



Michael's[®]

salon & day spa

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I am the owner of Michael's Salon and Spa in Centerville, Ohio. I have been in business for over 40 years and witnessed many changes in the cosmetology industry. I believe we are facing a critical juncture and the survival of our industry is at stake.

In order for the industry to survive, we need a steady stream of young talent entering the field. Historically, we have relied on career tech schools and for-profit schools to supply that talent. However, the enactment of the Gainful Employment Act has resulted in 10% of cosmetology schools in Ohio closing in a one month period. Even more jarring, 80% of schools within 40 miles of my salon closed this past year. This is only the tip of the iceberg.

We are faced with finding a way to satisfy the hiring needs of salons and to satisfy the requirements of the legislation. I believe that implementation of a board approved apprenticeship program is part of the answer. The hands-on exposure afforded students who work as apprentices provides a clear understanding of the demands and requirements of being a cosmetologist. Apprentice's expectations will be more in line with the reality of the career, hopefully resulting in gainful employment within the industry. I know that salon owners in other states have used such programs and found them to be very successful.

An apprenticeship program would not eliminate the need for other options; private schools and career tech schools would continue to offer the more traditional path. There is a place, and a need, for all of these components. We need to work together-- State Board members, school owners, salon owners, successful designers--to ensure the survival of our industry

Respectfully,



Michael Schuh