

Press Release



For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Candace Reimer
(716) 821-7193, creimer@e1b.org

Erie 1 BOCES FUSION Fashion Show to showcase West Seneca student's works

West Seneca (March 14, 2024) – The work of a West Seneca Central School District student will be presented to the community along with those from fellow student designers in the Erie 1 BOCES Fashion Design Technology program during the FUSION '24 Fashion Show: Aurora.

Shifa Al-Khulaqi said she found inspiration in watching her grandmother sew.

“I always wanted to have the ability to sew,” Shifa said. “I also liked the idea of having an image and then making it with your hands.”

The FUSION Fashion Show, which has been running since 2009, will take place on Wednesday, March 27 and will showcase the work of 18 high school fashion students from across Western New York who attend the Harkness Career & Technical Education Center. The theme for this year's show, Aurora, was developed by students based on how the colors in the sky reflected the ideas of personal change and the feeling of community.

Shifa said her pieces in the show were designed to be both classy and eye-catching, and that she wanted her designs “to be loud without speaking.”



After high school, Shifa said she would like to study interior design in college, with hopes of becoming both a fashion designer and interior designer in the Middle East.

The annual show brings together talents from multiple Erie 1 BOCES programs, who support each other to ensure the success of the show. That includes Barbering and Cosmetology program students who prepare participating models for the show, along with Criminal Justice students that assist with security for the evening.

The Engineering and Robotics program also assisted student designers in the creation of gears and 3-D printing for their designs.

The two-year Fashion Design Technology program at Erie 1 BOCES' Harkness Career & Technical Educational Center teaches students how to dress, style and create trends based on design elements and the fashion cycle. Students in the program also develop business plans as a part of their studies, setting them up for future success. The students' work included creating the posters and tickets for the show.

This year's show will take place at 7 p.m. on March 27 at The Show at Shea's Seneca, 2188 Seneca Street, Buffalo, N.Y. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and will close at 6:50 p.m. prior to the start of the show. Tickets are \$5, and can be reserved by emailing instructor Darlene Borchert at dborchert@e1b.org. Proceeds from the show will benefit Ten Lives Club as well as the Buffalo Underdogs Rescue. For more information about the show, visit <https://www.e1b.org/en/k-12-education-programs/fusion-2024.aspx>.

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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