

Press Release



For Immediate Release

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Erie 1 BOCES FUSION Fashion Show to showcase Erie 1 BOCES EDGE Academy student's works

West Seneca (March 14, 2024) – The work of an Erie 1 BOCES EDGE Academy student will be presented to the community along with those from fellow student designers in the Erie 1 BOCES Fashion Design Technology program during the FUSION '24 Fashion Show: Aurora.

August Ortiz said his favorite part of the program is the freedom to explore creative designs, and that he joined the program to express himself through clothes.

“I was determined to find a place where I could learn the technical skills needed to bring my creative vision into real life,” August said.

The FUSION Fashion Show, which has been running since 2009, will take place on Wednesday, March 27 and will showcase the work of 18 high school fashion students from across Western New York who attend the Harkness Career & Technical Education Center. The theme for this year's show, Aurora, was developed by students based on how the colors in the sky reflected the ideas of personal change and the feeling of community.

August said his pieces in the show feature dark and saturated colors, inspired by the club scene of the 1990s.



After high school, August said he plans to attend the Fashion Institute of Technology, with hopes of starting his own label or working as a designer for an existing label.

The annual show brings together talents from multiple Erie 1 BOCES programs, who support each other to ensure the success of the show. That includes Barbering and Cosmetology program students who prepare participating models for the show, along with Criminal

Justice students that assist with security for the evening. The Engineering and Robotics program also assisted student designers in the creation of gears and 3-D printing for their designs.

The two-year Fashion Design Technology program at Erie 1 BOCES' Harkness Career & Technical Educational Center teaches students how to dress, style and create trends based on design elements and

the fashion cycle. Students in the program also develop business plans as a part of their studies, setting them up for future success. The students' work included creating the posters and tickets for the show.

This year's show will take place at 7 p.m. on March 27 at The Show at Shea's Seneca, 2188 Seneca Street, Buffalo, N.Y. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and will close at 6:50 p.m. prior to the start of the show. Tickets are \$5, and can be reserved by emailing instructor Darlene Borchert at dborchert@e1b.org. Proceeds from the show will benefit Ten Lives Club as well as the Buffalo Underdogs Rescue. For more information about the show, visit <https://www.e1b.org/en/k-12-education-programs/fusion-2024.aspx>.

About Erie 1 BOCES

As part of public education, Erie 1 BOCES offers a variety of career and technical programs during the regular school day to high school students in Erie County. High school students interested in learning more about how they can participate in various programs such as fashion design, web and gaming technologies, health careers or aviation technology, should visit www.e1b.org/cte or speak with their high school counselor.

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