



Merging Business, Industry, and Technology

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology Student Spotlight: Kaleigh Gruber

Kaleigh Gruber knows that being a student at Middle Bucks Institute of Technology (MBIT) allows her the opportunity to start her career pathway sooner rather than later. She learned this long before she enrolled as a student in MBIT. Kaleigh, a second year student in the Building Trades Occupations program and a junior at Central Bucks High School East, learned about MBIT through her older brother's experiences as a student in the Public Safety program. "Just hearing about the school I thought it was pretty neat and I looked into it," stated Kaleigh.

As a freshman Kaleigh developed an interest in both the HVAC & Plumbing Technology and Engineering Related Technology programs available at MBIT. Her interests were due in large part to the knowledge gained from her father who has experience in both fields. She also knew that she wanted an education that would allow her to learn beyond a book. "I am very hands-on," explains Kaleigh. In the end she chose to enroll in the Building Trades Occupations program.

The Building Trades Occupations program, a nationally recognized Residential Construction Academy (RCA) accredited instructional program, in conjunction with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and the Home Builders Institute (HBI), prepares students for career paths and employment opportunities in the construction industry through technical knowledge and skills in the building, repair, and general maintenance of residential building and other structures. Students gain knowledge in a number of construction trades including, but not limited to, plumbing, electrical, and construction. This is what Kaleigh found most appealing when narrowing down her program choices. "I decided that instead of learning one specific field, if I learned areas related to general contracting then it would benefit me more," stated Kaleigh.

Kaleigh, who plans to work in the plumbing field as a career, has found tremendous benefit in being a student in the Building Trades Occupations program. "In Building Trades we learn about measuring, which is very important in plumbing. We learn how to work with a tape measure. We also learn about PVC and copper piping, which are two of the main types of piping used in plumbing. We also learn about PVC glue and primer," said Kaleigh.

When asked her thoughts about being a non-traditional student in a traditionally male program, Kaleigh shared, “In the beginning I was pretty scared because I knew I would be the only female in the program, but when I first got in there we just connected as a class. I was another student to them and nothing more. They help me in the program and I help them. The atmosphere is really great. I really like coming here.” Kaleigh actually prefers not to be identified as a non-traditional student. She explained, “I am not too big on titles. I am classified as a non-traditional student, but what makes me different? I am doing the same work as the male students in the program. Really I am just a student.”

After completing the program at Middle Bucks and graduating from Central Bucks High School East next year, Kaleigh plans to pursue a college degree at Bucks County Community College before transferring to either Temple University or Widener University to complete a Bachelor’s degree. Middle Bucks also provides opportunities to earn college credits as a student in Building Trades Occupations through articulation agreements with Bucks County Community College and Pennsylvania College of Technology, an affiliate of Penn State University. In the end she plans to work with her father in the plumbing field. “I am going to be taking over the family business. My father cannot wait until I graduate. He is already thinking of changing the business name to Gruber & Daughter, but that is still undecided,” said Kaleigh.

About Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology offers a complete array of career, technical, and pre-professional courses to enhance the academic program of all students. The Middle Bucks Campus is located on Old York Road in Jamison, Warwick Township. The school serves students from the Centennial, Central Bucks, Council Rock, and New Hope-Solebury School Districts. The educational program at Middle Bucks Institute of Technology is organized into ten career clusters and twenty-three career pathways, all geared to preparing students to meet the growing needs of High Priority Occupations in Pennsylvania. Learn more at mbit.org.

For more information on this program, please contact Erin-Caitlin Rinker, Organizational Advancement Coordinator, at 215-343-2480 ext. 115.

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Photo Attachment:

Kaleigh Gruber working in the Building Trades Occupations lab