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A Publication of the Southern Westchester BOCES Center for Career Services

Sound Production students visit Emmy award-winning studio



Students get a behind-the-scenes tour of the art of Foley

Students in the Sound Production program at Southern Westchester BOCES stepped out of their Valhalla classroom and into the world of post-production in early January. Accompanied by teacher Sean Harty, they toured the studio of Alchemy Post Sound in Peekskill. During their trip they got to see first-hand the process of creating the sounds heard on screen.

Alchemy, an Emmy award-winning studio, opened its doors to the students, who were in awe of what they found inside, and introduced them to the art of foley. Named after Jack Foley in the 1920s, the art of foley is created when two objects crash into one another and explains what you hear when watching television, in theaters, etc. Each room in the studio is dedicated to an aspect of post-production, from the control room to foley stages. The foley stage is similar to a prop house and contains different items and floorings that are utilized to create sounds.

Sasha Leitner, a junior at Irvington High School, could not believe that a studio with such prestige would open their doors to them. "It was a huge studio. They had numerous props. It was nice to meet the people who did the sound effects for shows we watch," said Sasha. "I love how they think about sounds, and I found it interesting that they make them louder than they need to be, like in cartoons, theater, anime."

Alchemy provides tours multiple times a year, allowing SWBOCES students a peek inside the industry. "The fact that individuals with so much work on their plate would be so relaxed and open their doors to guide us is priceless," said Mr. Harty. "The truth is that when you have so much passion and love for what you do, especially in this industry, you want to share it, especially with individuals who are looking and trying to figure out their future."

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A Message from the Director



Spring is a wonderful time of year as it invites exciting new opportunities for our campus. Over the past several months we added members to our Southern Westchester BOCES team who bring years of knowledge from their industry to share during their lectures. At the same time, our students have been gaining new insights into their chosen fields as they grow professionally. There have been plenty of teachable moments for our students, both in and out of the classroom.

Some of our students were lucky enough to receive guided tours of their future work environments. Most recently, the Sound Production students were invited into an Emmy award-winning studio, where they learned what it takes to master the art of foley. They had a chance to see different sound studios and were privy to projects in the works. This trip allowed our students to make the connection between what they want to accomplish and how it is achieved in a professional setting.

Notably, the Commercial Art Students proved that they have what it takes to make it in the art world. Their best pieces were on display in the Katonah Museum of Art in a gallery specifically for young artists, a true accomplishment for such talented individuals.

We also had some wonderful individuals on our campus. They spoke about their professional experiences, which provided our students the chance to learn more about what will be expected of them in their careers.

As we finish up the school year, I want to wish all our staff and students a productive end of the academic year.

Dahlia A. Jackson

Director, Southern Westchester BOCES Center for Career Services

In This Issue...











Sound Production students visit Emmy award winning studio

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The aspiring foley artists felt at home in the studio and found the excursion insightful. "The trip to Alchemy Post Studios is a staple in our program. They are a valued member of the program committee and partners in helping my students with internships and mentorship," said Mr. Harty. "The students weren't just sitting and being told information; they were actually in a live session seeing how foley was being created and elevating the story of the given content."

The students were privy to projects in the works and learned about non-disclosure agreements. They also had the opportunity to ask questions about the sound production and hear stories from those working in the industry.

"I learned how time consuming foley is, the editing process and getting it in sync. You have to know the sounds to match them up," said Ymonni Thomas, a junior at Woodlands High School.

They had a chance to observe engineers in action and gained a better understanding about a possible career path for them. Overall, the students had a positive experience and most said that they would jump at the chance to have an internship at the studio.

"Everyone was so nice and welcoming. I could see myself working there," said Patrick Lacy, a senior at Hastings High School. "It was interesting to see all the random things in a room used to create foley and how they used them. You have to act with the scene to make it believable."

Director of Music Studios for Mercy University visits Sound Production Program

Sound Production students learn insights on working in the Audio Engineering field

Samuel Stauff, the Director of the Music Studios for Mercy University's Music Production and Recording Arts Program, sat down with Sound Production students on the Valhalla campus in early February to talk about mixing and mastering. He provided an open discussion with the students about his field of work, allowing them to pose questions and show off their knowledge.

