



STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

Shane: A New Venture...

One of the benefits to the Virtual Enterprise (VE) program is how it gives students the confidence to perhaps experience things they may never have otherwise tried. Experiencing the many components of a VE helps students understand the complexities of a business and an office environment.

Shane Coussens is one such student who took these experiences and ran with them, achieving his aim of running his own business. He answers how he thinks working in a VE helped get him where he is today. So, when an educational institution runs the VE program, they really are opening up a world of opportunities to their students.

Name: Shane Coussens

Current Job Role: Running own business

(Art.Beauty.Love.Fashion)

Course: Certificates II and III in Business Administration

Virtual Enterprise: Unique at Thebarton VE, Thebarton Senior College, SA



Why was working in the VE beneficial to your career?

Working in a VE, I was familiarised with the office environment. I learnt about the relationships that exist in the workplace between colleagues, management, customers and competitors.

What were the most useful business skills you gained?

I gained an entire suite of relevant and up to date skills which could be adapted to the work situations I found myself in, directly following graduation. I learned to type which has been one of the most useful skills I have acquired since I learned to read and write!

What was the no. 1 experience that made a difference for you when you joined the workforce?

The most valuable experience for me was the workplace environment (rather than a classroom situation) where the teaching staff and the students are in a simulated workplace on a daily basis. Of course difficulties and disagreements arise, and this is exactly the sort of experience which does not occur in a normal classroom setting.

How do you feel your time in the VE prepared you for the workplace?

I found that at every new place I entered I had to learn the particular requirements and expectations of the organisation. However, my VE studies had encouraged me to develop the skills to investigate what my duties were and what standards were expected of my work.

Is there anything else you would like to say about this program?

Through the interaction with students from my own VE and the VE Network I had a sense of community which is not often experienced these days by people in my situation. The school which runs the VE program (Thebarton Senior College) also has a supportive, community focused environment which allows all students to study at their own pace and to achieve their goals as unique individuals.