

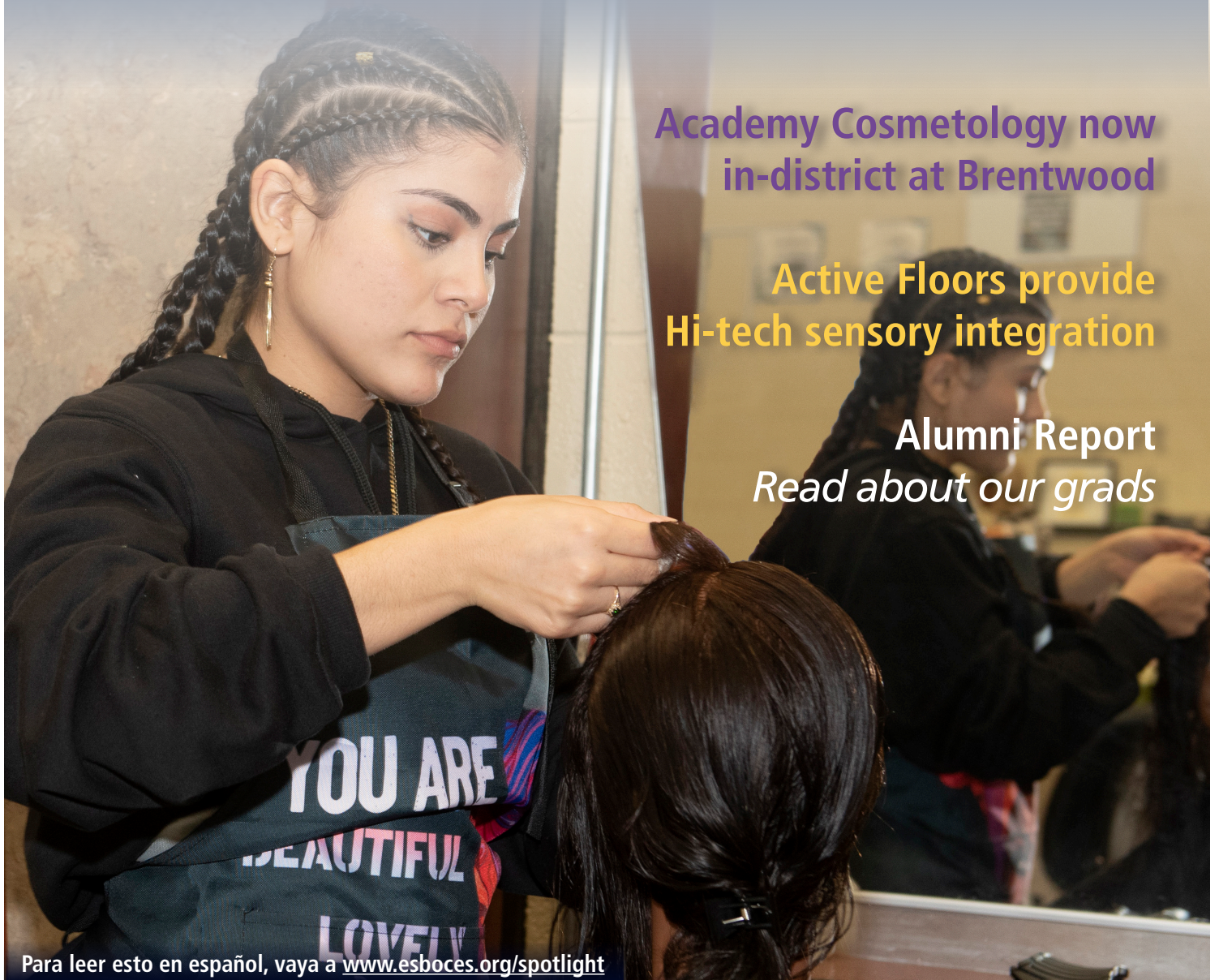


# Spotlight

**Academy Cosmetology now  
in-district at Brentwood**

**Active Floors provide  
Hi-tech sensory integration**

**Alumni Report  
*Read about our grads***



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**Eastern Suffolk BOCES**  
201 Sunrise Highway  
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# Student Named to Blue Ribbon Commission



