

CESA 11 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

REESE BENWARE

YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP



THEY SAY THAT BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSFUL PERSON IS A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF COFFEE. THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE FOR REESE BENWARE, A YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP STUDENT WHO IS SETTING HERSELF UP FOR SUCCESS SERVING UP HOT CUPS OF JAVA.

Reese first learned about Youth Apprenticeship (YA) from her CTE Advisor, Emily Larson, when she was a sophomore at Amery high school. She had recently been hired at Caribou Coffee and Mrs. Larson saw an opportunity to enhance the work experience through YA, a program that integrates school-based and work-based learning to instruct students in employability and occupational skills.



Although she came into YA with little knowledge of the program, Reese said she quickly was able to see its benefits. Specifically, Reese pointed out the value of using school concepts at work and incorporating workplace skills in the classroom. For example, the culinary skills that Reese has learned at school allow her to understand the chemistry behind roasting coffee beans and is able to talk to customers about the choices that they have at the coffee shop. She said her school-based learning makes her the 'expert' at work and allows her to explain the processes that take place at Caribou in language that the customers understand.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP, CONTACT:

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In addition, funds from the program provided two pairs of work shoes that she needed for the job. Youth Apprenticeship has opened doors for Reese as well. She has taken on responsibility in Mrs. Larson's school-based coffee shop; roasting beans, developing recipes and managing overall operations. Recently the school-based business has expanded to delivering drinks to other buildings in the district. Reese says that this growth has forced her to be organized and dive deeper into the underpinnings of running a business, including developing a menu and website, managing inventory and organizing, along with day-to-day troubleshooting. At Caribou, Reese has been promoted to Shift Manager, a position that she says she wouldn't likely have obtained without her school learning and experiences.

Reese plans to continue to work at the coffee shop throughout the summer and her senior year in high school. She said she loves her job because it allows her to work with people and puts her in a position to be a bright spot in someone's day. Recognizing that she enjoys working in a busy social situation, Reese plans to pursue a career that provides that opportunity after high school. She plans to attend a Wisconsin school and earn a degree in education or a culinary pathway.

**WHEN ASKED IF SHE HAD ANY ADVICE
FOR STUDENTS CONSIDERING
YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP, REESE REPLIED,
"GET INVOLVED AS SOON AS YOU CAN".**

