



Newsletter

Spring 2013

Campus Highlights:

Milan Institute of Cosmetology - Fairfield Students Win Big

Oakland Marriott Convention Center, Oakland, California, was the place. September 23-25, 2012 was the date. Bronner Brothers International Hair Show was the event, and students and staff from the Milan Institute of Cosmetology Fairfield campus were there! For over 66 years, Bronner Bros. has been bringing the best in trendsetting styles with fabulous hair design and extraordinary education opportunities to professionals and students alike. Bronner Bros. International Hair Show is recognized as the largest beauty and trade show of its kind in the world. The event brings together over 300 hair care companies, stylist competitions, hands-on classes and seminars by top educators, and creative presentations.



"Bronner Bros. is a huge show in the East and this is the first time it's come out to the western United States," explains Gina Geronimo, School Director of Milan Institute of Cosmetology in Fairfield, California.

Milan Institute of Cosmetology Class of 2012 student Alnita Simpson took top honors in the Grab Bag competition by creating a hairstyle in 30 minutes using only the items supplied in her Grab Bag. "You had to use everything they gave you and create a style for everyday wear that complemented your model's outfit," Alnita tells us. Fellow Milan Institute of Cosmetology student Jessica Ann Coley supported Alnita by serving as her model. "Competing at the Bronner Bros. Hair Show was fun. The competition is timed, your adrenaline is pumping and

everyone is watching you. It's really exciting," says Alnita.

Having graduated from Milan Institute of Cosmetology Fairfield in October 2012, Alnita's goal is to open her own salon in 2014. She would also like to become a celebrity stylist. Currently Alnita is continuing her education as a full-time student in business courses and working on her future business plan.

In the Student Rising Star competition, Milan Institute

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What's New

Graduate Profiles:

Learn how Milan Institute helped Amber Garcia see a clear picture of her future and what she needed to obtain a successful career in Medical Assisting.

Deira Valadez tells how she went from working a minimum wage convenience store job to a career that she loves. Read about her experiences in the inaugural class at Milan Institute of Cosmetology in El Paso, Texas.

Faculty Spotlight:

In this issue, we are pleased to begin our "Faculty Spotlight" designed to introduce members of our accomplished faculty. Get to know Rhonda Rustan, Massage Therapy Instructor at the Milan Institute campus in Visalia, California, and a Milan graduate!

Employer Profile:

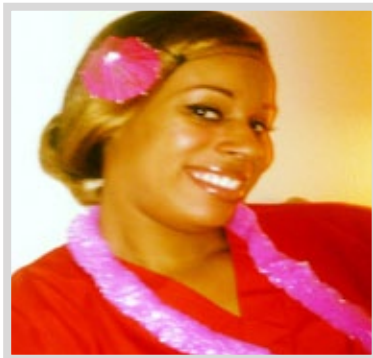
Discover Slice Salon, a boutique salon in the mid-town arts district of Reno, Nevada, and one of the many valued employers of Milan Institute of Cosmetology graduates.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Milan Institute - Merced, California
Opening Soon!

Graduate Profile: Amber Garcia, Class of 2012

Medical Assisting Program • Milan Institute - Las Vegas, NV



"I want to thank Milan Institute for opening my eyes and helping me see a clear picture of where and who I want to be in life, as well as what I want to make of my future."

For Amber Garcia, 2012 Medical Assisting graduate from Milan Institute in Las Vegas, Nevada, the decision to enroll in the Milan Medical Assisting program was not just a decision about her own wants and needs. It was also a major life-changing decision that involved her children as well. Amber was already in school and had been studying law for about a year when she realized it just wasn't the right fit for her. Though it was risky, Amber made the decision to make a move from Texas all the way to Las Vegas, Nevada, and enroll in Milan Institute.

