

## 2022 PACTESP LIFE/WORK CHALLENGE AWARD RECIPIENT FIRST PLACE



Lydia Swatsworth is enrolled in the Drafting and Design program at Clearfield County Career and Technology Center (CCCTC) and is an honor student who completed all program tasks. Lydia would tell you that she doesn't have a disability and she is who she is. When Lydia came to CCCTC, she didn't want anyone to know she was different or what challenges she may face because she wanted to be treated like everyone else. After having known Lydia at the CTC for a year, we agree that the main challenge she faces is other people's perceptions of her. Lydia is kind, funny, hardworking, friendly, and outgoing. Lydia is a normal teenager. She uses a phone, she uses her computer for drafting assignments, she opens doors, she eats, she has friends, and she drives.

She does everything anyone else does but she does it with her feet. Lydia has taught us to see what is there and what is not.

After only spending a few moments with Lydia, you see what she can do and is confident in who she is and how she accomplishes tasks in her personal life and in her professional school life. She has the mental fortitude to face any challenge life gives her with a positive outcome. Lydia has a career goal of becoming a drafter and was an honor student in the Drafting and Design program each marking period. She is also a local SkillsUSA officer.

Jessica McKendrick, School Counselor, said, "I asked Lydia what it is about herself that is just so different other than her disability." She said, "I live by a motto that my mother and grandmother teach me each day, and that is to just treat everyone with kindness and be happy in the moment." This young lady is truly a blessing and has so much joy and talent to offer. Her career goal is to go to college for interior design.

*Lydia was nominated by Jessica McKendrick, School Counselor, Clearfield County CTC.*



Pictured from left to right: Jessica McKendrick, School Counselor; Brad Dixon, Drafting and Design Instructor; Tara Swatsworth, Lydia's Mother; Fred Redden, Executive Director; Lydia Swatsworth, 2022 Life/Work Challenge Award Recipient; Tiffany Cover, Principal; Marilyn Alves, Lydia's Grandmother; and Jerome Mick, SkillsUSA Advisor