



De's Dazzles – A Peek into the School-to-Work Program

As the school year winds down, I decided to ask my Southwest Valley School-to-Work High School Student her thoughts. Starting the second semester in January, Julia Means has been working at the Corning Opera House a couple days per week for about six hours. She has prepared food for First Friday Friends, made various promotional pieces, written a press release, helped give a tour, and much more. Collaborating with Julia meant giving up complete control, opening my arms wide and letting the power of working together do big things! Here are Julia's thoughts:

It all started when Mr. Aherns saw that I really enjoyed his multimedia class. He told me that De was looking for a high schooler to help her with stuff at the Corning Opera House through the school-to-work program. I thought that it would be interesting to try. Plus, it got me out of the school building for a little while (what high schooler doesn't love that). I have done so many fun and new things since I started doing workplace experience at the opera house. One of my favorite things to do is use Canva. Canva is a very fun way to make fliers, Facebook posts, and Instagram posts. It is interesting to know about all the different events that the opera house can host in their building. I have learned a lot about the business side of how things run. There is a lot of thought put into how De pick's what is shown at the opera house. I didn't realize how much planning happens when a band or a musical performance is held here. I was also surprised about just how many different ways De promotes events at the Opera house.

-Julia Means

As Steve Jobs said, "Great things in business are never done by one person." As Julia and I found our niche working together we shared and discussed ideas. Occasionally she would edit my ideas and other times she practiced creating and perfecting. It was never about throwing a bunch of content at her but teaching and sharing the how's and whys of the business. We each had our voice in the School-to-Work program, as we contributed and worked towards the same goal. Each one of us can make a difference; together we make change! Thanks Southwest Valley for the opportunity!

Sincerely,

De Heaton, Executive Director 5/1/2023