



Congratulations Ashley Hollenbeck!

2023 Dr. Charles Van Riper Outstanding College Student



Ashley is a dedicated and distinguished student at Central Michigan University, pursuing an elementary teaching certification with a special education major in cognitive impairment. Ashley is described as kind, enjoyable to work with, hardworking, professional, and compassionate. She demonstrates academic excellence, while showing great commitment to the field of special education. Ashley is involved in multiple professional and community organizations, including Michigan CEC, Special Olympics, and CMU Leadership Council Academic Advisory Board.

During the height of the pandemic related school closures, Ashley was required to complete a virtual pre-student teaching practicum. Ashley worked incredibly hard to develop specific instructional lessons for her mentor teacher that directly addressed student IEP goals. According to her supervising professor "Ashley was able to creatively meet the needs of her students. Ashley approached the challenges of virtual learning with a positive attitude and worked extremely hard to make the best of challenging circumstances."

Her strong passion for working with children and adults with special needs is not only represented in her educational experiences. Ashley has served as a behavior technician with Central Michigan Care in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan and as a direct care worker for individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities at Mastrofrancesco in Monroe, Michigan.

Ashley is known for her high level of professionalism and her commitment to the field of special education. Her peers and professors hold her in the highest regards. Ashley's passion and dedication to the field of special education differentiates her from her fellow peers, making her the perfect candidate for the 2023 Dr. Charles Van Riper Outstanding College Student.