

Success In Style: A Model Organization for Extending Access to Opportunity through Training Rooted in the Beauty of Human Work

Mary Sheehan Warren

Abstract

As the socioeconomic gap continues to widen between the educated and uneducated, education professionals acknowledge the hidden barriers for the poor and vulnerable such as a lack of the basic “soft skills” of professional presence, communication abilities, and access to professional attire such as suits, suit-like separates, work-appropriate shoes, or even minimal cosmetic dentistry or products for hygiene. Unfortunately, the secular and even Christian solutions to these needs are designed within an ethos of crisis-response and barebones efficiency, often exacerbating the recipient’s feelings of humiliation and lack of dignity. One organization in the Washington, DC region, Success In Style, provides these services through studios specifically designed to showcase the dignity of human work.