Press Release

For Immediate Release

Erie 1 BOCES

FUSION Fashion Show to showcase Clarence 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.

Anthony Rick, Ava Grande and Lily LoTempio from Clarence High School are three of the senior students exhibiting their personally designed and sewn collections at the fashion show. For his line of clothing, Anthony drew from his experiences at BOCES, including his first-ever sketch while in the program. Ava explained she drew from her imagination, with all her pieces being bold, as well. Lily noted her inspiration came from her cousin’s upcoming wedding on Halloween, adding she wanted to design garments she herself could wear to the elegant occasion.

“Fashion expresses many different things such as cultures, moods and personalities. I have a passion for clothes and shoes and wanting to see people wear my creations,” Anthony explained. “Growing up, everything had to match. I’ve learned so much from my fashion family in this program and I feel like I have a possible career in the fashion industry.”

“A fashion design and clothing have always been a passion of mine,” Ava stated. “I am truly inspired by avant-garde pieces on the runway and high fashion. I am also inspired to make my own clothes out of old recycled ones.”

“I think given my disability, fashion gives a better insight into what people need compared to other subjects,” Lily said. “To most people, picking out shoes or a new purse is never really that hard. I’d like to adapt things such as shoes that give me a hard time as a result of being in a wheelchair. I think everyone deserves to feel beautiful regardless of

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what the lottery of genetics have given them.”

After high school, Anthony plans to attend college and study fashion. Ava said she plans to attend Buffalo State College to major in Fashion Design. Lily will be heading to college, as well.

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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