

THE BEACON

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Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Legacy: **leg**–uh–see **noun, plural** – cies

1. law, a gift of property, especially personal property, as money, by will; a bequest
2. anything handed down from the past, as from an ancestor or predecessor
3. an applicant to or student at a school that was attended by his or her parent or sibling.

When most of us think of legacies in terms of schools, we think of private schools or colleges – schools we make a conscious choice to attend. In fact, the Seacoast School of Technology is much like those schools because our students make a decision to apply and choose to attend. Many of our students are here because of family members who came before them. Attending the Seacoast School of Technology has become a family tradition for hundreds of Seacoast families over the past thirty-one years. A few of their wonderful stories are told in this letter.

- **Susan St. Amour Taylor '83, Child Services, Exeter High School**, mother of Ashley Taylor '04, Early Childhood Education and Brittany Taylor-Musso '07, Animal & Plant Science

As a graduate of the Early Childhood Education program, I was able to receive great hands-on experiences working with children. Who knew that later down the road I would be sending my own three children to the Wright Start Preschool as toddlers themselves? As my children grew older and their interest in potential careers piqued, I was pleased to hear that all three of them wanted to take courses at SST. My oldest daughter, Ashley, knew early on that she wanted to find a career in childcare. After SST, she attended Keene State College earning a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. My other daughter, Brittany, graduated from the Animal & Plant Science program and is now a groomer. My son, Kyle, is due to graduate in the spring from the Building Construction Technologies program and is excited to apply the skills and knowledge he has gained from his time at SST. This school gives students the opportunity to apply the techniques they are being taught and weigh out the possibility of continuing on with these fields at the collegiate level prior to the application process, or start their career paths with a solid foundation of knowledge and experience from which to succeed.

Kyle Taylor '11, Building Construction Technologies, Exeter High School, son of Susan

Ever since I was a student at SST's Wright Start Preschool, my teacher, Mrs. Ranks, knew that my passion was building things with blocks and that would lead me into a career path in Building Construction. SST has given me the opportunity to expand this knowledge through hands-on, real-life experiences. In Building Construction Technologies, I have developed a skill set that will prepare me to reach my full potential and help me achieve my personal goal of having my own business some day. If you are a student who is unsure of what path to take after high school, then the Seacoast School of Technology is a great place to learn about particular trades and how they can fit into your future.

The Seacoast School of Technology is a regional career and technical center serving Epping, Exeter, Newmarket, Raymond, Sanborn Regional and Winnacunnet High Schools.

- **Coreen Butler Perkins '82, Natural Resources – Forestry/FFA, Winnacunnet High School**, wife of Wayne '81 Auto Mechanics and mother of Adam '05, Automotive Technologies

I was a member of the first graduating class of SST in 1982. The Forestry program spanned everything from tree identifications to using a tractor and equipment and from managing a woodlot to competing at the Deerfield Fair in wood-related competitions and horse and cow judging. We also learned the essentials of the FFA. Today, reflecting on my studies, I enjoy planting, caring for and maintaining several gardens at my home and farm. Each year, I plant several hundred flowers and vegetables for my own use. I still remember some of my tree identifications today. My family and I have several animals to care for and I use a tractor for daily chores. Two years ago, we logged two acres of our property to expand our barn area for our horses. I attended SST many years ago, but it still brings back fond memories of people and school. Even though I didn't continue my college education in the forestry field, I utilize things I learned at SST in my everyday life. My experience was wonderful.

Alayna Perkins '11, Animal & Plant Science, Winnacunnet High School, daughter of Coreen

I am currently a senior in Ms. DeMarco's Animal & Plant Science class. Junior year we studied aquarium management, small animal care, vet tech, dairy science and participated in many FFA activities. Currently in my senior year, we are in the equine science unit but also have studied greenhouse management, pesticide safety and a re-cap of dairy science. In the FFA, I am the chapter vice president and have participated in all the FFA activities. One of my favorite FFA activities was participating in the FFA National Convention. I was on the state horse judging team and we won silver. I am really thankful I have the opportunity to go to SST. I realize its value and the opportunities that arise when you decide to do something new. I am thankful for Ms. DeMarco as well. She sees what each individual student has to offer and helps them reach their infinite potential.

