Erie 1 BOCES FUSION Fashion Show to showcase Hamburg student’s 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.

Natalie Pitillo from Hamburg High School is one of the senior students exhibiting their personally designed and sewn collections at the fashion show. She explained her line of clothing draws on Claude Monet’s unique painting style, which captured his perception of nature in a beautiful way.

“The most inspiring aspect of the fashion industry to me is the way you can make something functional and artistic out of simple materials, such as a piece of fabric,” Natalie said. “Fashion can be created out of anything, from plastic bags to the most expensive fabrics, but it’s all art in the end, and a way of self-expression.”

After high school, Natalie plans to further her studies in fashion design. Her top choices for colleges are the Fashion Institute of Technology, Kent State University and SUNY Oneonta.

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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