Mr. Stauff also works as a freelance audio engineer with Port City Recording, composes music, and plays live with Wess Meets West. He shared with the class his expertise in the audio engineering field, opportunities that await them, and what to expect while working.

Mr. Stauff discussed with the class that he was recently asked to work the Olympics for NBC. "What they rely on for the Olympics is your dependability," he said. "Now is the time you can make mistakes, while you're in school, but when you're working onset in session you need to be reliable."

He went on to show a recorded session and posed questions for the students to get them



thinking, such as what needs to be done in order for the process to go smoothly.

The students were interested in how long it takes to produce the videos and in the quality of the work.

"I found the setup of the videos interesting. It was clean, but it was sophisticated as well," said Kalani Winston, a junior at New Rochelle High School.

Mr Stauff provided a detailed description of

how the studio is set up with artists to record.

"I will receive a phone call from the radio station. I check my calendar and the studio calendar. Once we get the date and the time, we book it. It can be booked out anywhere from a day to approximately two weeks," explained Mr. Stauff. "We conduct an interview, record three to four songs. We make sure all the edits are in sync. We master it, and sync

After he showed the students the finished product, he explained that two things are needed from the

band, a stage plot and input list. He also explained the difference between recording inside and outside the studio.

the final edit."

Mr. Strauff then shared a video of artists performing at The Barley Beach House in Rye, where he offered the students an opportunity to help out over the summer for hands-on training. They would help bring the equipment to the stage, set it up and assist in recording, "If you show up with knowledge we will put it to use," Mr. Stauff said.

Retired police officer joins the SWBOCES force

Former officer of the law takes on Security, Law, and Policing position

Erik Marvin spent 22-years in law enforcement and now joins Southern Westchester BOCES as the new Security, Law, and Policing instructor. His goal is to shed a positive light on law enforcement while teaching his students the art of empathy and respect.

"I love it. It's a great job, very challenging, but I have a good group of students," Mr. Marvin said about his new career as a CTE teacher.

Most of the students in his class hope to have a career in law enforcement. Marvin described them as a mixed group of those who want to either be a police officer, a lawyer, or a federal agent.

Marvin began his career with the New York City Police Department, then went on to work for the Pound Ridge Police Department and the New Rochelle Police Department, before finally joining the Elmsford Police Department. He served as a Sergeant at Elmsford Police Department before retiring five years ago.

Since his retirement Mr. Marvin has worked as a private investigator, but when the position to teach Security, Law, and Policing at SWBOCES opened up he jumped at the chance to join the team.

"This is a wonderful opportunity. I'm grateful to have it," Mr. Marvin said. "I love to encourage the students about how great careers like these can be." Security, Law, and Policing



Former Cosmetology student returns to the classroom

2021 graduate co-teaches her former class

Danielle Lindo, a SkillsUSA member and a 2021 graduate of Southern Westchester BOCES, returned to the classroom where she once sat as a student to

demonstrate the knowledge she acquired through the Center for Career Services and while working in a salon. "I'm grateful for my experience at BOCES. It set me up for where I am now," Ms. Lindo said.

Ms. Lindo is currently a college student at Temple University in Philadelphia and employed as a New York State-licensed cosmetologist with Hott Blowdry and Beauty Lounge in Rye. While working at the salon, she has taken on various jobs including blowouts, waxing, and eyelashes.

Ms. Lindo was joined by Hott Blowdry and Beauty Lounges' salon manager, Ebony Harris. Hott Blowdry and Beauty Lounge has been a supporter of the SWBOCES Cosmetology program by providing training for students as well as employment opportunities for graduates.

Ms. Harris and Ms. Lindo spent the day speaking to students about opportunities after graduation and demonstrated several blow-dry techniques used in their salon.

"I liked coming back. It was nice to see the younger students doing what I did," Ms. Lindo said. "It was a nice experience, I enjoyed seeing the teachers again. I missed SWBOCES. It was a lot of fun."



COSMETOLOGY

New Cosmetology teacher brings star status

Former TV hairstylist shows students different career possibilities

For more than 30 years, Vanessa Newby has been styling hair and teaching others the art of cosmetology. Now she is doing so at the Southern Westchester BOCES

Center for Career Services. Ms. Newby learned her trade through the adult Cosmetology program at Mount Vernon High School, where she returned to mentor students and eventually to teach.