- **Crystal Daley-Dolloff '84, Marketing and Distributive Education**, mother of Michayla '09, Digital Communications and Maggie '10, Biotechnology and Animal & Plant Science, **Exeter High School**

When my daughters decided to go to the Seacoast School of Technology, I was thrilled. As a 1984 graduate of Marketing and Distributive Education and a member of DECA, I had the opportunity to travel to New York City for the DECA Convention, participate in the Exeter Christmas Parade and be involved in many activities. Both of my daughters attended the Wright Start Preschool. I hoped for them to have the same experiences I had in high school, so their attending SST as high school students was a great fit for our family. Michayla was a member of the FBLA and attended States her senior year. Maggie, a member of the National Technical Honor Society, attended States and Nationals as a member of the FFA. Both girls are currently attending Great Bay Community College. Maggie is transferring to University of Maine, Farmington in the fall. I work at the Newmarket Jr./Sr. High School as the Principal's Secretary and take every opportunity to tell the students and parents what a positive impact the Seacoast School of Technology has had on our lives. I tell them about all of the awards, scholarships and opportunities we have enjoyed, but most importantly, the sense of belonging that both of my daughters and I felt.

- **Justin Collins '05, Building Construction Technologies, Raymond High School**, brother of Kaitlin Getman

My name is Justin Collins and I graduated from the Building Construction class in 2005. The class helped me out in many ways. I chose this class because I was interested in becoming a framer. I used to work with my uncle on sites and realized I loved it. My whole family was involved in building my house. The class gave me the skills I needed working my dream job of one day owning my own construction company. I liked the feeling that I finished something and even put a roof over someone's head. It also taught me a lot of ways to be safe on the job site. I believe that this program is very thorough and I recommend it to anybody interested in the construction field.

Kaitlin Getman '11, Culinary Arts, Raymond High School, sister of Justin Collins

There are so many great things about SST. You are coming to a different school to learn what you think you might want to do after high school for either college or a job. SST teaches not only your program's studies, but how to communicate and interact with people. I don't think I would be out of my shell if it weren't for this wonderful place. Once I knew that a culinary class was offered, I was dying to get into it. My experience overall here has been wonderful. I rarely miss any days and I put my heart into my culinary class. I've done a million things at and for this school. I'm truly going to miss it. I have done numerous after-school dinners and off-site catering events. This will be my second year being involved in our state SkillsUSA baking competition. Last year, I was SkillsUSA officer in my class and this year I'm a state officer.

- **Lauren Cicale '07, Health Sciences & Technologies, Exeter High School**, sister of Lindsay

Ever since I was three years old, I wanted to be a doctor. I am currently a senior majoring in biology/pre-medicine at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. I have applied to medical school and am waiting to hear my enrollment status. As a junior in high school, I enrolled in the Health Sciences program at SST to get my foot in the door of the medical field and begin to pursue my dreams. I learned what "hard work" meant as I completed my nursing home internship and earned my LNA. The real hands-on experience, that I could never have gotten elsewhere, will be so beneficial to me in my future years of medical school and residency. Additionally, I received college credits in both Medical Terminology and Anatomy & Physiology before even stepping foot on a college campus! I was also honored with the acceptance into the National Technical Honor Society. Ms. Cutler taught us organization and professionalism through the creation of our portfolios which were comprised of a resume, goals, transcripts, awards and photos. To this day, I use an updated version of my portfolio on every medical school interview I get. SST provided me with many unique opportunities that none of my college friends were exposed to while they were in high school. With the assistance of Ms. Cutler, SST helped turn my passion for medicine into a reality, for that I am so grateful and will never forget my experience.

Lindsay Cicale '11, Health Sciences & Technologies, Exeter High School, sister of Lauren

I first heard about SST through my sister, Lauren, who always shared new and interesting facts with me. This sparked my interest in the Health Sciences & Technologies program, which she also completed. SST showed me that there are many career options in the medical field. At SST, I was able to earn college credits for Medical Terminology through Running Start. Now, as a senior in the Health Sciences & Technologies program, I have put together a portfolio of work that I have done over the past year and a half. I am thankful to have a program like SST to provide me with an every day hands-on environment to work in and improve my skills. Toward the end of this month, I will be starting my internship at the Rite-Aid Pharmacy in Stratham in order to be one step closer to pursuing my career as a pharmacist.

