

Claire 15 films video to be shown on downstate cable

4/30/15

Patrick Claire 15, who will graduate in June from the AU Downstate campus with a master's degree in education-school counseling, has completed a video promoting the Walton YABC (Young Adult Borough Center) program, where he currently works, which will be shown in the downstate area this spring on CableVision and Verizon Fios on BronxNet.

Patrick described how his project came about:

“I currently work at the Walton YABC where I work through a Community Based Organization (Good Shepherd Services) as the internship coordinator. My role is to provide meaningful and engaging internships to my students. (A YABC is a program that offers students a second chance at a high school diploma.) The students in YABCs are between the ages of 17-21. In my attempts to find these internships many potential supervisors would be interested but when finding out the ages of the students would say to me, ‘I do not want someone with a criminal record,& or ‘is this a school for juvenile delinquents?’ or ‘are they unintelligent?’ etc.

“When I told them the age and that they were still in high school they almost automatically assumed the worst. They had the incorrect perception that the reason many of our students have fallen behind is because they had some sort of criminal history. This left a sour taste in my mouth because I know the struggle that many of our students faced and that the majority of students here are great kids who have had to face almost insurmountable obstacles.

“I therefore went around to local council members to obtain a grant for the school to create a documentary.... an opportunity for students at Walton YABC to share their voices and their side of the story. The students tell why they fell behind and the reasons for it.

“All 11 students (in the video project) received training in television production including cameras, lighting, teleprompter, audio, computers, B-Roll, outside shooting, and more.... The documentary began in early November and we finished on the last day of January.

“We are currently editing the documentary and it will be airing on CableVision and Verizon Fios on BronxNet. It will also be available online and I will be getting DVD copies. I am currently starting part two of the documentary which will end in June.

“We had a screening of the documentary before the student body the day before spring break. BronxNet, which filmed and produced the documentary came to film the screening and created this promotional video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03liwbB4BA4&feature=youtu.be>

“As for me, this will be my last year here at Walton YABC.... I recently accepted a new position as the 12th grade counselor at a new school which I start in August. It is bittersweet to say the least.”