

BeautyLink interviewed recent graduates who have defied the odds by becoming business owners. Read on to see what they have to say about their success.

ERICA SAPORITO & CHRISTINE BONTI, BUSINESS PARTNERS, HEAD RUSH SALON

(BL) How did Long Island Beauty Schools/The Hair Design Institute (LIBS) best prepare you for your career? What was one of your most memorable moments while in beauty school?

(ES & CB) LIBS provided us with the tools to feel confident in any salon atmosphere. We owe a great deal of thanks to our instructors for both the education we received along with our hands-on training. It was during these lessons that we began to discover our talents and individual style.

When we look back at our time in beauty school, we are filled with many great memories. We both agree that graduation was our most memorable moment. A feeling of confidence mixed with excitement comes over you as you realize that all of your hard work and dedication has paid off, and your future in hair design is about to begin.

(BL) In 2007, you opened your business, Head Rush Salon. How did you get to this point? Have you always wanted to be a business owner?

(ES & CB) Owning a business of our own was a goal we were both extremely passionate about. The path to achieving this dream was not easy at times, but we stayed focused. Our working relationship began at Maximus Salon and Spa in Merrick, Long Island. By continuing to absorb and learn as much as possible about the hair design industry, we were able to enhance our skills and gain respect from our peers and clientele. At this point we were ready to take the next step and open our own salon.

(BL) What's the most favorite and least favorite part of your job as a salon owner?

(ES & CB) Our goal is to provide our customers at Head Rush with an exceptional salon experience each and every time they visit. As business owners, we possess the ability to make decisions that will further enhance the quality and potential of our salon. Making these decisions is our favorite part of being salon owners. It is exciting to come up with new and inventive concepts.

(BL) Explain your success. Are you happy that you are doing something you enjoy?

(ES & CB) Owning your own salon is no easy task. There are schedules to be designed, inventory to maintain and customers to please – and this is just scratching the surface. But, at the end of the day, if your work is in order, this business will allow you to live a comfortable life. Vacations, investments, shopping sprees, all these things are encouraged. But be careful; indulgences can cripple a business. Our advice: Have fun, and hire a good accountant!

(BL) Is there anything else you'd like to share with our readers that could inspire them?

Your future is not yet written. You, alone, possess the ability to decide where you will be in life. Enrolling in school was the first step in our career; from there, we have graduated, been assistants, worked long hours, but through all the hard work, we've achieved our dream and so can you. As long as you possess the passion and desire to make it a reality, it can be done.

For more information, visit <http://head-rush-salon.com>.



Christine Bonti, left, and Erica Saporito, right



Do you know a superstar graduate? Send a brief bio along with their contact information to editor@beautyschools.org. They could be featured in the next issue of *BeautyLink*!

CORRECTION: Photos included under Kendra Aarhus in the last Superstar Graduates were from Head Rush Salon. We apologize for the error.

