
Photo credit: Terry Jacoby

SECOND ACT

CONFIDENCE, COMMUNITY AND A BUSINESS BUILT AT WCC

When Greg Gattuso began dreaming of running his own business, a Google search for "small business classes" led him to WCC.

With the college's support through a new academic program and free services from The Entrepreneurship Center, that dream became reality. Gattuso, 56, a Queens, New York native who moved to Ann Arbor in 2009, recently opened Chelsea Party Loft, an event space tailored for youth celebrations like birthdays and graduations.

The idea was sparked when Gattuso organized a school Fun Night as PTSO president. "I thought to myself, "this was the kind of positive social experience that was missing these days," says Gattuso, then working full-time at Sharper Image Catalog. "If we could have fun in a school gym, what if we had a dedicated space where we could get people together for special events."

He enrolled in six WCC classes to earn a certificate in Entrepreneurship and Innovation (2024) and tapped into mentoring, networking and other free services through The Entrepreneurship Center.

"The best takeaway from WCC is that I now have the confidence to meet challenges as they come," he says.

