

For Immediate Release

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From young age, Sweet Home teen has held fashion dear

Amherst (Feb. 26, 2018) - Students in the Fashion Design and Merchandising program at Erie 1 BOCES will have their handmade outfits take to the runway for all to see during the 2018 FUSION Fashion Show: Industrial Revolution at Buffalo State College.

Now in its ninth year, the FUSION Fashion Show on Thursday, March 15 will showcase the work of nearly a dozen seniors from high schools across Western New York, including Mariah Rodriquez of Sweet Home Senior High School. The show takes place at 7 p.m. in the college's Campbell Student Union Social Hall, 1300 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo.

Mariah began to dress herself at the young age of five. Everything she wore had to match, from head to toe.



“Everyone in the fashion industry has a story to tell through their designs,” she noted. “It’s amazing how much fashion has changed throughout the centuries.”

Mariah’s fashion show garments are inspired by her love for Los Angeles and New York City. She described some of the looks as sophisticated and elegant, and others as laid back and casual.

Erie 1 BOCES has helped Mariah meet many new friends that she considers family. She also found immense value in the lessons of her instructor, Darlene Borchert, who she said has prepared her well for the industry.

After graduation, Mariah plans on attending college in New York and then deciding whether to make her living in either New York City or Los Angeles. Her goal is to start a brand in honor of her late mother.

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

The fashion show is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6 p.m. Unreserved tickets will be available at the door. Questions may be emailed to instructor Darlene Borchert (dborchert@e1b.org).

Jeans, T-shirts and dress shirts will be accepted at the fashion show as part of a donation drive to benefit Goodwill of Western New York. The students’ upcycled fashions that will be featured at the show were created from clothing items donated to the class by Goodwill. Visit www.goodwillwny.org for more information.

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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