Amber's educational journey was not an easy one, and during her time at Milan she was faced with homelessness and the emotional turmoil of having to send her daughters back to Texas to stay with her

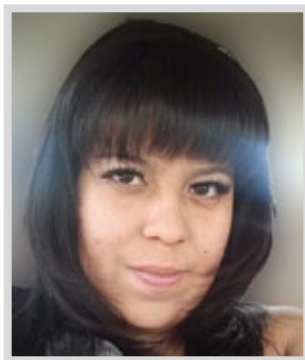
parents. "I've faced many hardships that might have been a clear motive for me to drop out of school," explains Amber. It was the desire to set a good example and become a better mother to her daughters that kept her going. "My instructor and many of the Milan staff behind the scenes knew about my situation. They continued to challenge me to do my best and provided support, guidance and motivation," says Amber. Though being separated from her children was difficult, it allowed Amber to concentrate on completing her program. "It was a sacrifice, but I knew that I needed to finish school and get myself together."

Amber is now putting her Milan training to good work and is employed at Vintage Park, a memory care assisted living community in the Las Vegas area. Amber tells us, "My goals and dreams go far beyond becoming a medical assistant." Her future plans are to continue her education in the healthcare field and become a registered nurse. Her dream is to eventually work in a hospital as a nurse in labor and delivery.

Amber believes that the move to Milan Institute was the right decision for her. "I want to thank Milan Institute for opening my eyes and helping me see a clear picture of where and who I want to be in life, as well as what I want to make of my future," she said.

Graduate Profile: Deira Valadez, Class of 2011

Cosmetology Program • Milan Institute of Cosmetology - El Paso, TX



"I love everything about my new career! Someday I'd like to open my own salon or spa and have it be as great as my current job."

In August of 2010, Milan Institute of Cosmetology in El Paso, Texas, opened its doors and began enrolling for its first Cosmetology program. Deira Valadez was a part of that inaugural group. "Being in the first class was exhilarating, exciting and even a little bit frightening at times," recalls Deira. There may have been some bumps and surprises along the way, but

in the end Deira was part of the very first graduation at Milan Institute of Cosmetology in El Paso.

Before enrolling in Milan Institute of Cosmetology, Deira had been working full time as an assistant manager in a convenience store. It was just a job, not her dream career. Deira wanted something more, something she was passionate about and something that would allow her to use her creativity. It took her awhile to find the right outlet. When she heard about Milan Institute of Cosmetology opening in El Paso, she realized that this was her future. "I decided that I needed to go back to school. I wanted more out of life, and I realized I needed training to make a better future for myself and my family," says Deira.

Deira continued working full time even though she enrolled as a full-time student. It was a lot to handle, but she persevered. "I had many obstacles while I was in the Cosmetology program. I was working full time, and

Faculty Spotlight: Rhonda Rustan, Massage Therapy Instructor

Milan Institute • Visalia, CA

"I am passionate about massage therapy and take pleasure in being able to pass that on to my students."



Rhonda Rustan joined the Milan organization in a teaching capacity six years ago. For many years she had worked in the medical field before becoming interested in massage. After giving birth to her second child, she decided to leave the medical field and open her own day care business. It was during that time she received a gift certificate for a massage and it entirely changed her career path. "I loved the massage experience so much that I had to find out more about the field of massage," Rhonda explains.

Seeking more knowledge about massage, Rhonda enrolled as a student in Milan Institute's Massage Therapy program and graduated in 2002. She then

started her own massage therapy practice. After about a year of managing her own practice, she decided she wanted to further her massage education and pursue physical therapy as a massage therapist/physical therapy coordinator. Says Rhonda, "While studying physical therapy, I learned an extensive amount of knowledge on how the body works and how beneficial massage can be."

Because she had attended and graduated from Milan Institute, it was only natural for Rhonda to eventually return as an instructor. "I have a respect and love for Milan Institute, and I really enjoy helping people so it was natural that I was drawn back to the organization," says Rhonda. "I am passionate about massage therapy and take pleasure in being able to pass that on to my students."

When she's not teaching massage, Rhonda enjoys spending time with her family, their five dogs and four cats. For fun she likes to do just about anything outside including, spending time riding quads and dirt bikes. Someday she hopes to retire and live in Hawaii. "I fell in love with Hawaii and plan to retire there and possibly continue doing massage in paradise," says Rhonda.

"My recommendation to students," says Rhonda "is to enjoy the career field that you choose, and never stop learning!"

