

Lilli medina 10th grade
Hodgson Vocational Technical
New Castle County votech
Theresa Tucci
Cosmetology

It has been and honor to be accepted in the cosmetology program at Hodgson Votech. My experience so far as a sophomore has been phenomenal. If it weren't for Ms. Theresa Tucci my life today would be dramatically different. I would not be giving the opportunity to study my dream career. She is not only my teacher but my role model and my second mom. Many people who do not know her say she's enraged and has a sour personality . Which yes Ms. Tucci can be stern at times but she is the most down to earth person I know. This year I got especially close to her participating in the American Girl Doll Fashion Show and the career fair at Redding middle school. With many more volunteering opportunities to come junior year. She really gets to know her students on a personal level and loves them as her own children. In the classroom many different learning styles are incorporated to ensure no student is left behind. She truly dedicates her life to her students and serving others. No matter if it is in the clock or off. Most importantly she is honest and trustworthy . Out of all my teachers at Hodgson I would turn to Ms. Tucci first if I needed something or someone to talk to . No doubt in my mind . I take many of my teachers for granted but this is one woman since day one has earned my respect and appreciation. So thank you to Ms. Theresa Tucci for allowing me the opportunity to study cosmetology at Hodgson Votech. You are the reason for my many successes and my future ones to come.

Aaliyah Barnhart
Apr. 17th, 2013

10th

Hodgson Vo-Tech

New Castle County Vo-Tech

The New American Dream

Everyday we are one step closer to our future.... Our career.. something we are going to be doing for the rest our lives. We have opportunities that no one else has and we take it for granted every day.

Kids who attend public schools only get to choose from about 6 electives but it's not getting them any closer to their career. In vo-tech schools you get to choose what career you want to pursue and by the end of your high school years you are able to start working instantly. In a vo-tech you are able to learn and practice new things every day that is going to help with your career. Being able to work in a salon at the age of 17 or 18 because of attending trade school is a wonderful opportunity. So many older men and women don't start working in the salon until around the age of 20 or 30 because they didn't have this opportunity while attending public school.

Also, it is a lot of competition when applying for vocational schools and only a selected few are chosen to attend. Being able to be a part of that certain few has opened so many doors for me and created plenty of choices for my future. It allows you to do something you love everyday while getting an education at the same time.

This means I can go on to work in a hair salon after school or go on to college.

Vocational schools are meant for kids who don't really plan on going to college but to me education never stops. You can never stop learning things. Also, I believe that more vocational schools should be added because many kids try so hard to get into vocational schools but there isn't enough room. A lot of middle school kids want to attend trade schools so they can start their career right after high school. So many of them want the hands on experience while still getting an education and what's a better place to start than at a vocational school?

Dear Department of Education,

Everyone has their own American dream. My American dream is to become a cosmetologist and eventually own my own day spa. Last year I was accepted to Hodgson Vocational and Technical High School in the career area of cosmetology. Through the program I am not only learning skills to become a cosmetologist, but I am also learning important life skills. So far I have learned better ways to speak in front of a group of people, communicating not only with my peers but also with clients of all ages. I have also learned a lot of hands on skills including how to perform manicures, facials, make up, up dos, braids, different hair curling techniques, proper sanitation of my implements and my salon station. In addition I was also taught what to do in case of an emergency.

Schools such as Hodgson Vo-Tech that offer a choice of career areas give you a head start in life. Before I receive my diploma at the end of my senior year, I will already have my license as a cosmetologist. Having this will be an amazing advantage because I will not have to work at a low paying side job trying to save money for college. Having a license in cosmetology will allow me to enter a working environment as a professional. Other people who want to do the same, but did not go to a Vo-tech have to go after high school to a cosmetology school that not only takes several years to obtain their license, but also costs a lot.

I enjoy being in the cosmetology career area at Hodgson Vo-Tech. I am very happy and I love seeing others happy when I perform a service for a client. This program is helping me on my journey to fulfill my dreams. My plan after high school is to maintain the job I obtain through the co-op program at Hodgson Vo-Tech and go to an institution where I can further my education in cosmetology. After I become an esthetician, nail technician, hair stylist and masseuse, I will take classes in business and begin to create my own day spa.

