For Immediate Release

Erie 1 BOCES FUSION Fashion Show to showcase Sweet Home students’ clothing

West Seneca (March 10, 2020) - Students in the Erie 1 BOCES Fashion Design Technology program will have their individually designed outfits hit the runway during the 2020 FUSION Fashion Show: Figment of Imagination.

Now in its 11th year, the FUSION Fashion Show will take place on Thursday, March 19 and will showcase the work of nearly 35 high school fashion students from across Western New York. The show will be at 7 p.m. at Buffalo State College, in the Campbell Student Union Social Hall, 1300 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo.

Kristin O’Neil and Zaniya Vaugh from Sweet Home High School are two of the senior students exhibiting their personally designed and sewn collections at the fashion show. Kristin’s line of clothing draws inspiration from the country of France, which is known for being fancy, classical and beautiful. Zaniya’s line draws from racial injustices faced by the black community in today’s world. Elements from African culture and art by Jean-Michel Basquiat are also evident in Zaniya’s work.

“Fashion has always been a hidden passion for me. It allows me to express myself freely and creatively,” Kristin noted. “I’ve loved fashion since I was a kid, changing my outfit up to six times a day. The industry is exciting and adrenaline-pumping since you’re able to use your own thoughts and designs to create something bigger than yourself.”

“Fashion has always been a passion of mine. I always loved creative things and being hands on,” Zaniya said. “Fashion has always been a way for me to try new things and express and find myself. It’s fascinating to me that the industry is always changing and that there are so many designers with different aesthetics and style. There’s no right way to do fashion; you just do you.”

After high school, Kristin will attend Cazenovia College to study fashion. She plans on mastering in Entrepreneurship. Zaniya plans on studying fashion design, as well. She hopes to stay in either New York or Pennsylvania.
In addition to the seniors, juniors will be presenting upcycled items from previously worn garments at the show.

The show has evolved into a collaborative event across various Erie 1 BOCES programs. Barbering and Cosmetology students will be doing hair and makeup for over 75 models, while Criminal Justice students will provide support for security. Digital Media students produced videos that will introduce each fashion student and their collection; these students also assisted in professional photos and videography for the show.

Erie 1 BOCES’ two-year Fashion Design Technology program at the Harkness Career & Technical Center teaches students how to create, style and trend forecast based on design elements and the fashion cycle. Participants also create a successful business plan for a fashion business, setting them up for future success.

The show is free and open to family members and community members with a high interest in the fashion industry, though all guests will need a ticket available at the event. Seating is limited. Open seating begins at 6 p.m.

In lieu of ticket price, attendees are asked to donate a pair of previously worn jeans which will be donated to Goodwill of Western New York. Donations can be brought to the show, where they will be taken at the door.

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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