Prior to teaching cosmetology, Ms. Newby worked at a salon in Manhattan, where she received a life-changing phone call. She was asked to perform a makeover for a segment on The Ricki Lake Show. That episode received the highest ratings for that year and launched her career in the industry. From that day on, Ms. Newby was asked to style hair for newscasters and other figures on shows that aired on ABC, BET, CBS, and

MTV. For 15 years she traveled the country while working through an agency but eventually decided to leave to spend more time with her growing family.

"I was on call, and it was lovely but being away from family wore me down," Ms. Newby said. "I did a lot of traveling all over the country. I wanted to settle down after my daughter started having babies. I wanted to be there for them."

For nearly a decade, Ms.

Newby has been teaching students cosmetology. "I love having the opportunity to teach, especially because they are excited to learn. I provide a lot of demonstrations and bring

in different guests from the industry," she said.

Ms. Newby joined SWBOCES as the Cosmetology teacher in September of 2023. She plans on preparing

her students for their chosen field of work. Ms. Newby will be bringing her students to conferences as well as bringing in guest speakers to help broaden their understanding of the industry.

"I like to teach the students all the opportunities. When you see a kid with the heart for it, they can go anywhere in this industry," Ms. Newby said. "What's exciting

about working here is how equipped BOCES is. It makes it easier for me to do my job."

Students Gathered for a Preliminary Student Council Meeting

A group of students are currently working on re-establishing Student Council

Representatives from each class at the Center for Careers Services gathered to discuss re-introducing the Student Council to the Valhalla campus. The conversation was led by Phil Donohue, Assistant Principal of Career Services, and touched on the main goals of the organization.

Student Council is currently in the initial stages, after taking a hiatus the past couple



of years. Students came together and talked about what their mission statement would be, what the leadership would look like, and the voice students will have. The Student Council plans to meet monthly with the goal of creat-

ing an engaging experience for students such as bringing in guest speakers and gathering students for campus-wide events.

"They had a lot of great ideas and good input. The students were really engaged," said Mr. Donohue. "These students were chosen by their classmates and teachers, and there were a lot of outspoken, really insightful kids."

Mr. Donohue described the conversations as vibrant and was excited to see the Student Council returning to the campus. He said, "one of the biggest things that came up was that they wanted to see other classrooms. They wanted to get to know what the other programs are about."

COMMERCIAL ART







COMMERCIAL ART STUDENTS' WORK ON DISPLAY AT YOUNG ARTISTS 2024

Students collaborate with Katonah Museum of Art for exhibition







Commercial Art students from the Southern Westchester BOCES Valhalla campus proved that they have what it takes to make it in the world of art. Nearly a dozen

students' artworks are on display at the Katonah Museum of Art. The aspiring artists took part in the Young Artists program and exhibition for high school seniors which was on display from Feb. 11 to March 3, 2024.

The exhibit, currently in its 41st year, has been is an annual tradition that provides a hands-on learning experience to future artists. This was the sixth year students at SWBOCES have participated.

The unique initiative offers meaningful student participation in the exhibition planning process from beginning to end. Under the guidance of museum professionals, students take on the roles of artist, graphic designer, curator, exhibition designer, and installer as they work collaboratively with the KMA's staff to mount this impressive exhibition.

Students from various districts were chosen to work on the poster for the event. They were provided a guideline for what was expected but were given creative freedom.

"We all did our own thing and it was nice when it was finished to talk to other students from different schools. We talked about our processes for art, and it was great to see different styles," said D'Angelo Gordon, a senior at Harrison High School. "The ability to express myself creatively made the experience memorable."

More than 400 students from approximately 40 high schools in Dutchess, Fairfield, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties have their artwork exhibited, a total of 365 pieces. From SWBOCES; Yaeliz Baerga,

Maria Damiani, Tim Fernandez, D'Angelo Gordon, Angelina Hun, Coleman Lee, Mina Rinconnes-Parra, Loreanny Rivera, Natalie Rodriguez, Eva Uribe, and Amir Willis have pieces that are being showcased at the event.

Their works range in scale, concept, media and process, reflecting the diversity of expression in the emerging artists.

