

Ashley Gendrachi

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Appreciation Letter

Dear Dr. Artis, & the phenomenal staff at YourPath,

I am so grateful for the opportunities you have given me throughout my experience within the curriculum. I was out of school for 8 years before deciding to enter this program, I remember the night perfectly. I was talking to my sister on the phone about what I really wanted to do as a profession since she had just started beauty school & found her own calling. After discussing the makeup industry as something of interest to me, I continued with how much I wanted to receive a diploma first before anything else. She encouraged me to look for night classes & that google offered more than enough & that is exactly what happened. I ran right into the arms of YOURpath; & met an instructor who was so eager about helping those who wanted to succeed, but in doing so, she had terms that had to be met. If you were coming into the program you had to take it seriously, there were no games, no excuses, & you had to work hard. I found myself at times falling off in & out of focus, & not having the best time management, but no matter how hard things seemed to get, **Dr. Artis never gave up on me. She saw my worth, especially at times where I never could.** I am sitting here today as the first 2023 graduate of my program class, & am still in complete shock. I cannot believe that I made it here after all this time, **THE FIRST ONE TO GRADUATE FOR THE YEAR**, after so many times my devilish mind came to me saying, "You'll never make it Ashley". **I AM HERE WITH A DIPLOMA STARING BACK AT ME.** I have a world of opportunity in the palm of my hands that I can chase now. I can enroll in college, explore different career paths & open so many doors for success. This program taught me so many things. It picked at my brain, after years of not knowing or remembering the academic materials I needed to accomplish in retrieving my diploma. It reminded me to take accountability for my own actions, &

allowed me to stay true to my word. **It introduced me to so many different people who not only donated but also dedicated their time to make sure I could pass my exams. YOURpath has forever changed my life & has made a mark in my heart.** It's a beautiful program that is dedicated to those that had their chance of graduating taken away from them. As I go on in my life capturing the many goals that still lie in front of me, I will always remember this experience. I'm a better person for it. I'm still not sure where I'm going from here, or what career path or college I want to partake in, but just knowing that I can is a feeling like no other. I found that I think I appreciate it more as I'm older. My next journey is most likely going to be The Vizio Makeup Academy, where I will dive into a 7 week program to receive a professional certification in Special Effects Makeup. As from there, I will finally enroll in college, a step I've been determined to take since my Junior Year of high school. This is all because of YOURpath allowing me to find my path.

So without further ado, it is my honor & with the utmost gratitude to sit here today & thank everyone here for allowing me to reach my potential. I would be nothing without you all.

Sincerely, a thankful & proud 2023 graduate!

~Ashley Gendrachi