



Center for Career Services

Alumni Spotlight

Jake Romer found his passion when he enrolled in the TV/Video Production program at Southern Westchester BOCES.

Today he is a camera loader on the set of *Law & Order: Organized Crime* and a member of the Camera Guild. He has realized his dream of becoming a behind-the-camera creator. He credits the skills, mentorship, and direction he received at SWBOCES.

"I tell everyone this, and I'm not even exaggerating, going to BOCES was the best decision I ever made," said Mr. Romer, Class of 2016. "It really set me up for where I am today. Even on set, a lot of the knowledge I have came from my instructor and what he taught me."

Prior to coming to SWBOCES, Jake's interests were in sportswriting. Sports media or broadcasting seemed like likely career paths. The Career and Technical Education program at SWBOCES gave him concrete skills that he applies daily in his work, from basics like coiling cables and exporting media to preparing cameras for filming.

"A lot of what I learned at BOCES I use every day," he said.

Mr. Romer, who studied sports broadcasting at the University of New Haven and also attended Westchester Community College, was eager to enter the field and put his skills to work. He has worked full-time in the industry since he was 20. He credits SWBOCES with giving him a head-start on his career.

Mr. Romer finished up at SWBOCES with a 4.0 GPA and the honor of being valedictorian of his class. The difference that SWBOCES made for him, he said, was that he found himself studying what he was passionate about. And the best way to learn something, he said, is by doing it. At least that was his own experience.

"BOCES made me excited to go to school," he said. "It added a sense that, 'I'm here for a reason.'"

JAKE ROMER TV/Video Production Class of 2016

"I wouldn't be where I am today...without the skills and experience I gained at BOCES."