"It's nice to have one of my pieces shown in an art exhibit. It's a self portrait I created using charcoal. It was the first time I really tried to draw myself, something I don't do often," said Natalie Rodriguez, a senior at New Rochelle High School. "I was really happy with how it came out. It was something that I was proud of, and it showed my skills really well."

Young Artists 2024 reflects the depth and diversity of expression among these emerging artists. The exhibition is a tribute to the talents of the young artists, the dedication of their teachers, and the support of their families.

"I submitted a split portrait. It was a combination of a digital and an ink drawing. It showed what I could do, have done in the past, and something I knew I could do," said Timothy Fernandez, senior at Dobbs Ferry High School.

Young Artists illustrates the KMA's steadfast commitment to providing dynamic museum education opportunities to its communities and fostering the next generation of creative thinkers and artists.

"It was great to see my students' work hanging on the walls of a public gallery. The students put in a lot of hard work and it paid off," said Damian Powers, Commercial Art Teacher at SWBOCES.

FASHION





Fashion students head into the city for immersive experience

Fashion Design & Merchandising class goes window shopping

The Fashion Design & Merchandising students headed into the Big Apple and took a bite out of visual merchandising. The morning and afternoon classes split off into groups to gather inspiration for their end-of-the-year project and hit up major tourist attractions along the way.

"It was an appropriate holiday thing to do," said Carmen Galiano, Fashion Design & Merchandising teacher at SWBOCES. "Decorating the windows is an artform, a job to bring the customers in. There is no better time to see visual merchandising."

Before heading down to the city, students had their first lesson in design when they made their very own Santa hats for the trip. The flannel hats not only kept them warm but also added to the excitement of the excursion. "It was their first project, and they did a fantastic job. It also helped me keep track of them in the city," Ms. Galiano said.

The group made a stop to see the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree then headed to FAO Schwarz for inspiration. There they perused all the toys on display to get a feel for design layouts and how fashion plays a role in the toy industry.

They then made stops at Macy's Herald Square and viewed window displays along the way.

"We wanted to see the store windows, Saks Fifth Avenue because it's all fashion related. They got to see firsthand what the final product would look like," Ms. Galiano said. "I found out that one of our alumni, Juan Novoa, who graduated in 2013, had actually worked on the Saks Fifth Avenue windows designs."

With the city aglow, the students immersed themselves in the marketing mecca, which got their wheels turning. They are now creating inspiration mood boards based on what they saw and are preparing for their final projects.

Former Fashion student describes design journey

Fashion Design & Merchandising graduate explains the evolution of his career

Juan Novoa graduated from the Fashion Design & Merchandising program at Southern Westchester BOCES in 2013. Since then, he has had quite the journey. Mr. Novoa stepped back into the classroom in early January to speak to students considering careers in the fashion industry.

"It's hard to believe that a decade has already passed since he graduated, but this was not his first visit back. He returned to participate in a fashion show called "Fashion Evolution," which was about garment styles of the past," said Carmen Galiano, Fashion Design and Merchandising teacher at SWBOCES. "His perspective as a former student is very valuable as he completed the two-year program and knows the curriculum very well."

Mr. Novoa spoke to the class about how he began his career in the industry when he joined American Christmas, the largest provider of festival lighting in the world. He explained to the students how he worked his way up the ranks, eventually becoming design manager, where he oversaw contracts and a team of designers and created design concepts for clients. The clientele included retail stores, building lobbies, hotels, and more.

"If you put yourself out there you will excel at what you do," he told a room full of future fashion designers. "You have to dedicate your time and effort into what you want to do for the rest of your life."

The students were impressed with his versatility and learned that you must evolve in order to be successful.

"Finding your passion throughout your design journey is important. Whether you go in one direction or another, you will always end up doing what you love," said Mr. Novoa.

He recently signed a lease in Stamford, CT, where he opened his own design studio and fashion boutique. "I'm creating and making pieces again. It's what I always wanted to do."

He hopes to be able to bring students from SWBOCES in as interns in the near future.



"Finding your passion throughout your design journey is important.
Whether you go in one direction or another, you will always end up doing what you love."

— Juan Novoa.