Kacy Pringle

10th grade

Hodgson Vo-tech

New Castle County Vo-tech

Theresa Tucci

Cosmetology

Essence Lee

Grade 10

Hodgson Votech

New Castle County Votech

Mrs. Tucci - Cosmetology

THE NEW AMERICAN DREAM

It all comes down to this, careers. 'What do *you* want to be when you grow up?' A nurse, chef, carpenter, electrician, and a cosmetologist all are good careers. Also, they have something in common with each other. They are some of the many careers offered at a vocational high school. So many options to choose from for our young American students. This is probably the best way for majority of the younger generation to be able to make something of their life while not "breaking the bank" with student loans from college. But if a student wants to they may also attend college to further their training in their preferred field, they can. Isn't it the "American dream" that the people of this country can pursue any career that they want? Now in these financially rough times, it is hard for many to afford the extra-schooling needed for their dream job. This is where votech schools come into play. They allow for students to get a head start on the path to success. I attend a votech school in Delaware, called Hodgson. There I am taking up cosmetology, and I am enjoying it very much. This program helps me so much because I plan to open up my own salon in the future, so by me taking up the cosmetology course during my high school years I save time and money. Of course if I want to I can take up a business course to help me start my future business. This gives me a head start because while other high school students have to go to college or some other beauty school after high school, I will be able to start my business. I strongly believe that votech schools benefit all who attend, and that they should be in every state. Also with more students in votech high schools, there will be more jobs causing the economy to get better. I know as a fact that the younger generation is our future, so if we give them a better chance at success, we will keep the "American dream" alive.

Jasmine Melvin

April 17, 2013

10th grade

Hodgson Vocational Technical High School

New Castle County Vo-tech

Theresa Tucci

Cosmetology

Everyone in the world has their own vision of the “American Dream”. In my eyes, the American Dream is to be able to have the opportunity to go to a vocational school. Most Americans go to a regular public high school. The path that those children choose are either college or to just sit home and find a regular job. Going to a vocational high school can change your life.

When I was younger, my parents and other family members always told me that I have to go to college. I was never really sure what major I wanted to take up in college, and that’s a problem for many of your average Americans. I had a passion, and it had nothing to do with college. My passion was to do hair, makeup, and nails. When I was in 8th grade, I found out that I could actually go to high school and learn more about my passion. Applying to a vocational high school may have been the best decision I’ve ever made in my life.

Vocational high schools give you the opportunity to fulfill your dream. They have several career choices that you can choose. Not only is it a career based high school, but they also offer academic classes. A few of the many career choices are cosmetology, dental assisting, HVAC, electrical trade, and

a lot more. My career choice was cosmetology. We learn so much in these four years that we may have more knowledge than some cosmetologists that have been working longer than my whole life. At the end of my senior year I will be getting my high school diploma, and I will also be getting my cosmetology license. This means that I can go on with my life by going to college and/or I can fulfill my dream by becoming a professional hair dresser for the most famous people you've heard of.

I believe that every child should have the chance to attend a vocational high school. One day there will be Vo-tech schools all across the world.

Debrah Jackson

10th grad Hodgson Vo-tech

New castle county vo-tech school district

mrs.Tucci - cosmetology

The American Dream

We all have an American dream. Some more fluent than others, but we all have an American dream. The new American dream for teenagers all around the world is to get into high school, graduate, maybe someday go to college, and get a high paying job in order to support the ones they love or even themselves. Now a day in Delaware we have some of the best vocational schools. Most states in the United States don't even have vocational schools. I' am in a vocational school called Paul M. Hodgson Vocational Technical High School. I am very fortunate to be in this school because it is starting me off in an awesome career. There are more careers in this school that benefit others but for me not at the most liking. At the moment I am in a cosmetology career and I love it dearly to my heart. I chose this career for a reason, and that was because the career program caught my eye. Also I have an excruciating passion for this school and career area. I feel as if I have an opportunity in order to make something big of myself and that is exactly what I am going to do because I have a better chance at doing something with my life that most teenagers in the whole wide world don't. My mother always told me take a good advantage of the good you have in order to make something of yourself, and in my mind I am going to do what I have to do to reach my goal, I will always have my mother's advice in my heart. Most teens don't get to have my experience and live the life I do, most teens

actually live in poverty and have no chance but if you give them something to stand on you will notice that they stand and when I got accepted into Paul M. Hodgson Vocational Technical High School. I was proud of myself and the fact that there can be some good the world can give back to me.

