



Spotlight



**Carpentry Perfects
Compulsory Skills**

**Creative Programs Take
on the BUSINESS WORLD**

**Aiding Districts with
800 Programs**

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Developing Confidence, Skills, and Independence

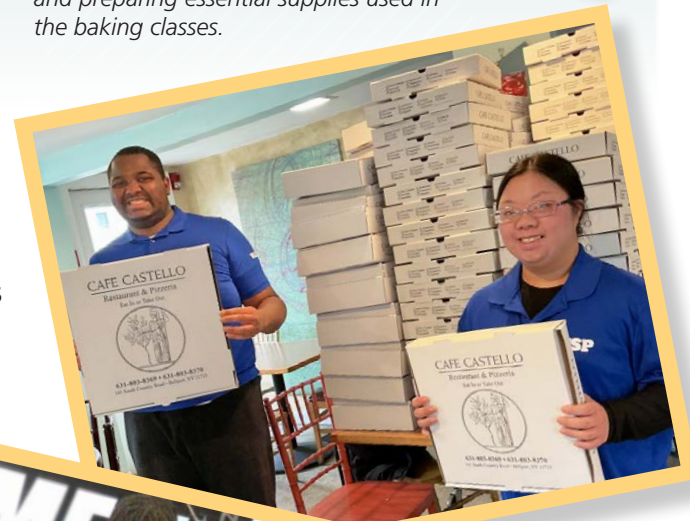
At Brookhaven Learning Center's Transition Services Program, students are preparing for life after school by developing skills that support independence and future employment. Through the Work Activity Center, students with mild to moderate developmental disabilities engage in structured work experiences that promote responsibility and confidence as they transition into adulthood.

The program gives students ages 16 to 21 the chance to learn by doing – both within the school and out in the community. By working with local businesses and organizations, they experience what a real workplace is like and begin to understand the expectations that come with a job. These hands-on opportunities help students build important job skills such as reliability, communication, and flexibility, while reinforcing what they learn in the classroom through everyday work routines.

Integrated into the school day, the Work Activity Center provides transportation and individualized job coaching. Each placement is carefully matched to a student's strengths, interests, and goals, ensuring meaningful participation and growth. With ongoing support from job coaches, students develop time management, teamwork, and professional conduct, building a strong foundation for long-term success in the workforce.



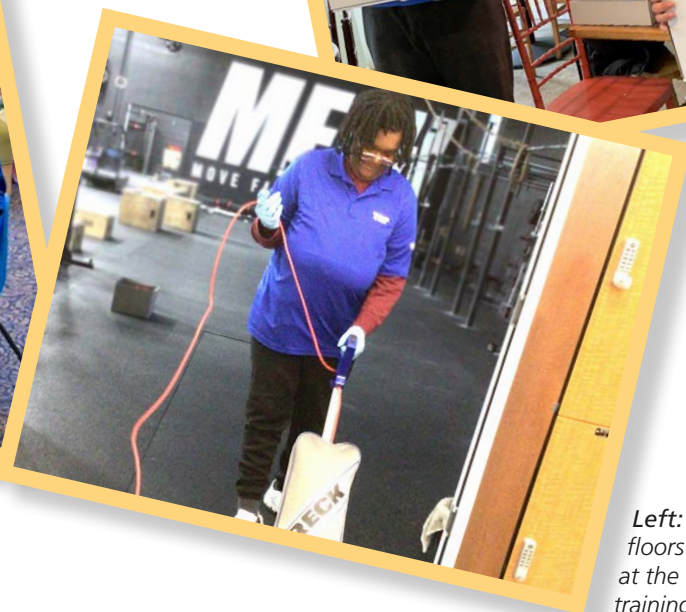
Above: At the Baking Coach in Bellport, Maya and Jeremy assist with organizing and preparing essential supplies used in the baking classes.



Above: At Café Castello in Bellport, Jacob and Haley help stack the pizza boxes needed to keep pies fresh for customers.



