



EPIC LI Partners with Nassau BOCES and Hires Graduating Student



GARDEN CITY, N.Y. July 11, 2013 — Like every high school graduate, Brian has his mind on his future and thanks to a partnership between EPIC Long Island (formerly, the Epilepsy Foundation of Long Island) and Nassau BOCES, he now has a full time job locked in after he graduates later this month.

Brian, a Hewlett High School student, has been studying Carpentry at Nassau BOCES Barry Tech. Part of Nassau BOCES Department of Career and Technical Education; Barry Tech provides more than 40 courses of study at its state-of-the-art center in Westbury. The Nassau BOCES administrative center is located just adjacent to EPIC's current Garden City location.

The two-year Barry Tech Carpentry program teaches students the basics of hand and power tool use. The class simulates real-world job situation and the teacher acts as a construction supervisor to help student master entry-level skills needed to construct houses and commercial buildings.

Barry Tech Carpentry teacher Paul Eidle said, "We're very happy that the cooperative work program turned into a full-time career." In September 2012, Paul Eidle and John Broderick, Work Experience Teacher Coordinator, approached Brian regarding a Co-op opportunity with EPIC. At the time, EPIC was in search of adding additional workers regarding their buildings and maintenance team.

EPIC is known for providing extraordinary care and helping others. Therefore, Tyra Gonzalez, Training Coordinator, decided to expand EPIC's reach and contacted Nassau BOCES regarding Co-op student learners.

"I contacted Nassau BOCES and said 'we are interested in providing an Co-op program to help students and graduating seniors further their careers.' Brian was then recommended to us," said Tyra Gonzalez, Training Coordinator at EPIC.

Today, Brian's window of opportunity has grown. Now, as a new graduate, Brian is ecstatic that EPIC has offered him a full time job.

“Brian has been working within EPIC’s buildings servicing everything from general maintenance to repairs. He has done so phenomenally well, that we asked if he would like to join our staff,” says Gonzalez.

This new hire comes at a great time for EPIC. The organization itself will be transitioning its services to serve a larger and broader population. Due to this expansion, EPIC (formally known as the Epilepsy Foundation of Long Island) will be moving to a larger, East Meadow building in the fall where Brian will be considered one of the go-to crew members.

“We are expanding and need more space,” Gonzalez said. “There will be a lot of work for him to do and many more learning opportunities.”

The partnership between EPIC and Nassau BOCES Barry Tech carpentry program was a great success, Gonzalez said. “Because it was so positive we will look to do this again with Barry Tech in a variety of study areas.”

About EPIC Long Island

EPIC Long Island began in 1953 with a small group of parents whose mission was to help children with epilepsy lead productive lives. Sixty years later, the organization has fulfilled that promise, with 15 residences, two clinics, dozens of programs, and more than 11,000 individuals served. Today, EPIC LI looks toward a bright future as it broadens its mission to offer more social and health services across Long Island.

EPIC LI has grown to serve not only individuals with epilepsy, but also those with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges. While epilepsy is at its core, the organization offers a spectrum of superior services that also serves individuals and families with different needs. EPIC Long Island’s mission is to enrich the lives of those they serve through quality care, a broad range of services and an unwavering commitment to excellence. For more information, please visit <http://EPICLI.org>.

About Nassau BOCES

The Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County (Nassau BOCES) is a public agency that serves the 56 school districts of Nassau County. It provides cost-effective shared services, including career training for high school students and adults, special education, alternative schools, technology education and teacher training, as well as dozens of programs to expand educational opportunities and help districts operate more efficiently. Visit www.nassauboces.org for news, information and educational updates and like Nassau BOCES on Facebook, www.facebook.com/nassauboces.

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