CISMAA and EMS students sit in on lecture on Diagnostic Imaging

Director of Diagnostic Imaging from Crystal Run Healthcare visits SWBOCES Campus

Students in the Computer
Information Systems & Medical
Administrative Assistant program
as well as the Emergency Medical
Services program had the chance to
learn more about Diagnostic Imaging,
related careers, and their potential salary.

Raymond A. Farquharson, Director of Diagnostic Imaging from Crystal Run Healthcare in Middletown, spoke to both the morning and afternoon sessions during the first week of February. Crystal Run Healthcare offers fully accredited, all-digital radiology and laboratory services, and is a national leader in the use and advancement of electronic health records.

Mr. Farquharson began the lecture by stating "Whatever you think of doing, whatever you are thinking about being, the only reason why you are considering doing it is because

someone shared that with you in some way shape or form."

Mr. Farquharson went on to talk about Diagnostic Imaging and how it consists of different technologies that are used to view the human body in order to diagnose, monitor, and treat individuals. He talked to the students about what it's like to work in the healthcare industry and different scenarios that can happen. He then showed a touching video that portrayed people in a hospital setting as they navigate through their day.

"Would you treat them any differently? Would you treat them more than just a name and a date of birth? No you would not," said Mr. Farquharson. "Does it matter that they have parents and kids? It does."

Mr. Farquharson then spoke to the group about possible careers in the medical field.

He provided a list of colleges that offer related programs and encouraged them to check to see the success rate of the students after graduation. He also talked about salary expectations and different categories in radiology, such as MRI, CAT Scan, and X-ray.

Many of the students said that they are definitely interested in attending medical school or nursing school.

Connor Kwon, a senior at Ardsley High School, has plans to become either a trauma surgeon or a radiology physician.

"I thought it was very interesting, and it provided me with more information about the medical field. It's nice to know what opportunities await me in the future, and it gives me a better understanding of the different career options I will have," he said.

CISMAA Students first to visit White Plains Hospital since pandemic



Future healthcare workers receive lesson in patient care



Students in the Computer Information Systems & Medical Administrative Assistant program received a private tour of White Plains Hospital, visiting multiple floors to learn about patient care.

During their visit at the end of February, students learned about the history of the hospital, and how it has expanded over the years, as well as future expansion plans. Most importantly, they gained insight into how hospitals care for their patients.

The SWBOCES students were the first group to tour the hospital since the pandemic. While on their excursion, they were able to see different sections of the medical facility and how nurses care for their patients.

"Students learned about the structure of the healthcare system and how it goes beyond what we initially think of when we think of healthcare," said Jason Poniatowski, who teaches Office Skills & Occupations and CISMAA.

The students found the hospital to be very well organized and enjoyed their tour. Some wished that they could see more but were happy to have had the opportunity.

"It was a very exciting experience being the first students able to visit the hospital after COVID," said Kendra Rollins, a senior at New Rochelle High School. "I saw a lot of terminology on the walls, a lot of stuff that we learned in class. It just clicked for me. I was able to recognize and understand a lot of what was going on."



Head of Music Production & Recording Arts program at Mercy University visits Sound Production

Students observe audio synthesizing mixer in action

Stephen B. Ward stepped off his Mercy University campus and on to Southern Westchester BOCES' Valhalla campus in late January to meet with students in the Sound Production class. Mr. Ward currently serves as Mercy's Program Director of the Music Production & Recording Arts program. He is a composer and music technologist and has taught at Mercy University for more than 20 years.

Mr. Ward brought in a mixer and showed students how to connect it to the computer and began creating beats for them to hear.

"That's the beauty of this. You have the ability to mix, turn things on and off, make the rhythm more complex," said Professor Ward as he showed the students his audio synthesizing mixer.

Students were captivated by Mr. Ward's demonstration as he utilized his equipment. They watched and listened as he created original beats.

"It was interesting how he connected the mixer to the computer. I've seen a mixer before and didn't really understand what it did, but I do now," said Maya Eaton, a junior at Rye High School.

Once a year, Mr. Ward visits the SWBOCES campus to speak to students about how the audio synthesizing mixer is set up and utilized to create sounds from scratch.

"This is one of the areas I don't teach because of the time it takes, but they learn the basics here so when they go to college they have an idea," said Sean Harty, Sound Production teacher at SWBOCES. "I teach them the hardware, some of the software, the basics, and techniques so if they want to pursue this further they can."