Above: At South Country Library, Jhoana and Andrey sort and organize books, toys, and other materials for public use.



Left: Amber helps vacuum floors and clean bathrooms at the Move Fast Lift Heavy training gym in Bohemia.

Showcasing Wide-Ranging Services that Support our Districts

Eastern Suffolk BOCES welcomed board members and district superintendents for a special presentation, the role of BOCES in preparing future-ready students. The session was led by Chief Operating Officer David Wicks, board trustee Catherine M. Romano, and Julie M. Marlette of Hinman Straub, who facilitated a thoughtful discussion on how BOCES continues to evolve to meet the needs of today's learners. For more than 30 years, ESBOCES has provided high-quality shared services and educational support to school communities across the eastern Suffolk County region.



(Left to right) John Galligan, board trustee, Miller Place UFSD; Robert Vecchio, executive director, Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association.

While many people associate BOCES primarily with Special Education and Career and Technical Education, our agency offers nearly **800** programs and services that support students, educators, and districts in substantial and far-reaching ways. Beyond classroom instruction, we assist districts with transportation support, data and analytics for school improvement, professional development for educators, technology acquisition, library services, cooperative bidding, and even specialized supports such as superintendent searches and employee assistance programs.

Hinman Straub also plays a role in supporting ESBOCES and its component districts by serving as a liaison between local education leaders and New York state government. As partners through the Eastern Suffolk Legislative Advisory Committee, the firm helps ensure that the needs of ESBOCES and school districts across the region are represented in Albany, while



(Left to right) Catherine M. Romano, ESBOCES board trustee; David Wicks, ESBOCES Chief Operating Officer; Julie M. Marlette of Hinman Straub; James Stucchio, ESBOCES Associate Superintendent for Management Services.

also providing guidance on education policy, legislation, and funding opportunities that impact schools and students.

"This conference was about giving educational leaders a clear picture of just how wide-ranging, impactful, and simply put, helpful ESBOCES is," said Wicks. "Our goal is to ensure that everyone understands the depth of resources available to them and how, by working together, we can create stronger opportunities and outcomes for every student we serve."

Questions about how ESBOCES can assist your district? Contact Dave Wicks at 631-687-3001 or dwicks@esboces.org



Catherine M. Romano, ESBOCES board trustee

Classroom Happenings

Shelve It

Three types of shelves, involving varying degrees of difficulty to construct, allow students with a range of abilities to learn basic building skills in Intro to Carpentry. Students then take this know-how and use it to engineer cabinets for the next project.



Down Under

Is there a better place to learn plumbing than this state-of-the-art classroom at one of our tech centers? Students have begun the months-long project of building three-piece bathrooms with a toilet, sink and shower. Here, they are installing sewage lines for each fixture.

Shooting Hoops

Westhampton Beach Learning Center students hit the court for some basketball fun. Both Academic Center and Pre-Vocational students joined in on the action. Those not on the court brought the energy from the sidelines, cheering their friends on every step of the way.



MODERN ART, MODERN CAREERS

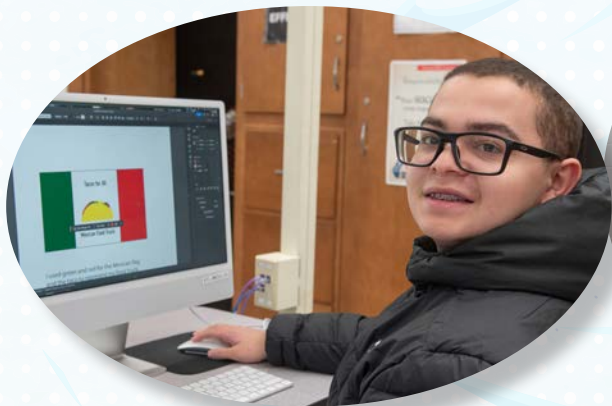
You won't find a single starving artist in any of the creative programs at ESBOCES. That's because our instructors understand that today's commercial and digital arts are deeply integrated into numerous global industries such as marketing, media, advertising, fashion, and entertainment, to name just a few. Our high school CTE creative courses provide environments for students to explore these careers alongside experienced teachers, using gold-standard equipment and software, and learning up-to-the-minute workforce and college tactics.

