



**Eastern Suffolk BOCES provides educational services that transform lives...
- Brian Cristiano, former Television, Video, and Digital Film Production student**

“ESBOCES was by far my favorite part of high school. I realized that I wanted to work in the television and film industry while in high school — the television production course at BOCES was a perfect fit,” said Brian.

Brian, now an awarding winning director, began his television and business career, and success story, at the age of 17 with his company 24DP, Inc. He combined his passion for Extreme Sports and video production, creating Extreme Skating videos. “ESBOCES set me up with an in-depth knowledge of the working world of television production,” he said. Before graduating high school, Brian had secured a worldwide distribution deal and sold thousands of copies of his videos. Over 4000 copies of his video *Apocalypse* were sold before Brian could even drive a car.

While attending ESBOCES, Brian participated in SkillsUSA where he placed in the Regional competition, and excelled the following year to compete at the National level competition in Kansas City his senior year of high school. Mr. Dave Rolland and Mr. Dan Brenner were his teachers at the time. “Both teachers were inspirational to me,” said Brian. “They both knew their skills inside and out. They gave me direction and with their help, I was able to set the wheels in motion and I began to see the extent of my talent.” Mr. Brenner remains a close friend of Brian’s, and has always made himself available to help and advise him in his endeavors. “I also developed friendships with students from other districts. We may have come from different schools and backgrounds but our common interest in Television Production made us a tight knit group and to this day, I’m very close with a former ESBOCES student.”

Through the efforts of his teachers at ESBOCES, Brian was able to secure hands-on experience at PBS, taking on full paying gigs as a production assistant and camera operator. Though Brian received a scholarship from Five Towns College through ESBOCES, he decided to attend the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale where he was afforded life credits, due to his extensive professional resume acquired during high school, which elevated him into his sophomore year of school. “I was the only person ever to be awarded Life Credit under the age of 25 at the Art Institute,” he said.

“Because of ESBOCES,” said Brian, “my natural skills began to develop quickly. It was a place of learning, comfort, and where I formulated longtime friendships. I acquired a tremendous amount of knowledge from my classes which helped me develop a wonderful career and business.”

Brian’s company, 24DP, Inc., has been recognized as one of the premiere creative and technical production companies in New York City. Brian has worked for many award winning programs such as the History Channel, ABC, FOX, Discovery Channel, and

SportsNet, NY. Recently Brian has taken his company 24DP into the heart of Manhattan and created a name for himself, winning a 2008 New York Emmy Award.