



Ocean County Vocational Technical School

Sharing Success Stories

Greetings from Virginia Commonwealth University

Student: Helena Franz

Class of: 2015

OCVTS Program: Design and Visual Communications

Center: Brick

Instructors: Chris Ehrhardt, Howard Polenberg, Jeremy Dusza

Post-Secondary School: Virginia Commonwealth University – School of Art, Richmond, VA

In Helena's own words... OCVTS helped open my eyes to so many new things. I went from thinking I wanted a career in marine biology, to realizing that my passion is in the arts. OCVTS also made me realize that I can actually have a career in the art field. My hobby of photography brought me to OCVTS, but it is every aspect of the Design and Visual Communication program that kept me there. It was after taking Mr. Ehrhardt's Design for Reproduction class and having participated in the SkillsUSA competition for Advertising Design that I realized I wanted to continue with design.

Without OCVTS, I do not think I would have been accepted at Virginia Commonwealth University. The way D&VC is set up, it allowed me to have portfolio pieces in photography and design. VCU is the number one public arts school in the country, but I was confident enough in my skills that I learned at

OCVTS to know that I have a great foundation that I could not have received anywhere else. OCVTS also prepped me for my work-study job in the graphics lab for the School of the Arts, where we print student and university jobs. My future goals are to be accepted into the Graphic Design Program next year at VCU and one day become an art director or editor of a magazine.

Some advice I would like to offer high school students is to relax and go to sleep! Things always have a funny way of working out. Also, find out what interests you and run with it. It could end up changing your life for the better!

"Helena set the bar high for my future students. Whether the project at the time was designing a business card for her older sister or designing and screen printing tee shirts for the Ocean County Swim Championships, Helena always worked at an exceptional level. I am so excited to follow both her collegiate and professional careers," proudly stated Chris Ehrhardt, her DVC Instructor.

