

# 'Project Success' puts students on right career track

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Corri Miller, left, 18, applies color treatment to the hair of Beatrice Cano, 18, on Monday afternoon at The Retreat Salon & Day Spa. Both students are part of the Communities in Schools program "Project Success," which aims to help high school students plan ahead and prepare for career paths after they graduate.

**NEW BRAUNFELS** — A local spa is helping teens hairdress for success.

On Monday, The Retreat Salon & Day Spa taught a group of New Braunfels High School seniors and recent graduates the finer points of hairdressing in a two-hour training session. The after-business-hours training is part of a seven-week crash course in beautician work put on in partnership with Communities in Schools (CIS) of South Central Texas.

The CIS program is called "Project Success," and it aims to help high school students plan ahead and prepare for career paths after they graduate.

"It's an awesome program for these kids to get some exposure and learn about what it's like to work in businesses like this," CIS program director Liberty Nicholas said. "They really get a feel for whether this is something they want to pursue."

CIS is a nonprofit organization that partners with local businesses and community organizations to serve at-risk students.

Along with hairdressing and other beautician skill training, spa employees have also taught the teens how to apply for a related job and what to wear for their interviews.

Spa owner Laurie Goode said she and her staff are excited to be involved with the program.

“For the longest time we’ve been wanting to do something to help the community,” Goode said. “We’ve given donations to groups, but we wanted to do more, so we made the decision to help young people learn about the (health and beauty) industry.”

The spa contacted CIS and worked out a plan to be part of Project Success, and the students appear to be quite pleased with the arrangement.

“I really like it; it’s a great opportunity for me,” said NBHS senior Beatrice Cano, 18. “So far, I like everything (about the program with the spa). I’m really excited to be working with professionals.”

Cano said she wants to be a professional hair stylist.

Early NBHS graduate Corri Miller, 18, echoed Cano’s appreciation for the program, adding he looks forward to take this training with him to college.

“I’ve been with Project Success since I was a freshman and it’s been really good for me,” Miller said. “They’ve offered me (career) counseling about I’m interested in and have really helped me out.”

Miller said he is interested in hair styling, but ultimately wants be a fashion journalist.

The Retreat Salon & Day Spa is on 245 S. Union Ave. Call the spa at (830) 620-0615 for possible intern partnerships.

CIS is on 161 S. Castell Ave. Call CIS at (830) 620-4247 for program information.