

# Ocean County Vocational Technical School

## Buy Local, Hire Local

### Sharing Success Stories



**Student:** Jake Valentine

**OCVTS Program:** Audio Recording

**Instructors:** Bill Bourke, Dennis Bourke and Frank Fotusky

**Employer:** The Village Recorder, Los Angeles, CA

**Class of:** 2008

**Center:** Navy Lakehurst

**In Jake's own words...**Long story short, Mr. Bourke's Audio Recording Program gave me an outlet to learn something I was really interested in during half my day in high school. I am pretty sure there is nothing else like that out there, so I feel pretty fortunate to have had a head start there. At the time Dennis Burke, Frank Fotusky and Billy Burke were all my teachers, and I learned so much from each of them. I had a bit of experience before attending the class and they really made me realize how much more I needed to learn. Frank really helped me to understand signal flow and mic techniques. Billy broke all my bad Protocols habits and taught me work ethic. Dennis, aside from the technical side, really taught me studio etiquette and how to just "be cool" and a "good hang" which is really important to get consistent work in this industry. The list goes on and on. I chose to take the hands-on learning path and skip college and go right to work. Most of what I do today goes back to things I have learned from each of my teachers at OCVTS. Thanks guys, I owe a lot of my success to you!

Bill Bourke, instructor in the Audio Recording program, nominated Jake Valentine as one of his success stories. Jake was an excellent student that showed a real talent in the field of audio recording and displayed a strong desire to succeed. Bill proudly states, "Jake is a big recording engineer out in California now, and he has worked with some huge musicians and Grammy winners including Steven Tyler and Elton John."



As an engineer and assistant engineer, Jake was employed at the Village Recorder. He had the pleasure and excitement of meeting and recording a diverse group of musicians and artists such as Stephen Stills, Chaka Kahn, Meat Loaf, Neil Young, Coldplay, Duran Duran, Clint Black, Christina Aguilera, Sheryl Crow, Usher, The Roots, Jennifer Hudson, Julie Ann Hough, and Al Jarreau. He also worked on TV shows, Empire Season 2 and Celebrity Apprentice 2016 to name a few. Bill remember other artists that Jake had the pleasure of working with including Fergie, Weezer, Miguel, Keith Emerson, Mac Miller, Pete Yorn, Ziggy Marley, Will I Am, Jill Scout, Mark Hudson, Busta Rhymes, Questlove and on and on!