

**News Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Virtual Graduation Ceremony Celebrates Achievements of 64 Adult Education Students**

TRAVERSE CITY, MI— A virtual graduation ceremony online is honoring the Northwest Michigan Works! Adult Education Class of 2020. Due to COVID-19, this year's ceremony was switched from an in-person event to an online video. The Adult Education Class of 2020 includes 21 graduates who received a high school diploma and 43 candidates who have completed the GED (HSE) certificate. The virtual ceremony includes presentations by TBAISD Superintendent, Dr. Nick Ceglarek, Northwest Michigan Works! Chief Program Officer, Terry Vandercook, student speaker, John Barron, and a commencement address by Networks Northwest CEO, Matt McCauley. The ceremony is available online at [nwm.org/aegraduation2020](http://nwm.org/aegraduation2020).

The adult education program serves the community by helping adult learners - those hundreds of community members who are already seeking to contribute to our workforce and business communities but who are uneducated or untrained – to enter the workforce ready for success. Today, adults earning a high school diploma or completing a GED (now known as HSE – High School Equivalency) certificate follow a path of purpose driven education. “All of our adult learners have an individualized learning plan with goals that help them in their employment path,” said Christy Nelson, Adult Education Coordinator.

Adult education services are available through the cooperative efforts of the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District (TBAISD), Networks Northwest, and Northwest Michigan Works!. The program operates six Learning Labs in Northwest Michigan. Adult Education Learning Lab programs are open year round and have daytime and evening hours. Participants may start at any time and can learn at their own pace.

(MORE)

For more information about Adult Education contact Christy Nelson, Adult Education Coordinator, at 231-929-5055, or go to [nwm.org/learninglabs](http://nwm.org/learninglabs).

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Dan Boss at [dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org](mailto:dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org) and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5047. Check our online Media Room at: [networksnorthwest.org/media](http://networksnorthwest.org/media)

Founded in 1974, Networks Northwest facilitates and manages various programs and services for the 10 county region. These programs include Northwest Michigan Works, Small Business Development Center, Procurement Technical Assistance Center, various business services, and many different regional planning initiatives in response to our communities' requests and needs. You will see the broad spectrum of workforce, business and community services Networks Northwest offers if you visit our web site, [networksnorthwest.org](http://networksnorthwest.org)

Networks Northwest's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.