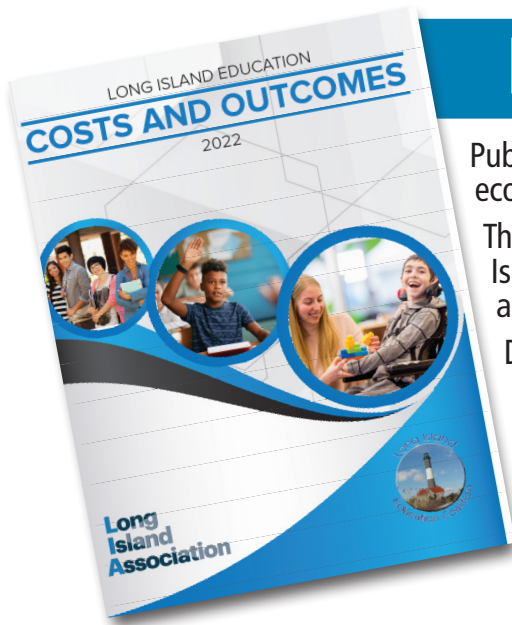
Samantha Bruno, Eastport-South Manor CSD, a senior currently enrolled in The Academy's Personal Training Program at Bixhorn Technical Center, has been selected to be a part of New York State's Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures. Samantha is the only student in the state to be selected.

The Blue Ribbon Commission will explore state graduation requirements that ensure educational excellence and equity for every student in New York State. The Commission began meeting in October and will meet regularly through spring 2024. Commission members include educators, administrators, researchers, school counselors, professionals from business and higher education, parents, and students.

Last year, while a student in The Academy's Physical Therapy Aide Program, Samantha began taking advantage of all the leadership and advocacy opportunities available at the school. She was a SkillsUSA officer, participated in Emerging Leaders in the healthcare division, and a member of Bixhorn's P.O.W.E.R. Team. The P.O.W.E.R Team stands for professionalism, opportunities, work-based learning, emerging leadership, and responsible citizenship.

When the opportunity arose to apply to serve on this commission, Samantha applied with the hopes of advocating for graduation requirements that will accommodate high schoolers with different learning styles, specifically those who have chosen to participate in Career and Technical Education. Samantha says ESBOCES has brought out the best in her and given her a voice – a voice she will now use on the Blue Ribbon Commission.

ESBOCES will also be represented on the commission by the agency's Board Trustee Susan Lipman and Lead Resource Specialist Jordan Gonzalez, from the Long Island Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (L.I. RBERN), which is administered by Eastern Suffolk BOCES.



## New Report

Public education is one of our region's most prized assets and an important economic engine.

The 2022 **Long Island Costs and Outcomes Report** documents Long Island's fiscal investment in education, illustrates its student outcomes, and compares them with the rest of the state.

Download a copy of the report here:

<https://www.esboces.org/LICostsandOutcomes2022>



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# In-district Program Launch

The Long Island Academy of Applied Technology, the CTE Program of ESBOCES, collaborated with the Brentwood Union Free School District to open an in-district Cosmetology Program within Sonderling High School, one of the district's two high schools.

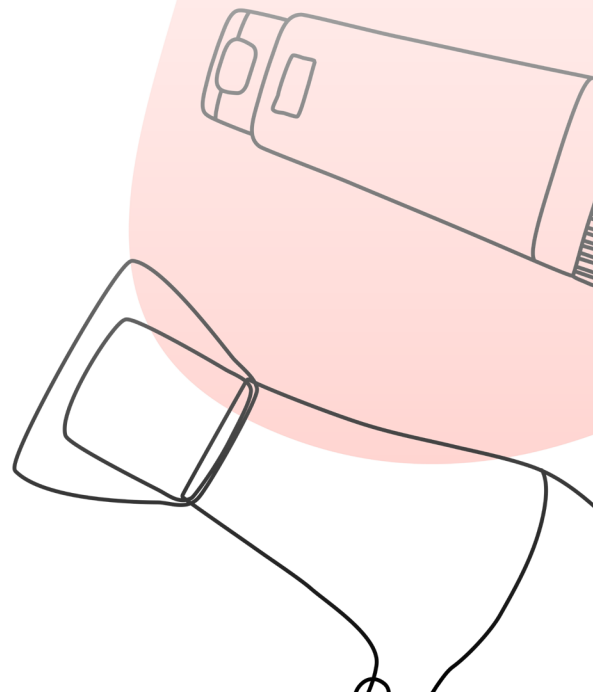
This school year, approximately 30 students, split between one morning and one afternoon session, each attend a half-day class taught by an Academy teacher, who is both an alumnus of the Cosmetology Program and of the district, as well as a former Academy Cosmetology teacher assistant.

The district uses the state-approved, Academy Cosmetology CTE curriculum, which is the same curriculum used by all Academy Cosmetology classes, and adheres to Academy guidelines, equipment requirements, etc.

In-district ventures can allow many more students to participate in CTE programs than if they were to bus them to Academy tech centers because they keep costs to a minimum and eliminate the need for transportation.

Said ESBOCES Director of Career, Technical, and Adult Education Leah Arnold, "For districts that have large numbers of students who wish to enroll in certain programs, bringing the course in-house can be an extremely cost-effective solution to providing students with top-quality career training and guidance with industry professionals right in their own high school."

