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## Show applies learning in style

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About 60 Gateway Community and Technical College students will take the stage tonight at Simon Kenton High School for Trend Fusion, the cosmetology department's second annual hair and makeup show.

The focus of the show is not on fashion. It's about trends - how they get started and why they catch on.

"If they were able to create their own trends for the season, this is what they would create," said Terry Hanks, cosmetology instructor. "It's taking it to an art form. It's not about commercial looks that you see in salons, but taking their craft and using it as an art expression. Everything is done to the extreme."

Part of a Gateway cosmetology student's curriculum includes a course on trends. The show is a culmination of what they've learned.

"It's really just how trends are developed in our industry," said Sarah Laws, cosmetology instructor. "It's incorporating how people are living - how much time they are spending on their hair, for example - and the students interpret it into their own means and their own trends."

During the show, 12 teams of students will take the stage for 3-5 minutes to present their concepts.

"The show helps because it teaches the students things we can't teach them in school - working cooperatively, seeing things completely different, creating their own trends and creating their own standards," Laws said.

Hanks believes the show helps the students understand their place in the industry.

"The students learn to get an appreciation for their craft - it's not just cutting hair - it truly is an art," Hanks said. They get a new appreciation for who they are in this business.

"They truly are artists. They look at bodies as forms and figures."

Another benefit will be the VIP section that gives students a chance to be seen by people who want their skills after graduation.

"People from the industry will be there, from prospective employers, salon owners, anyone that is connected to this industry with the beauty field have been invited in," Hanks said.

Laws pointed out that earning a cosmetology degree opens more doors than commonly thought.

"We try to really take that mindset that you really don't have to stand behind a chair the rest of your life," Laws said. "You can be an educator, be a product developer, or work in a plastic surgery office as a technician."

This year's show has been moved to Simon Kenton High School to take advantage of the school's new state-of-the-art theater.

Hanks said Simon Kenton students will handle all of the lighting, sound, scene changes and backdrops.

Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

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