

Ocean County Vocational Technical School

Working in the Field

Sharing Success Stories



Student's Name: Konnor Ryan
OCVTS Program: Cosmetology
Instructors: Roseanne Blanchard and Kelly Maloney
Employer: Harry Connick, Jr. Show, New York, NY

Class of: 2011
Center: Brick
High School: Toms River South

In Konnor's own words: Making the decision to pursue cosmetology was one of the best choices I have made. Discovering my passion and learning a craft by amazing educators like the ones I had at OCVTS was key for a successful career. I knew I had the potential to achieve greatness, but I just was not sure if it was going to be in college. As it turned out, OCVTS was what I needed to be able to learn and become a licensed professional. Being a shared-time student, I went to vocational school in the morning and high school in the afternoon. I had the best of both worlds, learning academics and a trade that I love.

The instructors at OCVTS have real life experiences working in the trades. They help students to not only bring home a paycheck but make a career path. My teachers, Mrs. Blanchard and Mrs. Maloney were so incredible, honest and kind. They addressed the students' needs and issues with a lot of patience, understanding and compassion. After my first year of vocational school, I transferred from the Brick Center to Toms River due to a difficult time in my life. When I lost my mother to cancer, all of the staff, along with my fellow classmates, were always by my side. I will never forget that. Mrs. Maloney still keeps in touch, making me even more eager to succeed.

After graduating and obtaining my cosmetology license, I worked at a few different salons in the area, getting better at my craft until ultimately moving to NYC five years ago. Since then I have been fortunate enough to work with and assist celebrity stylists in the top Fifth Avenue salons. Currently, I am a top stylist at Ammon Carver Studio where I take clients and work with runway, red carpet, fashion and editorial shoots. I am a union representative for IATSE Local 798 for hair stylists and make-up artists working on film, theatre, ballet, television, commercials and news media. For the past two seasons, I have been working on the Harry Connick, Jr. Show along with other jobs in television and film. I have checked off many goals, but still have some to achieve which makes me so excited about the future. When you want something in life, you go and get it!

"I would like to brag about Konnor Ryan. I worked with him to help him pass his written and practical exams. Konnor lost his mother in his senior year, which was very traumatic for him, but he never gave up! He is now the men's hair stylist for the Harry Connick, Jr. Show and a stylist at many fashion events in NYC. He really is an OCVTS success story, as evidenced by the photos below," boasted Kelly Maloney.

