



Ocean County Vocational Technical School

Sharing Success Stories

Owning Your Own Business

Student: Christine Zilinski

Name of Business: Salon Concrete, Red Bank, NJ

of years in business: 16

Website: salonconcrete.com

Class of: 1990

Instructor: Barbara Stewart

OCVTS Program: Cosmetology

Center: Brick

In Carla's own words...How did I get started in the business? I went out and learned all I could about the beauty industry. I started with Vidal Sassoon, understanding how the best in my industry became successful. I opened my salon and decided to do it like Vidal did by training one hairdresser at a time. I train them not only at skills, but also the understanding of my values and culture of the salon. I look for stylists in my industry that are passionate about what they do.

Having been in business for over sixteen years, I can tell you to never stop learning. The more you expand, the more you can expand others. When you own your own business, your job is to make others successful and serve the people who are working for you. The most important thing is to model the behavior you want to see.

When I hire, I look for individuals that take the initiative to grow themselves...invest in yourself! It is critical not to wait for someone else to do it for you.

Lastly, and most importantly, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Barbara Stewart, teacher of the Twilight Cosmetology Program. OCVTS helped prepare me to work in the cosmetology industry by teaching me the skills needed to pass the boards and obtain my cosmetology license. It gave me the tools I needed to get started in the beauty industry. Barbara Stewart leads with her heart and that allowed me to believe in myself. To the future cosmetology students, I would say, "Work on your inner self. Know yourself and have a deep understanding of your truth and what limiting beliefs you have. We are resourced with great ideas. It is important to celebrate and nurture those ideas so that you, too, can follow your dream!"



"When Christine graduated from OCVTS, she furthered her hair cutting education with Vidal Sassoon in California. She also took management classes with Strategies and continues to hone her craft. Throughout her journey, she has always reached back to share her adventures with us by giving lectures and doing demonstrations. Today, Christine is a great teacher, mentor, motivator, leader and salon owner. Over the years, she has hired many of our graduating cosmetology students. A true success story," exclaimed Barbara Stewart.