Mr. Ward showed the students how he created his mixer by adding different modules to it. "A lot of these things are about spending time with each module to get what you like. At the end of the day you will find the different sounds that you prefer," said Mr. Ward.

The students watched as Mr. Ward moved different wires to create different lengths of notes, change the melody and create music. They asked questions to gain a better understanding of the equipment. He explained that getting to know your equipment is important and invited them all to visit the Mercy University campus.



Community television representative visits hopeful interns

Students learn about internships and volunteer opportunities

Dena Schumacher, the Assistant Director of Larchmont-Mamaroneck Community Television (LCM Media) in Mamaroneck chatted with TV/ Video Production students about potential opportunities for them.

LCM Media provides internship and volunteer opportunities to high school and college students so they can gain access to equipment and hands-on training. Those in the internship program are paired with a mentor to help guide them in their training. There is even an opportunity for high school students to create a short film series through the Future Filmmaker Project. This opportunity allows future production team members and actors a chance to take part in filmmaking.

"I'm interested in the hands-on experience and the ability to create a short film using state-of-the-art-equipment," said Logan Pierre, a junior at New Rochelle High School. "I feel it would give me more knowledge and experience."

Ms. Schumacher told the class how LCM Media was an integral part of her journey in the industry. She provided insight into her own internship experience and how LCM provided her the ability to keep growing her skills.

"I kept volunteering after school. I was able to keep my skills up to date. It gave me access to equipment I otherwise would not have been able to access," said Ms. Schumacher.

She explained to the class about their potential paths with the company. "Internships have deadlines and projects and work about 10 hours per week, which is determined by the schools," Ms. Schumacher said. "Volunteers can come in on their own schedule. It's a great opportunity either way because you get your foot in the door, gain real-world skills, and network."

The students felt the informational session was beneficial to them as they got a chance to see different ways to grow in their field.

"I would love an internship at LCM Media so I could start my career. I'm interested in making a film and getting real world experience," said Reece Santosusso, a senior at Rye High School.



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SWBOCES IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The job of BOCES is to support learning in schools and communities by providing services and supports they are not able to provide individually.



TV/VIDEO Production takes Field Trip to NITROUS LTD

Video production company opens its doors to SWBOCES students

Students in the TV/Video
Production program at
Southern Westchester BOCES'
Center for Career Services
received a behind-the-scenes
tour of Nitrous LTD in January.

Owned by Paul Rosen, Nitrous LTD is a full-service agency that creates promos and trailers for broadcasting networks and corporations. They offer everything from pre-production to post-production and final delivery. They serve clientele not only locally but globally as well.

Nitrous LTD began more than 20 years ago when two creative video editors decided to pool their talents and form their own production company. It has seen many changes over the course of its existence, but its mission has stayed the same, to provide a cinematic experience to its clients. Nitrous is a network of highly skilled professionals that prides itself on working with the best of the best. Mr. Rosen explained to the students the roles of the individuals that make up the company and their importance.

"We bring this great talent to the table, bringing highly skilled talent to the job which shows we can have great speed and efficiency," he said.

Since it began, the company grew from a one-room office in SOHO to an entire floor in the Flatiron District, where they operated for 14 years. In 2016 Nitrous needed to move from that location, to make way for condos, so they settled in White Plains. The new location has proven to be worth it as it provides more flexibility. Within its wall it contains a screening room, a production stage, a green room, and an editing suite.

Mr. Rosen provided the students with a guided tour of the camera equipment and editing suites and welcomed them into his conference room where he spoke to them about his experience in the industry. He ended the session by opening the floor to students so that they could ask questions.

"I love talking about my industry, being able to pass it on to these kids. Just being involved like that, it's exciting," said Mr. Rosen.

During the trip the students were able to get a feel for what their future holds. Sanaa Donae, a senior at Woodlands High School, said that she wants to become a cinematographer and found the trip insightful. "I learned a lot about the lights, the cameras, and what lenses to use for different shots," said Sanaa.

The purpose of the trip was to get students excited about the industry and to help them make the connection of what it will be like for them in the workforce, that there are different tools, different areas to work in that they can excel at. "I hope that when they come to a place like this they recognize the different tools they are using and the dots connect," Mr. Rosen said.



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