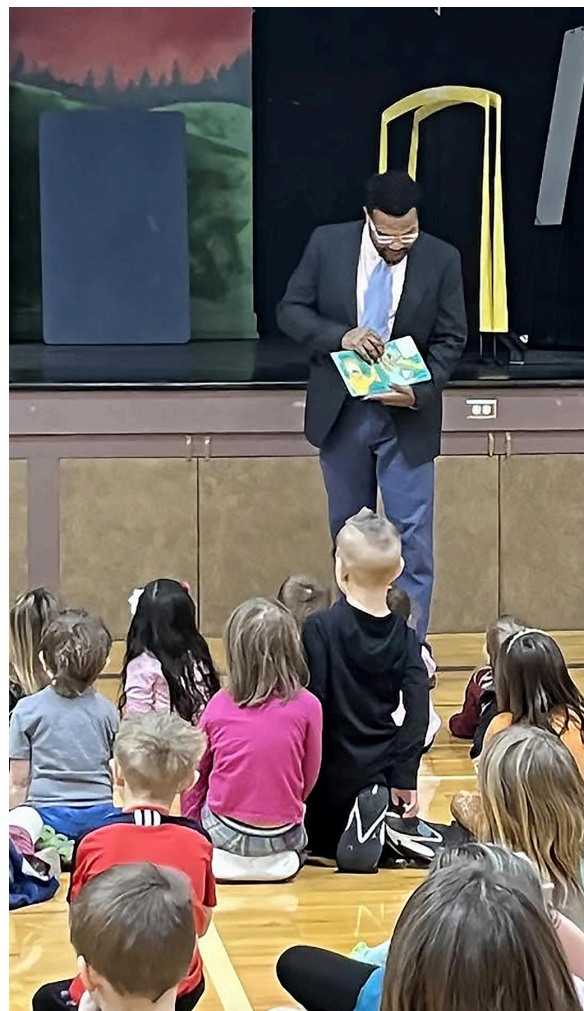
Lamb recalls, “When Jared was a Career Tech student in the early 2000's, he was an exemplary pupil in the Power Equipment program and his success story is no surprise as he now leads innovative instructional efforts in our building.”

[North Ed Career Tech](#) offers more than 20 [programs](#) to high school juniors and seniors from Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties. Students are educated in career and technical fields, offering hands-on practical experiences, job shadowing, career exploration and early college opportunities, along with rigorous academic integration.

[Northwest Education Services](#) is one of 56 intermediate school districts in Michigan serving 16 public school districts, six public school academies, and 12 private schools in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties. North Ed provides services needed to improve student learning, serve children's special needs, develop teachers' expertise and maximize resources on a regional scale.

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**NOTE:** Photos below may be requested in other formats by emailing [rjarvi@NorthwestEd.org](mailto:rjarvi@NorthwestEd.org).



Left: Marshall Collins poses for a photo with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer at the signing of the state’s \$24 billion School Aid Budget at Suttons Bay High School in July 2023.

Right: Marshall Collins leads a discussion with students and staff of Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools on Martin Luther King Jr. in 2023.





Jared Diephouse



Left & Right: North Ed Career Tech Power Equipment Instructor Jared Diephouse works with junior and senior high school students in their classroom workshop.