Madison Walters

10th grade

Hodgson Vo-Tech

New Castle County

Ms. Tucci- Cosmetology

Everyone has their own perspective on an American dream. Everyone has different dreams, goals, and mindsets in this life. Us kids in Delaware are pretty lucky. We get to do and have things other states don't get a chance to have. We are one of the few states that got to have Vo-Tech schools. Having this opportunity was the best. Not only do us Vo-Tech schools get a well education but, we get to take a chance and get a head start in our careers. It gives us a chance to explore different careers so we know what we want when we get out of high school. Ever since I was little, I've always wanted to do hair. My mom is a hairdresser and I've always looked up to her. I always wanted to be just like her. If I went to just any high school, I would have to wait to get the education I need till after high school. Plus, regular high school is a lot more difficult than a Vo-Tech high school. There are way more classes and its stressful. High school can be stressful but you don't just have to focus on all school but, your career as well. This gave me chance to fulfill my dreams. I can co-op my senior year and already get a job a little easier because I have experience and know what I'm doing. Hodgson has a very good reputation in behavior and sports as well. Our football team is very good and almost made it to states. Our school may be strict but we are safe. In my opinion Vo-Tech schools should be spread worldwide. Less people would be stuck without jobs and have some type of feel towards what they want to do with their lives. Most people just want to wait till they get out of high school to get a job or just go to college. Some of the shops don't even require college or less college because you are getting a head start. I say if you get the opportunity to something like this, be very grateful and take the chance.

Karla Rivera

10th

4/17/13

Hodgson Vo-Tech

Mrs. Tucci/Cosmetology

The New American Dream is for young children to help and build their goals. Vo-tech school district is the best way to help you build your career and know for sure what you want in life, vo-techs gives you the opportunity to pick three of your main career areas you want to do in life and let you go into the rotation and gives you the experience to show you what you are most comfortable with and what you like and then towards the end of the school year you get to re-apply choosing the career area you liked the most and fits best for you. I believe this is a great experience and I am so thankful to be one of the students who applied for Vo-Tech and got accepted I am in progress of doing what I love to do and if it wasn't for this opportunity I would not be knowing what I would want to become in the future. Teachers here really help you the best they can I feel us as students should appreciate this wonderful chance we get to take especially knowing that not all students get the same opportunity. I am so thankful and happy and I feel as if more students out there should get involved especially if you are not sure about what you want to become in life. This helps you build your career faster than any other school while you're in your shop you're doing the hours you need for your career area. More people should get involved with this it really is helpful and amazing.

Brianna Cowen

10th

Hodgson Vo-tech

New Castle County Vo-tech

Ms.Tucci

Dear Secretary of Education,

In my eyes, the new American Dream is being able to graduate high school without going to college and being just as equally successful or even more than those who did attend college. Here at our Vo-tech schools, we can do that! The special thing about us is that we study a career while we are still in high school. And when we graduate, we can go right into the career fields with a good job on our hands. We do not have to go to college like the other high school graduates. It's definitely an option, but it's not something we have to do to get a good paying job.

Just as an example, I am in cosmetology. When I graduate here at Hodgson Vo-tech I will have my cosmetology license. I do not need to go to college unless I want to. Everything I will need to know and do as a basic cosmetologist I am learning right now. I cannot say how happy I am at my high school. It can't get any better than this, everything I need to know for my future is right here.

Not only do we not have to go to college, another great thing about Vo-tech schools is the teachers. Our career teachers are not regular teachers. They don't change every year like public school teachers do. You stay with them all through your years of high school. You get to know them and they get to know you. Also, their teaching things you actually want to learn. Regular academics are usually not interesting. If I went to a regular high school, I probably would dread going to school. But I actually enjoy coming to school. I'm learning things that are relevant to life, things I want to learn.

I believe every student should have the chance to attend a Vo-Tech school. They will be able to experience the new American Dream. They will be able to take what they learned from high school into the real world. People may misjudge Vo-tech schools, but I am here to tell you they are the best high schools ever and everybody should get a chance in one. Who wouldn't want to experience the new American Dream? I'm glad I am!

