

THE BEACON

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Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Why choose the Seacoast School of Technology? The decision to come to SST is a big one, but the decision to return and become a program completer is even bigger. Students must apply for the second year and those who earn a seat are able to complete their competencies, gain real-world experience, earn industry-recognized certifications and/or leave with a college transcript. I'd like to give you two perspectives on why students want to return to SST – that of the student (many of the responses below come directly from the Year II application) and that of the teacher. Here goes!

- *Marguerite Kennish '13, Exeter High School, Culinary Arts Student*

I am interested in completing another year at SST because I would like to enter the culinary field as a professional after I complete my education. I would like to earn a ServSafe Certification and other college credits. I have already served as a SkillsUSA state officer and I would like to gain a higher position as a SkillsUSA state officer.

- *James Collins, Culinary Arts Teacher*

Culinary Arts is relevant to today's student because of the preparation for post-secondary education and development of basic life skills. With four Running Start classes embedded in the curriculum, students come away with the experience of participating and succeeding in college-level courses. With over 70% attending post-secondary institutions, of which 90% are in hospitality-related concentrations, this experience is invaluable. Students learn the finer skills of food preparation, build self-confidence and self-reliance, learn the importance of teamwork and appreciation of customer service, leaving each one better prepared to face life's challenges.

- *Lily Steadman '13, Raymond High School, Automotive Technologies Student*

Junior year was a life-changing time for me. In the Automotive Technologies class, not only did I have no friends in the class, I was one of the only girls and the only person from my school to take the program. I thought at first, "Oh man, I am not going to fit in here. I do not fit the automotive norm at all." I'll admit I absolutely love shoes and make-up, but I also love hands-on learning and getting dirt all over myself. My first year in the automotive class inspired me and made me want to come back for a second year. The education I get at SST is unlike anything before. The class has inspired me to open up my own auto body shop someday.

- *Bob Nienhouse and Fritz Arseneau, Automotive Technologies Teachers*

Teaching Automotive Technologies is about helping young people learn from our experiences. Our hope is that students are able to use what they learn here to increase their earning potential and employability. Bob Nienhouse says, "I was inspired to teach automotive mostly by the enthusiasm and dedication of one of my Saturn training center instructors in Spring Hill, TN. His knowledge of the subject matter and desire to help his students was contagious! Our program is special here at SST because we are preparing students for a job field that cannot ever become obsolete or be outsourced overseas."

- *Nicholas Gulezian '14 GBeCS, Computer Programming Student*

I already liked SST and enjoyed my first two years in Pre-Engineering. Basically, my future plans are to get into programming a lot more and use those skills to start my own company. I want to get into making my own video games. Next year I actually want to take both Computer Programming and Digital Communications, so I'll have skills and Running Start credits from three different SST programs.

- *Norman Messa and Vaso Partinoudi, Computer Programming Teachers*

Right now computers are the hot career. Employers are clamoring for Computer Science graduates and salaries reflect the demand. Our Computer Programming program will prepare students by giving them a solid foundation in the field of Computer Science. Our program is pedagogically the most rigorous in the state and the competencies students develop are highly respected in the field. Students in this program tend to "fly higher" than they ever thought they could.

- *Tricia Jones '13, Exeter High School, Digital Communications Student*

My first year at SST fueled my fire, so to speak. I have always been interested in graphic design, but until this class I did not realize the everyday uses of it, nor did I realize how much I enjoyed designing. I decided to come back to Year II to finish establishing my background in graphic design and to learn about web design, before moving onto college and eventually opening my own design company. Honestly, without this class, I doubt I would even consider going into the fast-growing graphic design field, much less planning my future around it. I hope to become a graphic designer, as well as do work that includes web design and video production.

- *Kristine Groleau, Digital Communications Teacher*

Creativity, problem solving, innovation - Digital Communications offers students a chance to develop these skills and more. Digital students use professional industry standard software suites, as well as a variety of other computer technology and equipment. Although Digital Communications is focused on preparing students for a career in design and media technology, the skills students acquire are useful and relevant to all other career interests. Understanding and using computer technology to their advantage is critical to their future.

- *Alannah Kunde '13, Sanborn Regional High School, Animal & Plant Science Student*

Animal & Plant Science has been the most inspiring and fun class I have ever taken. I get to learn a lot about things I want to do in the future. My goals for next year are to be able to take the things I have learned in this class and apply it to things I want to do in college. I hope to learn as much as I can about animals and I feel I can't do that without the second year of SST.

- *Anne DeMarco, Animal & Plant Science Teacher*

Those who are not familiar with Animal & Plant Science may think that agriculture education is only for those interested in farming. Nothing could be further from the truth! SST's program balances the science of raising and caring for animals and plants with hands-on experience and life skills. Students learn about pets and other animals, the food industry, plants and businesses related to all, while earning science and college credit. In addition, students have the opportunity to join the National FFA Organization in which every student has the opportunity to build leadership skills, make new friends and be prepared for the road after high school.

- *Cody Miller '13, Sanborn Regional High School, Building Construction Technologies Student*

I wanted to come back to SST because it is a great experience. It is a really fun, hands-on class. You learn so much more in this class than just what you could learn from a book. I thought I knew a lot because I've been doing construction for seven years now and I love it, but Building Construction Technologies has taught me a lot and is just so much fun. I hope to take in as much as I can this year so I can better my professional skills in the construction field.

