After falling in love with the beauty industry at an early age, Maple Grove senior, Taylor “Ayah” Rotellini enrolled in the Cosmetology at the Hewes Educational Center.

Ayah’s interest in cosmetology sparked when she first started experimenting with make-up. She connected with the uniqueness, innovation and authenticity that fills the beauty world. Today, she is an aspiring entrepreneur working on a cosmetics business of her own.

“I’m working on a cosmetic business that will eventually create a charity to help children who have been through traumatic events or abuse receive proper counseling,” Ayah said. “Having this background in cosmetology is very important to me because I want to make a difference and help people, and my company is going to do that.”

Before entering the program, Ayah faced a series of challenges in her personal life that eventually lead her to E2CCB. Although she originally wanted to take advanced classes in school, she quickly realized that BOCES would provide her with the opportunity for a full-time job right out of high school. She knew then that this was the right path for her.

“Having the opportunity to get a career right out of high school is amazing because I wouldn’t be able to afford college without this,” Ayah said. “I have to do a lot for myself … this way, I can support myself while still getting the education I need.”

While Ayah is focused on setting herself up for the future, she was surprised to discover a little bit more about herself during her time in the Cosmetology program.

“I’ve learned that my upbringing cannot define me,” Ayah said. “What happened to me does not define who I am going to be. I can create my own life.”

Outside of the classroom, Ayah is getting even more hands-on experience by working at Modern Expression Salon in Bemus Point as an assistant. While she plans to continue in the cosmetics industry after graduation, she also hopes to become a psychologist as well.

“Cosmetology helps people on a daily basis when we look at ourselves in the mirror and we feel good,” Ayah said. “I want to help people who have mental problems or who aren’t doing so well in life and I want to be the one to tell them that it’s going to be okay.”

Ayah’s future plans include working full-time in a salon while also studying psychology in college. She hopes to attend St. Bonaventure University.

Ayah is one of 37,313 students across the state developing college- and career-ready skills in BOCES Career and Technical Education programs.
Dear Board Members, District Administrators and School Community

E2CCB is continuing its ongoing effort to share student stories and outcomes through our Educational Collaborations which highlights how E2CCB is impacting your students, programs and operations.

Thank you for your on-going collaboration as we work together to provide programs and services to support students and districts throughout the region. We continually strive to build and strengthen our programs and services for students in your district as well as maximize operational efficiencies through shared services. We look forward to our continued partnership and making opportunities to best serve the needs of your students, teachers and administration.

David O’ Rourke, Ph.D.
District Superintendent

Danielle O’Connor
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

John O’Connor, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Management Services

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Student Eyes Career After Graduation

After falling in love with cars at an early age, Bemus Point senior Nathan Stanford, enrolled in the Automotive Technology class at the Hewes Educational Center.

Nathan's first introduction to cars came early on, when he would help his father do brakes and oil changes. Soon after, Nathan bought a 1966 Ford Mustang that he and his father rebuilt together. A passion quickly developed and the idea of having a career in the automotive industry became a real possibility.

“I find it interesting and I like doing it, so I pay attention when I come to class,” said Nathan. “I’ve learned a lot. I knew almost nothing when I started, so I’ve pretty much learned everything at BOCES.”

Nathan is getting more hands-on experience with cars by working at All Makes Express after school doing oil changes. He is looking forward to starting his internship experience, expanding his knowledge, and possibly landing himself a career before he graduates.

Bemus Point senior Nathan Stanford is following his passion for cars while enrolled in the Auto Technology program at the Hewes Educational Center.

“I do a lot of work and have to try to figure some things out on my own, but it’s nice to know that I could have a great career waiting for me at the end of it,” Nathan said. “It’s definitely time well spent.”

While Nathan is primarily focused on cars and building up his technical skills, he was surprised to learn a little bit more about himself through the Automotive Technology program.

“I’ve learned that I need to take my time on some things,” says Nathan. “I like to get things done quickly, but the Auto Tech program has taught me that I need to take my time and do things right.”

Nathan is planning to continue working with cars after graduation. He hopes to remain at All Makes Express or get hired at his internship site, but he is keeping the possibility of going to college open as well.

Nathan is one of 37,313 students across the state developing college- and career-ready skills in BOCES Career and Technical Education programs.

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CTE By the Numbers

Automotive Technology: 1 student
Conservation Natural Resource Management: 4 students
Construction Technology: 1 student
Cosmetology: 8 students
Criminal Justice/ CSI Forensics: 1 student
Culinary Arts: 5 students
Graphics Technology: 1 student
Health Careers: 1 student
Information Technology/Computer Systems: 1 student

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Career & Technical Education

Students enrolled in an approved CTE program acquire the skills, knowledge and professional practices necessary for success in college and the workforce. Students experience relevant, challenging, industry-aligned curricula supported by current technology in learning environments that foster high academic achievement and skill development. Course work is organized to provide both theory and hands-on.

