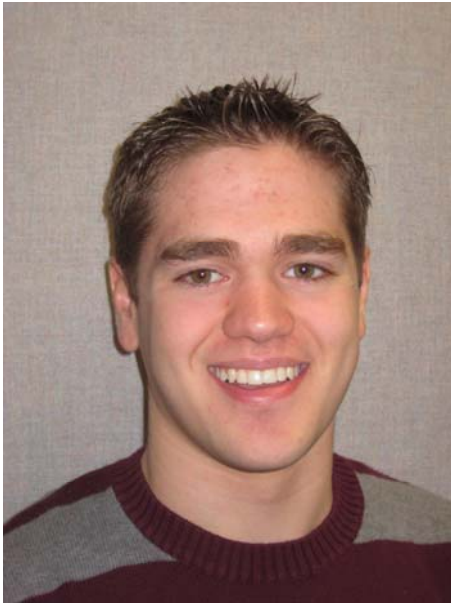


Eastern Suffolk BOCES provides educational services that transform lives...

- **Mr. Christopher Kongoletos, a recent graduate of the ESBOCES Law Enforcement program at the H. B. Ward Technical and Academic Center**



“The law enforcement field has always been a major interest for me. I felt the program at Eastern Suffolk BOCES and the internships offered could help me make a better decision for my career choices once I graduate from college.”

Originally, Chris was interested in attaining his pilot’s license through the ESBOCES Aviation program until he learned his poor vision would preclude him from that career.

Having recently been accepted into the United States Military Academy at West Point, Chris can now look back to the time when he visited his guidance counselor at Shoreham-Wading River High School, inquiring about the career programs available at ESBOCES, and see that his path to success may have begun at this serendipitous meeting. He learned that the Law Enforcement

program would provide him with expanded opportunities and cooperative learning experiences with police agencies, forensics, crime scene investigations, and the prospect of participating in a one-week course at the Suffolk County Police Academy to experience life as a police recruit. Chris said, “There were only 40 positions available in the weeklong internship. I believe that being able to say that I participated in the Suffolk County Policy Academy internship program and having hands-on experience in law enforcement will open my career opportunities.”

Chris is quick to point out other aspects of the ESBOCES program that were beneficial to him. He said, “I learned how to interview and the ins and outs of the American legal system and the law enforcement community. Attending the ESBOCES Law Enforcement program heightened my interest in majoring in law at West Point.”

The application process for West Point was long and arduous. He is happy to report that he was able to attain a congressional nomination from New York Congressman Timothy Bishop. Only a few are given out, so he feels honored and grateful. Chris’ aspirations at West Point include majoring in law and attending jump school where he can springboard into the airborne unit.

Chris was further inspired to apply to West Point due to his experience at Cedar Bridge Military Academy, a private military academy serving youths ages 11-17. First Sergeant

Baryla, the founder and president of the academy, inspired him. Chris said, "He instilled in me the values necessary for success." The ESBOCES Law Enforcement program, along with his experiences at Cedar Bridge, allowed Chris to find the career path that he loves. "Having this knowledge will guide me for the rest of my life to bigger and better things," he said.

There are many reasons why Chris would encourage and advise fellow students to attend the Law Enforcement program at ESBOCES. He said, "We get a more hands-on and in-depth exposure to the American legal system. I also enjoyed being able to dedicate half a school day to a subject that I truly enjoy. I feel I received a better and more complete understanding of what I am learning rather than what is taught in a typical 41-minute period."

Chris had the pleasure of formulating friendships while attending ESBOCES. He met and became close friends with Christian B. and Diana H., both of whom attended the ESBOCES Law Enforcement program and later became trainers at the Suffolk County Police Academy. Chris said, "I still keep in contact with Diana and have come to think of her as my big sister. Both she and Christian influenced and assisted me." He also gives credit to his teacher, Anthony Abarno, "He helped me daily on my path to West Point."

He added, "All the opportunities and experiences I have been afforded I believe will show law enforcement agencies that I am dedicated and interested in a career in law enforcement."