



Ocean County Vocational Technical School

Sharing Success Stories

Owning Your Own Business

Student: Edgar Gallegos

Name of Business: E.G.'s Barbershop, Lakewood, NJ

of years in business: 1

Website: facebook.com/egsbarbershop

Class of: 2015

Instructor: Josephine Campisano

OCVTS Program: Cosmetology

Center: Toms River

In Edgar's own words...When I was twenty-one years old, my mother gave me a barber kit (clipper, trimmer, scissor, combs, etc.) I started cutting my family and friends' hair as a hobby while attending Ocean County College. I graduated Ocean County College in 2012. I had a waiter job but I just did not want to work there anymore. So in 2013, I asked a local barbershop for a job. I wanted to be a professional barber and be my own boss someday. I enrolled in cosmetology class at OCVTS in September. I started working at the barbershop in the summer. While going through cosmetology school, my family helped me open a small barbershop that is still up and running today. I guess you could say that cosmetology runs in my family. My parents own two hair salons in Lakewood; my mother is a hairstylist and my father manages the salons. This summer, I will be working on opening another barbershop on Route 9 South in Beachwood.

Having your own business is not easy. You need a lot of support from your family and friends. To own your own business, you have to believe in yourself, your skills, and your product. You need to learn how to manage and save money. It can get frustrating and be a struggle at times, but you have to stay strong, keep your head up high, and believe in yourself at all times.

To be successful in the cosmetology/barbering field you have to learn the basics of hair design. Practice on mannequins or on your friends until you feel you are ready to take your knowledge and skills to the floor. Remember that "practice makes perfect". When hiring, I look for job applicants that have confidence and know what they are doing. No one wants to put their head in the hands of someone that does not seem confident.

OCVTS is a wonderful, friendly school from staff to students. It has a great environment to learn many trades. Attending OCVTS has helped me not only prepare myself for my chosen field but also has helped me prepare for the real world. It has taught me how to be more professional, respectful, organized, and most importantly, it prepared me with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful. To Mrs. Campisano I would like to add, "mucho gracias!"

Josephine Campisano, Cosmetology Instructor at OCVTS, enjoyed having Edgar in her class. "He had the desire to learn, the determination to succeed, and the exhibited the passion to work in the cosmetology field. I am so proud of him!"