Students have an opportunity to participate in internships with business, industry and education partners. Curriculum is assessed against national industry standards and meets the Common Core Learning standards.

Upon the successful completion of the two-year program, CTE students meeting specific criteria will earn a Technical Endorsement on their Regents/Local Diploma.
Bemus Point Senior Enjoying Real-World Situations

Bemus Point senior Lily Gustafson always knew she had a passion for cooking when she enrolled in the Culinary Arts program at the Hewes Educational Center.

Lily comes from a long line of passionate chefs who passed down their love of food. Her great grandmother owned a restaurant and her dad and grandparents taught her everything they know about cooking. From there, Lily knew Culinary Arts was the right path for her.

“I love cooking and my family thought it would be a great idea to get ahead and learn more,” said Lily. “It’s been a lot of fun. I’ve made a lot of good friends, I’ve made a lot of good food and I’ve learned a lot.”

Before entering the program, Lily didn’t know much about BOCES. She thought she would only be learning culinary techniques, but she quickly realized the program would challenge her in ways she least expected.

“I thought I was only going to learn things from my culinary class, but I’ve actually learned a lot of writing and soft skills too,” says Lily. “With this class, I’ve gotten better at talking to people and getting out of my comfort zones.”

Lily enjoys the hands-on learning opportunities that she experiences in the Culinary Arts program. Recently, her counselor, Mr. Swanson, recruited her to make his daughter’s wedding cake, which was a huge honor for Lily.

“It’s not easy. It’s kind of nerve wracking because I didn’t want to mess it up, but at the same time, it’s fun,” Lily said. “I’m learning a lot and enjoy being put in the real-world situations.”

Lily’s future plans include joining the US Air Force where she hopes to continue her culinary training or become a nurse. In her downtime, she enjoys running track for Bemus Point and riding her horses.

Lily is one of 37,313 students across the state developing college and career-ready skills in BOCES Career and Technical Education programs.

Regional Grant Co-Ser Initiatives On Track Moving Into 2020

The regional grant cooperative service secured two grants, $250,000 each, from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice to support training and prevention programs at Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES and 27 component school districts. These highly competitive grants were awarded to 153 recipients with only eight being awarded in New York State. Both program initiatives are taking place between October 2018 and June 2021.

“It is good to see the grant procurement service provide opportunities to our campuses and component districts that lead to safer schools for our students and our staff,” said John O’Connor, Ed.D., E2CCB assistant superintendent for Management Services. "We need to be vigilant right now when it comes to mental health awareness and violence prevention. These grants are providing the types of evidence-based training necessary in today’s environment.”

Because of these grants, close to 300 individuals have received training. These individuals include school counselors, school resource officers, guidance counselors, principals, teachers, psychologists, social workers, superintendents, and E2CCB Safety Coordinators and Specialists. Trainings support the safety, well-being, and success of 38,000 students who attend all schools throughout 27 school districts and E2CCB campuses.

Highlights from the STOP School Violence Threat Assessment initiative include the following:

- 133 individuals from E2CCB campuses and 21 component districts have participated in the Sandy Hook Promise Safety Assessment & Intervention (SAI) Training.

- As a result of trainings, participating campuses and districts have revised their lockdown procedures and protocols and each conducted a mandatory lockdown training for all staff.

- Utilizing information from the SAI training, schools are working on updating and finalizing their building-level and district-wide safety plans, policies, and procedures.

- Each E2CCB campus and district identified signage to assist with safety assessment and intervention efforts.

- E2CCB campuses and component districts are in the process of establishing Schools Against Violence Everyday (SAVE) Promise Clubs at each middle and high school.

Highlights from the STOP School Violence Mental Health initiative include the following:

- 153 individuals from 22 component districts have participated in the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Training.

- To date, 17 out of 27 component districts have completed the school health index and utilized Panorama Education and/or the ASCD school improvement tool to provide data to advance the MTSS framework.

- E2CCB Coordinated Health Specialist and Prevention Education Specialists received training to implement Trauma-Informed Behavioral supports and became certified Youth Mental Health First Aid Trainers and are now able to offer courses to component districts, local law enforcement, and partner agencies through Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Erie counties.

- A two-day Second Step Leadership Institute took place on June 4-5, 2019, where 60 participants from 17 component districts received in-depth training on social-emotional learning.

These grant-funded initiatives are on target moving into year two.
The Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES does not discriminate in its employment and/or admission to programs and activities as applicable, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, economic status, marital status, veterans' status, political affiliation, domestic victim status, use of a guide dog, hearing dog or service dog, disability, or other classifications protected under federal or state law, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Visit www.e2ccb.org for more information.