**Questions about launching an in-district program?  
Contact Rob Van Brunt at 631-419-1628 or email:  
[rvanbrun@esboces.org](mailto:rvanbrun@esboces.org).**



# Alumni

## Students leave the many ESBOCES and Academy programs



**Joe Moore**

**Plumbing CTE Program 2010, and HVAC Adult Education Program 2011  
Owner, Moore Services, HVAC maintenance, heating, and air conditioning, Brentwood**

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Joe Moore attended not one but two ESBOCES CTE programs, both of which gave him the skills to launch his own HVAC service company.

Joe graduated from the Plumbing Program as a high school senior in 2010, and then enrolled in the daytime HVAC Program as an adult. "My teacher said it would make me more versatile," said Moore. "The plumbing background provided me with important experience prior to the HVAC class."

Joe worked for a local company before branching out on his own. Today, business is booming. He has three full-time employees, three company vans, and a roster of customers between Valley Stream and the Hamptons.

He is still connected to the HVAC Program, which benefits both parties. His newest employee was an ESBOCES HVAC intern. "I hired him full time," said Moore, who also visits the class to speak to students, and proctors industry assessment exams.

**Luigi Strada**

**Welding Program 2021, and Hobart Institute of Welding Technology graduate 2022  
Welder, KD Frame & Door Corp., Central Islip**

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Luigi Strada found his career path in the ESBOCES Special Career Education Welding Program, which helps students develop essential skills for the workforce while teaching them to successfully manage a disability. Prior to beginning the class, Strada wasn't sure if welding would be fulfilling. He credits his teacher and building principal for providing him with positive support and guidance.

After high school, Luigi attended and graduated from the Hobart Institute of Welding Technology in Ohio. Today, he works at KD Frame & Door Corp. in Central Islip where he welds metal doors and frames. "Before I stepped into the ESBOCES building, I had no idea what I was going to do and I was afraid. Now, I couldn't be happier," he said.



**Emma Addonizio**

**Bellport Academic Center 2017  
Suffolk County Community College and SUNY Old Westbury graduate**

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To this day, Emma Addonizio still uses the coping techniques she learned while in high school at Bellport Academic Center, an ESBOCES school for students with mild behavioral and learning disabilities or counseling needs.

The small classes at Bellport helped her break out of her shell and the ultra-supportive staff of teachers and counselors helped her successfully manage her anxiety.

"Every day a counselor would greet me and take me to my first period class and stay until I was comfortable," she said. "She did that for weeks. My teachers and counselors are the reason I graduated," she explained.

Today, Emma continues to take challenges one step at a time. She earned her Associate Degree from Suffolk County Community College and will graduate this December from SUNY Old Westbury with a BA in American Studies. She plans to pursue a career in media studies.





# Gallery

ms prepared for success. Here are some of their stories:



**Ethan Kotoff**

**Food Prep, Project SEARCH, and Adult Supported Employment 2021  
Food Service Worker, Morrison Community Living, LI Veterans Home, Stony Brook**

Ethan Kotoff is an alumni of multiple Eastern Suffolk BOCES programs. Ethan attended Islip Career Center and then went on to participate in ESBOCES Project SEARCH at Medford MultiCare Center for Living. Project SEARCH is a one-year, school-to-work program that takes place entirely at a workplace and facilitates hands-on training through worksite rotations, classroom instruction, and career exploration.

Ethan has taken the skills he learned at both Islip Career Center and Project SEARCH and is currently employed by Morrison Community Living at the LI State Veterans Home in Stony Brook, as a food service worker. Ethan was placed in his current position by ESBOCES Supported Employment Program, a program that transforms lives by giving people of all abilities an opportunity to become an integral part of the workforce through job placement and coaching.



**Julie James**

**Adult Ed Electric NCCER Certification Program 2021/2022  
Electrician, EMI Maintenance and Installation, Holbrook**

In September 2021, Julie James began our Adult Education Electric Program and by November 2021 she was already employed full-time in the field. Julie worked at EMI Maintenance and Installation while earning her National Center for Construction Education and Research Certification through ESBOCES at night. Julie completed the certification in May 2022, and she is now working on her third jobsite at EMI. Julie loves the physical aspect of her job and feels she's more her authentic self in this job than any other she has had.

Julie was previously an administrative assistant at Local Union 290 Carpentry Training Center. It was there that she was exposed to the program, "Sisters in the Brotherhood," which gave women training to become carpentry apprentices. Seeing those women gave her confidence to pursue her goal of becoming an electrician.



**Rachell Rubio**

**Dental Chairside Assisting 2021  
Dental Assistant, Sachem Dental, and Stony Brook University Pre-Dental Program student**

Dentistry runs in Rachell Rubio's family. Rachell's mother was a dentist in El Salvador, and her sister, also an ESBOCES alum, is a dental hygienist who graduated from our Adult Education Dental Chairside Assisting Program. Rachell graduated in 2021 from The Academy's Dental Chairside Assisting Program at Bixhorn Technical Center, and is currently a pre-dental student at Stony Brook University.