Employer Profile: Slice Salon • Reno, NV



Located in the heart of Reno, Nevada's mid-town arts district, you will find Slice Salon, a boutique salon and a valued employer of Milan Institute of Cosmetology graduates from the local campus. At Slice Salon, owner and stylist Curtis Vick has created a dynamic environment that is chic, glam, colorful and fun. It's a place where both clients and stylists can feel inspired.

Slice Salon employs a staff of 14 and has hired four Milan Institute of Cosmetology graduates within the past year. It is also one of the favorite salons visited by Milan students during their program. "All stylists value education, which is something we emphasize here at Slice," says owner Curtis Vick. Milan Institute of Cosmetology Career Services Coordinator Erin Zundel

notes that by hosting field trips to the Slice Salon, "Students have the opportunity to see for themselves the inspiration, education and mentorship that Curtis brings to all of his stylists. He is very passionate and driven."

As an employer, Vick looks for qualities such as passion, motivation and product knowledge when hiring for his salon. "We have found that Milan Institute of Cosmetology graduates characteristically demonstrate these qualities. Their overall attitude and work ethic as well as their technical training are what stand out about Milan graduates," says Vick. Vick advises new cosmetology graduates that, "Once you are working in the field, it's important to understand that it takes hard work and dedication to build your clientele."

Slice Salon offers complete beauty services for hair, nail and skin care seven days a week. It is located at 137 Vassar Street in Reno, Nevada, and can be reached at

Campus Highlights: Milan Institute of Cosmetology - Fairfield Students Win Big (Continued)



Top Left: Grap Bag winner Alnita Simpson and model Jessica Ann Coley.

Top Right: Student Rising Star winner Sha-Ronn Bairfield and model Erin Reason.

Bottom: Milan Institute of Cosmetology students and staff attend the Bronner Bros. International Hair Show in Oakland, CA.

of Cosmetology Fairfield student Sha-Ronn Bairfield competed and was named the first place winner. "Bronner Bros. is legendary. I've never understood why students would let this kind of opportunity pass them by," says Sha-Ronn. "Being on stage was like a euphoric experience." Sha-Ronn created a color, cut and style in the allotted 45 minutes, suitable for the everyday wear salon consumer. Fellow Milan Institute of Cosmetology student Erin Reason was Sha-Ronn's model. "The experience has been amazing! Since the competition, I've been contacted by salons from all over the country that want to mentor me or offer me a position," says Sha-Ronn.

Sha-Ronn graduated in January 2013 and is employed by the Straight or Knot Salon, a multicultural beauty salon in Fairfield. "I am also creating my own brand and doing custom wigs. My main focus now is creating my own hair show, called the 'IT Show,' and getting it off the ground," Sha-Ronn reported.

For their winning creative efforts, Alnita and Sha-Ronn were each awarded an enormous trophy and a check for \$500. Milan Institute of Cosmetology Fairfield Phase One Cosmetology Instructor, Christine Miller, led the group of students and staff that attended the show. Says Christine, "this event really brought those that attended together as a team, and it was great to see them supporting one

Campus Highlights: Milan Institute of Cosmetology - Fairfield Students Win Big (Continued)

another during the competitions."

Graduate Profile: Deira Valadez (Continued)

my fiancé had health issues," she explains. Through the encouragement of her family and fiancé, she found the strength to carry on and be successful in her program. "I am a hard worker. I always try my best to reach my goals. I try not to breakdown, and I continue to always move forward," Deira says.

Since graduating in December 2011, Deira has continued her forward momentum. For over a year she has been employed at Touch Discount Spa in El Paso where she is a front office manager. Touch is a full-service day spa and salon that provides a complete spa experience that includes services for massage, waxing, hair, makeup and nails. Deira says, "I love everything about my new career! Someday I'd like to open my own salon or spa and have it be as great as my current job."

Employer Profile: Slice Salon • Reno, NV (Continued)

(775) 323-2100. www.slicesalon.com

Top: Curtis Vick, Owner and Stylist, Slice Salon

Bottom: Slice Salon Interior



For more information about our graduation rates, median loan debt of students who completed the program and other important information, please visit our website.

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