



Buy Local, Hire Local Promo

Program: Design & Visual Communications – Howard Polenberg, Instructor

Student: Leah Rae Siemann (left)

Employer: Staples, Brick, NJ – Ken Gallaudet, Store Manager (right)

Website: staples.com

Ken Gallaudet, Store Manager of the Brick Staples had sentiments to share...”Staples has enjoyed and prospered through a long standing relationship with the Ocean County Vocational Technical School. While we support all that the school has to offer, we have also used OCVTS as an invaluable source of recruitment. The students that we have hired from the school have all succeeded in our business environment. In fact one of their alumni, Leah Rae Siemann, started with Staples as a part-time associate and is now the full-time Copy and Printer Supervisor at the Staples in Brick. I look forward to continuing our rewarding and successful relationship with OCVTS.”

Leah Rae, a completer of the DVC Program stated, “When we moved from Georgia to NJ, I was undecided about my career path. Then someone recommended me to OCVTS, and I owe them my existence. Vocational school was a life saver to me. A place where students with potential can soar higher than any textbook would take them. I started out in graphic design and ended up in the printing class, with a little bit of photography along the way. Mr. Polenberg introduced me to Photoshop. Mr. Abrams instilled in me the love of printers and Mr. Vassallo saw something in me that I failed to notice myself, potential. I hope they know how much of a positive influence they have been to me. They showed me how to think outside the box and rearrange things to fit other needs...a philosophy I use every day of my life.”

The Design and Visual Communication Program is a cluster of three components in Multimedia, Photography and Digital Reproduction. Howard Polenberg, Instructor in the Photography class remembered Leah Rae as a good student. He remarked, “I even had the pleasure of working with Leah out of Long Branch Store.” Roy Abrams, retired Printing Instructor, is living the good life in South Carolina. Tom Vassallo, retired Graphic Design Instructor, also has fond memories of Leah Rae being a student in his class. He misses teaching students like Leah Rae and is always pleased to hear that OCVTS has made a difference in people’s lives.