

2022 PACTESP LIFE/WORK CHALLENGE AWARD RECIPIENT FIRST PLACE



Kayden Edwards is enrolled in the Carpentry program at Indiana County Technology Center. When Kayden's sending high school asked if he should attend for the second half of his 10th grade year or wait until his 11th grade year, the Carpentry Instructor, Mr. Bash, said "bring him in now. Give me half a year with him." Since then, the program has taught Kayden many hands-on skills that he can use in numerous settings after graduation. He has worked on real-world projects in the community – from building sheds at the local police barracks to a full restoration of a home that will be provided to a less fortunate family – which has shown him a true application for how he can use his skills in many fields. With Kayden's motivation and skill set, he can be confident that he can provide for himself.

Kayden is the epitome of perseverance. This young man has faced many challenges and yet he remains kind and humble. He always helps others in so many ways. He developed his lip-reading skills so well when he was young that it delayed his actual hearing impairment diagnosis. Despite his physical and health limitations, Kayden still found a way to contribute to his high school by serving as the football team's manager.

Kayden will be a Carpentry program completer after only attending two and a half years of the program. Toni Shaffer, Learning Facilitator, said, "Kayden has been a joy to have as a student and has shown such dedication and drive to achieve what he set out to do. He is a great example of how one can overcome challenges with the right attitude and support system, and I wish him all the success that he could want and that he truly deserves." Kayden is planning to obtain a job in the construction field and is taking a gap year to decide if he would like to further his education.

Kayden was nominated by Toni Shaffer, Learning Facilitator, Indiana County Technical School.



Pictured from left to right: Timothy Bash, Carpentry Instructor; Toni Shaffer, Learning Facilitator; Kayden Edwards, 2022 Life/Work Challenge Award Recipient; and Michael McDermott, Administrative Director