- *James Klingensmith, **Building Construction Technologies Teacher***

The Building Construction Technologies program at SST gives each student a working knowledge of modern construction and many of its 6,000 related fields. Upon completion of this two-year program, students will be prepared to enter the workforce or continue their education at the college or technical school of their choice using the skills learned at SST.

- *Peter Eisenhaure '13, Exeter High School, **Marketing Technologies Student***

I am interested in completing another year at SST because Marketing Technologies interests me a lot and I have a lot of fun in the program. I hope to learn the skills I need to become successful in the marketing field in year two at SST. My goals for next year are to earn college credit by taking Business Management through Running Start for the first semester and then I will focus on entrepreneurship, sports advertising or business law in the second semester.

- *Sandra Flannigan, **Marketing Technologies Teacher***

This two-year program allows students to get prepared for the college experience and life in the real world. I am able to tailor the curriculum to match the specific interests of each individual student, while following state-approved competencies. Students have the opportunity to study entrepreneurship, business management, hospitality, fashion, advertising, sports and entertainment, business, personal finance, e-commerce, international business and business law. I see many students blossom as a result of new found self-confidence.

- *Lloyd Buzzell '13, Sanborn Regional High School, **Welding Technologies Student***

Everyone I know knows that I can only learn from hands-on work. At my home school I struggle only because it is very difficult for me to understand something from a book. The Seacoast School of Technology is amazing for me because it is all about hands-on learning. Here, teachers show you right in front of you what the correct way looks like. I hope to come here next year so I can learn even more about welding so when I find a job I'm ready to work.

- *Jonathan Theberge, **Welding Technologies Teacher***

The Welding Technologies program offers students the opportunity to enter the metal working trades. Career avenues such as welding, machining, industrial maintenance and electrical have all been successfully filled with students who have completed the Welding Technologies program. Our goal is to produce multi-skilled workers that have the ability and attitude to thrive in today's economy.

- *Ariel Binjour '13, Newmarket High School, **Health Science Technologies Student***

I am interested in completing another year at SST because I'd love to learn more skills. I so badly want to work hard on getting my LNA, which will hopefully help me get into a good college like UNH or Great Bay Community College. I'd like to go on job shadows and internships next year. Overall, I like the fact that I've learned so much, such as word parts, medical terminology and body parts. I love it all!

- *Adam Parent '13, Epping High School, **Health Science Technologies Student***

This is my third year at SST. I am currently in my second year of Health Science Technologies and I also took Pre-Engineering during my sophomore year. Taking Pre-Engineering taught me that I didn't have as much interest in engineering as I thought so I came back to SST to explore the healthcare field. I have had the opportunity to explore multiple career possibilities and decide what I want to do now instead of finding out in college. I enjoy every minute of it. Things I have learned, like how to safely move a patient, will definitely give me a leg-up when entering the workforce. You don't have to want to be a doctor or nurse to be in Health Sciences at SST. I will be going into the U.S. Air Force Special Operations as a Pararescueman.

- *Linda Cutler, Health Science Technologies Teacher*

When I ask students about why they want to be in this program, they say that they have always wanted to be a nurse, physical therapist, dental assistant, firefighter, EMT/paramedic, pharmacist, and so on. In the second year of the program students experience first-hand a potential career during their senior internship. Throughout the internship I witness an amazing transformation in each student; they become more professional, more confident and more skilled in working with clients and in professional behavior. Mostly, they learn about themselves.

- *Sadie Emond '13, Winnacunnet High School, Early Childhood Education Student*

I am interested in completing another year at SST because it is what I love to do. I have wanted to attend SST since 8th grade when I first heard about it. I have already learned so much. What I would like to learn and do in the second year is to learn how to become a better teacher. I am also looking to help develop my skills that are already there and I know another year at SST can do so for me. It has already helped me so much.

- *Carla Ranks, Early Childhood Education, Janel Holmes & Stacey Jordan, Wright Start Preschool Teachers*

SST inspires us to dream, explore, imagine, experiment, engage and foster the hopes and dreams of students. There is an amazing energy at this facility. The Early Childhood Education program enables students to experience, hands-on, how children develop and how to plan appropriate curriculum. Students have opportunities to bring the textbook to life in a real-world setting! Janel Holmes believes the old saying, "It takes a village to raise a child" should be revised to, "It takes SST to raise a child!"

- *Jeromey Green '13, Exeter High School, Pre-Engineering Student*

I want to complete another year because learning as much as I can before I go to college is important to me and necessary for success. I hope to learn much more about engineering and the value of hard work. My goals are to learn more in depth about engineering and engineering careers.

- *Norman Messa and Vaso Partinoudi, Pre-Engineering Teachers*

“On my first day in college we were told to look to your left, look to your right, those people will not make it. The courses were incredibly rigorous. Very few of us were prepared for that level of work. It would have been nice if someone had told us how difficult it would be,” Norm Messa commented. The SST program allows our students to build a foundation on which a traditional engineering education (and career) can be built. With the cost of a college education today, it is a pretty expensive proposition to go off to engineering school to find out that engineering is not your passion. A passion for engineering is what this program attempts to instill in our students.

I trust these testimonials from students and teachers give you a glimpse of the exciting opportunities our students have and why they want to return to SST for a second year. I also hope you got a feel for the true dedication and commitment of both our students and our teachers.

One final note – it is now possible to buy SST apparel online through a website designed and created by Marketing Technologies students. Just go to SeacoastTech.com and select “Upper Deck School Store” from the “About SST” drop-down menu. Now would be a great time to buy a sweatshirt or hat for a birthday or holiday gift!

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Callahan
Principal