

# CMU camp hosts young entrepreneurs

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Sun Staff Writer

Fifteen-year-old Cassie Klumpp of Shepherd High School has been considering the possibility of opening her own bakery business one day.

Klumpp was one of 21 students who took part in the first "InSITEful," program at Central Michigan University, a three-day "summer camp for young inventors and aspiring entrepreneurs who are entering grades 10 thru 12.

The program is a "pilot camp" that was offered to students at area high schools, and alternative schools where students are working towards their general education development testing.

The campers begin each morning at 8 a.m. at Grawn Hall, and they attended workshops until 5 p.m. The camp ends at noon today.

"I wanted to learn more about entrepreneurship," Bruce Trevorrow, who attends Morey Public School Academy in Shepherd, said.

Students were presented the basic elements of business ownership, including "social and green entrepreneurship, public sector innovation, and experiential situations to develop skills needed to be creative in the business world."

Trevorrow, 17, said that entrepreneurship to him means "freedom", and he has considered a possible future in "computer service."

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Carolyn Bennett, the director of promotions and workforce development for the Middle Michigan Development Corporation, said that this new program was an inspiration she had after attending a workshop at a conference on small town rural development.

She said that the learning opportunity goes hand-in-hand with a program the MMDC already does with the local high schools called "Mock Interview Day."

"It's for our students who are already thinking about becoming entrepreneurs," Bennett said. "We don't want them to go someplace else.

"We want to capture the students in our own communities and provide them with the tools to bring their ideas to realities. We have talked about doing this for close to a year."

Bennett said that the camp is "underwritten by their sponsors," and the word was spread to the local high schools.

"I heard about the camp from one of my teachers," 17-year-old Joshuha Fox of Mt. Pleasant High School said. "The best thing about the camp was the trip today (to Morbark, Inc. of Winn).

"I liked the machine shop."

The worst part for Trevorrow were "the lectures"

that he felt were "too long and boring."

Fifteen-year-old Kelsey Thrush of Shepherd High School said that she wanted to attend the camp to see what would be "the best for me."

"I liked learning new information that is helpful for me to start my own business, that would help me to have a good life," Thrush said. "(What I learned from the entrepreneurs was that) it's important to be a self starter, and to treat each other like family.

"I thought everybody had a hard time at work."

Thrush said that she will be moving to Texas, and she hopes to find work in a restaurant or retail industry when she gets there.

After the budding entrepreneurs toured Morbark, they were able to "blow off steam" at Morey Courts.

"I think it's going very well," Bennett said. "They are ready to cut lose.

"Today we had 16 (students), but we started yesterday with 21. Some had to leave for jobs or other reasons."

Bennett said the goal of the program is for the students to create a business plan for a competition that will take place this fall.

"The (entrepreneur camp) excites us, and we hope to find kids that will turn Michigan around," Bennett said.