Despite a robust job market that employs thousands with creative know-how, many don't consider the arts a viable career option. Said Dr. Tanya Long, Program Administrator for Career, Technical and Adult Education, "It's important to realize how a student's creative interests fit into the current workforce. Also, the level of education surrounding the arts is vital. It can't be just rudimentary. It needs to be career-focused. This is standard operating procedure at ESBOCES."

The career-savvy education offered here includes immersive curricula filled with authentic, hands-on projects in state-of-the-art studios, meeting with visiting alumni who work in the field, hearing from industry guest speakers, taking related field trips, and more.

To exemplify how workforce-forward our programs are, projects and information from each of the five programs within the agency's creative cluster are highlighted on the following pages. Those classes include Audio Production, Computer Graphic Arts, Fashion, Photography, and TV-Video Production. Use the link or QR code on the next page to access additional images, videos, podcasts and music files created by our students.

"The arts are much more than hobbies," said Long, "and what we provide here goes beyond what any student can produce at home with apps, a cell phone, and a few extra pieces of equipment."



Use the link or QR code on the next page to access additional images, videos, podcasts and music files created by our students.

<https://www.esboces.org/CreativeCareers>



MODERN ART, MODERN CAREERS



Digital Photography and Related Media

Careers in professional photography are varied and in demand, ranging from weddings and portraits to commercial and product imaging. As long as people celebrate milestones and businesses need to showcase their products, skilled photographers are essential. Students learn to master intentional lighting, lens selection, composition, and precise exposure to capture emotion, tell stories, and present subjects in their most compelling form. These are the skills that make photography a marketable service that can't be replaced with smartphone images.



Commercial Design and Visual Communications

Branding is big business. Every consumer and commercial product, business and service needs logos, packaging, labels, posters, and branded materials such as catalogues and ads. Those who study graphic design and who are proficient in industry-standard software programs can pursue creative careers at marketing and advertising agencies, as well as at big box retailers, manufacturers, and publishing houses. These skills translate directly into employability in today's visually driven economy.



Audio Production

Audio production offers much more than the opportunity to make personal music; – it opens the door to diverse, sought-after careers. Students become adept at recording, editing, mixing, and mastering music for bands and vocalists, applying time and pitch correction and genre-specific techniques. They also produce podcasts, design sound effects, manage audio distribution, and complete broadcast-style projects. Working with industry-standard equipment and software prepares them for careers in studios, media production, live sound, broadcasting, and other professional audio roles.



Television, Video and Digital Film Production

The job market for TV and digital film production requires technical skills and creative storytelling. Students gain hands-on experience with camera exposure, light placement and wireless audio to craft mood, emotion, and character as they master light, color, and focus. These are the skills that set professional work apart from amateur, at-home content, and are valued in advertising, marketing, broadcast news, streaming media, and film.



Fashion Merchandising and Design

Thousands of jobs in the fashion industry don't revolve around showing designs on a Paris runway. Every store including Kohl's, Target, and Macy's, employs designers and vendors to create clothing and accessories. Teams of people work collaboratively to source fabrics, ensure their quality, create patterns, oversee fittings, forecast trends and create collections, and work with vendors to strategically stock stores months down the road. This blend of creativity, technical skills and business acumen creates careers that lead to multiple avenues in the global marketplace.

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Full-Day Internship

A landmark, three-way collaboration between two Long Island districts, state and local agencies, and ESBOCES has delivered career-building internships for two students. Collin, right, and Noah, below (**Longwood CSD** and **West Islip UFSD**), have full-day internships once a week at the NYS Department of Transportation and the Town of Islip's Department of Public Works, respectively. Both students attend ESBOCES Bellport Academic Center and the Automotive Program at Islip Career Center. The students work on fleet vehicles using the career skills they're acquiring in class.



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