- **Stacey Rowe Jordan '81, Child Services, Exeter High School**, mother of Sophie and Gracia

When I graduated from the Child Services program in 1981, I dreamed of one day returning as a teacher. My goal was to provide the same support and encouragement to aspiring early childhood educators that I had been afforded as a student. In 1989, after graduating from the University of Maine in Farmington and working several years as a Readiness teacher at Sacred Heart, I was hired as the preschool teacher at SST and given the opportunity to work alongside my former mentor and teacher, Carla Ranks. During my years as a teacher at SST, I've seen many important transitions occur, including the renaming of the preschool to the Wright Start Preschool in 1989, and the substantial renovation of our facility in 2009. I've even been lucky enough to have had my own two daughters, Sophie and Gracia, in the preschool program. Today, I continue to feel very fortunate that I work at a job where I can inspire others to pursue the same rewarding career path that I have chosen.

Sophie Jordan '04, Wright Start Preschool, Epping Middle School, daughter of Stacey

I had a very fun and exciting experience at the Wright Start Preschool. I remember coming in every day with a happy attitude, always ready for a craft, puzzle, or a fun game at circle time. Best of all, I had my very own mom as my teacher! She was never afraid to dive right into the activities in the dramatic play area whether it was baking, hospital or just a bunch of us trying to go to the moon. I loved preschool and I especially loved going to the Wright Start Preschool.

Gracia Jordan '06, Wright Start Preschool, Epping Elementary School, daughter of Stacey

My mom was my teacher and I got to go to school early and stay late. I loved to dance at circle. I made lots of friends and one of my teachers, Richard, came to my birthday party! It was fun being at school with my sister, Sophie. The Wright Start Preschool has been my favorite school so far.

- **Ben Bielicki '09, Computer Programming, Exeter High School**, brother of Bethany

Having had a successful experience in Computer Programming at SST, I applied to the Computer Science department at Plymouth State University. When I began to take courses at Plymouth, I realized how much I had learned in only two years at SST. Being able to walk into college-level courses feeling confident that I would know and understand most of the concepts my professor was going to present is a really nice feeling to have. I can confidently say that all the credit is due to the Computer Programming program that I took at SST. Having my sister at SST was actually really awesome. She and I would always talk about our days and most of the time our conversations ended with us talking about SST or some story involving her teacher in the Marketing Education program. She is my little sister after all, and I'll always worry about her, so knowing that the teacher was able to not only be down to earth with her, but talk to her as if she were a partner in the "business" they were running was really great, and gave me an even better feeling about the programs SST is running.

Bethany Bielicki '10, Marketing Education, Exeter High School, sister of Ben

The Seacoast School of Technology is what my mother said "made the taxes worth it." Although true, it was not the motivating factor in my presence there. I decided to take the Marketing Education program simply because I couldn't find an intelligent reason not to. It was a class unlike any offered at Exeter High School, the perfect way to break up my day, an opportunity to earn college credit for work I would be doing anyway and it exposed me to an unbelievable amount of real-world, real-life situations that, if not for SST, would have never been presented. The Seacoast School of Technology helped me choose my current career path. I'm attending the business school at the University of Maine, Orono, working on my bachelor's degree and eventually my master's degree. Having my brother go to SST, too, made it a better environment for me. My brother and I are best friends so it was always fun when he'd come down to the school store and he could see the cool work we were doing, just as I could see what he was doing. After two years at SST and a semester into college, I can truly say that I fully agree with my mother.

Look back at the definition of *legacy* and you will also see it defined as a gift of property, or anything handed down from the past, as from ancestors or predecessors. It is said that education is the one thing that cannot be taken away. What an amazing gift, then, these family members have given one another by sharing their positive experiences at the Seacoast School of Technology.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Callahan
Principal