Rachell is working her way through college at Sachem Dental, the practice she interned at while attending Bixhorn Tech. Her ultimate goal is to become a prosthodontist – a dentist who specializes in treating complex dental and facial matters – in order to give her patients their perfect smiles. Rachell is thankful for her time at Bixhorn Tech because it allowed her to attain her internship, which led directly to employment, and provided her with the job shadowing hours necessary for her college prerequisites.

# Classroom Happenings

Here's a quick look inside our many educational programs, which consist of Career and Technical Education, Adult Education, Special Education, and Special Career Education.

## Electric Splice

Splicing wires together is a foundational skill for electricians. Trade Electric students in Jesse Kelly's class at Bixhorn Tech started the year off by learning the fine points. They used wire strippers to remove the insulation jacket from the conductors, and lineman pliers to twist and cut the exposed wire. All wire is twisted clockwise, and must be tight enough to hold together for decades, but not so rigid that it might break.



## Quick Breads

Quick breads are any baked item that rises without yeast by using baking powder or baking soda. Examples include muffins, biscuits, scones, etc. Lauren Daquet's Food Prep students at Islip Career Center recently spent the day preparing carrot cake and zucchini bread as an assignment for their quick bread unit. They incorporated freshly-grown vegetables from the school's Horticulture class into their items in a farm-to-table manner.



## Tecumseh Welcomes VIPs

Tecumseh Elementary School's "VIP Day" was extra special this year, as it was the first one held since before the pandemic began. Students and their very important people enjoyed a snack and made a craft and were overjoyed to share an event together at school.





# Active Floors for Whole Body Learning



Last year, Brookhaven Learning Center's addition of an Active Floor for their students was a huge success. The new technology has been providing whole body learning and fun to all who utilize it for lessons and social activity. Brookhaven Learning Center Principal Nicole Drinkwater and her team discovered Active Floor and advocated to acquire it for the students. This year, ESBOCES Special Education Department is adding Active Floors to their Westhampton Beach Learning Center, Samoset Middle School, Sayville Elementary School, Premm Learning Center, and Tecumseh Elementary School.

Active Floor is an interactive floor that provides sensory integration and gives students of all ages and abilities the possibility to learn and develop intellectually, physically, and socially. Students navigate various activities and educational games by using their feet – and in some cases – their wheelchairs. Incorporating movement and play into learning helps memory, collaboration, focus, motor development, and social skills while creating an exciting educational environment.

The Active Floors consist of a ceiling-mounted box with a projector, a movement tracker, a white vinyl floor, and an online platform for every teacher in the building to create teaching materials that go onto the floor. The learning games, with content for math, language arts, science, and more, provide teachers with opportunities to integrate movement and fun into lessons.

Each class at Brookhaven Learning Center has scheduled times throughout the week to use the floor, and extra times are available for all students because of all the floor offers academically and socially. Students are given time to dance and play sports like soccer and air hockey with each other on the floor. "The mission and goal of the Active Floor is aligned with everything that we do at Eastern Suffolk BOCES," said ESBOCES Director of Special Education Gina Reilly. "They believe, as we do, that using the whole body is the most natural way for students to learn."



## You're invited to join our Parent/Family Advisory Council

Be part of a team that advises us how we can best support students and families, and to increase communication, review policies, and address any inequities.

For more information go to: <https://tinyurl.com/PFAC-English>



<https://tinyurl.com/PFAC-Spanish>



# Champions of Change

The New York State School Boards Association honored ESBOCES with a Champions of Change Award. The award recognizes ESBOCES Early Childhood Education Program's partnership with the Town of Islip. The Champions of Change initiative celebrates innovative school programs around New York State.

The partnership between ESBOCES and the Town of Islip gives students in the Early Childhood Education Program (at ESBOCES Milliken Technical Center in Oakdale) hands-on experience working with young children in Islip Town's recreation centers, putting the students on track to earn a teaching certification while still in high school.



Back row left to right: ESBOCES Work Based Learning Coordinator Carol Donohue; ESBOCES Early Childhood Education Teacher Gini Wagner; Commissioner of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Tom Owens; Deputy Commissioner of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Deirdre Wahlberg; and ESBOCES Director of Career, Technical, and Adult Education Leah Arnold. Front row left to right: Labor Relations Technician Stefanie Ohayon; Islip Town Supervisor Angie Carpenter; ESBOCES Early Childhood Education Program Alumni Troy Jones; Milliken Technical Center Principal Jennifer Martino; ESBOCES Chief Operating Officer Ryan Ruf; and NYSSBA Representative and ESBOCES Board Member Cathy Romano.



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