The New American Dream

Being given this opportunity to attend a vocational school is the American dream. I feel that being able to attend a vocational school is helping me to reach my goals as a future student and a future professional in the career that I have chosen. In vocational school we are given different career paths that we may have an interest in. Having this freedom to choose what paths that we may want to take in life helps us develop as young adults. Also in these different career paths there are many different jobs that you can take up. Each career gives different things that you can branch out to that specifically have to do with that main career. Having a vocational school with many different career helps you to decide what type of career you want to major in. The vocational school system is very helpful. We are given several different career areas to travel in which gives us the opportunity to look at different career areas. Even though we may have a particular career area in mind we may change our mind with all the different areas that we have explored in the school. After touring the main school careers you are given the opportunity to pick three that you're interested in and tell the instructors of those careers why you deserve to be there and why you are so interested in that area. This helps all of the kids that have more than one dream to live by be given to take on something that they enjoy and vocational school also takes up different areas so that if a school does not have something that you want to do you can go to another and sign up to another school. I personally was fortunate to be able to be accepted into this high school and have this advancement in my education and being able to learn a perfect the skills that I already have in a career area that is important to me. The American dream is extremely important to me and is a big part of my life because I am now living the dream that I wanted to fulfill.

Nikki Harmon

10th grade

Hodgson Vo-Tech

New Castle county Vo-

Mrs. Tucci

Cosmetology

New American Dream

Giving this opportunity means so much to me, I love how you can do school work and have a job at the same time. I honestly think I am blessed! I talk to my family out west, and they always ask me "What's a Vo-Tech school"? When I explain where I go there always like wow! That's amazing! Hodgson has been a bless to me, I've been coming from two different middle school, you can never find any go schools around here. My cousin has got me in to vocational schools and as soon as I started here I loved it! So many of my friends wish they could transfer but their parents think it's not a good idea. I honestly think that Vo-Tech schools sometimes make it just as far as regular public school, or even private school. I have a really hard time with school, I have a reading disability and it's hard for me to stay on track, and doing a job I love makes me more focus and able to get around easy! I'm also very lazy and they teachers around always atay on my but so I get everything done. Even though most parents think that going to a Vo-Tech school is bad, but I've been having the best grades since I've been here. I also had some bad family issues and they have always been there for me. I honestly think that if you make more of these schools around here a bunch of people would go. But its not so easy, you just don't come to school and do a job! You actually do a lot of work and if you really need help you could always stay after school and they would sit there with you until you are caught up or whatever you need help with. Another cool think is that this school basically has a whole bunch of shop classes, there are not just 4 shops or 5 but there's like a bunch of choices for you to pick. I came here to be a cosmetologist. You just don't come for sports or where your friends go you should go where you want to go.

My name is Alexis Gilliard

I'm in 10 grades as a sophomore

In new castle county vocational school district

I attend Hodgson

I am in the Cosmetology field

My Teachers name is Ms. Tucci

My email address is alexisgilliard@live.com thank you for ready!

The new American dream is an opportunity at having a successful career at a young age. We have the opportunity to take our dreams and turn them into a reality with the help of the teachers at Hodgson Vo-Tech. We have the opportunity to walk out of high school with a diploma in one hand and a career in the other. Most kids in high school are working at McDonalds, Burger King, and a bunch of other places that aren't really going to give them a long-term successful career. We are very fortunate to have the privilege to have a career in place, at such a young age. The original American dream was to have what some would call the "perfect life"; having a career, a house, a family, and lots of money. Now, the so called "new" American dream is one that consists of success and having a career worth your wild. I will be able to walk out of high school and make a change in the world with the career I have at hand. Vocational Technical schools provide a better chance of success and more fulfillment of long-term goals. I am very thankful that I have this opportunity to make something of myself. If I didn't have this opportunity, I have no idea how I would have approached this career. I have always wanted to be a Cosmetologist, but I never would have thought that at 15 years old, I would have a career at hand. If this Vo-Tech district didn't exist, I probably would have never had the chance of living out my dream to become a Cosmetologist. This is such a huge privilege to have simply because in this district, we get a basic education with the bonus of a lifetime career. Where as in regular public high schools, they only get the basic education with a few added electives. But what good is that? Sure it will teach them basic life knowledge, but for most students, it probably won't help lead them down the right path to a successful career. We have the opportunity to live out our dreams and achieve our goals, but it is all thanks to the Vo-Tech district and my Cosmetology teachers, Mr. Paoli and Mrs. Tucci. They are making my dream a reality. Vo-Tech schools take students from average to successful in just one admission letter.

Nicole Martin

10th Grade

Hodgson Vocational-Technical High School

New Castle County Vo-Tech School District

Mrs. Tucci – Cosmetology