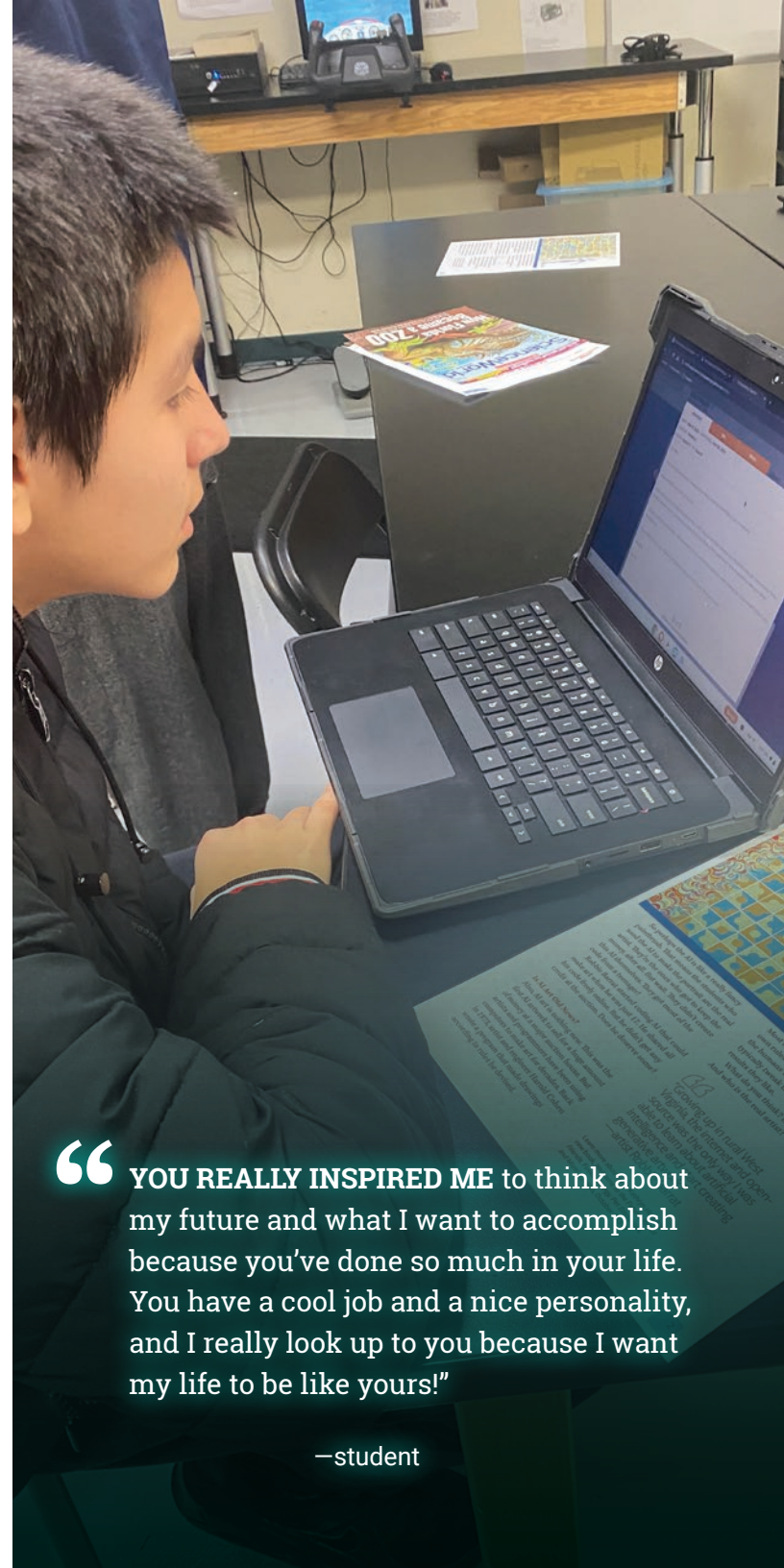


Inspiring STEM Learning at Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe, an Indigenous School

LOCATED IN HAYWARD, Wisconsin, on the Lac Courte Oreilles Indian Reservation, the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe School serves the educational needs of the Native American community, primarily the Ojibwe (Chippewa) tribe. The school integrates traditional Ojibwe language, culture, and values with standard academic subjects to foster a supportive learning environment that respects and promotes the students' heritage and identity. A notable achievement this year at the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe School was the first-time implementation of the TryEngineering Together eMentoring program in Mrs. Tammy Moncel's 8th-grade class. Each of her 27 students were connected 1:1 with their own STEM professional for a year-long online correspondence about STEM articles selected by the students, related hands-on activities, and their daily lives.

Over the course of the academic year, students and eMentors built intellectual friendships as they exchanged an average of 30 letters per match, discussing topics such as 3D printing, Sound Energy, Robotics, and AI. Teacher Tammy Moncel was thrilled with the increase in student motivation and STEM knowledge, "Most students were reluctant to write at first and were uncomfortable with the idea of communicating with a stranger. Students quickly warmed up as they learned about their eMentors, where they live, their families, and pets. The eMentors were able to give practical application examples of our STEM unit topics and were able to share pictures or article links for extension. The eMentors shared a lot about new technologies and it was fun to be able to learn along with my students. The students all enjoyed the experience and I saw a definite improvement with the speed of organizing and expressing thoughts, as well as self-correction for grammar and punctuation errors."



“ YOU REALLY INSPIRED ME to think about my future and what I want to accomplish because you've done so much in your life. You have a cool job and a nice personality, and I really look up to you because I want my life to be like yours!”

—student