Ridley Lowell Diploma Provides Key to Jobs Now and in the Future

By Meg Barone

The familiar music of Pomp and Circumstance is generally reserved for June or December graduation ceremonies, and is easily heard in the month of October. But the melodic strains of Edward Elgar’s classic commencement music resounded through the Amber Room in Danbury on Oct. 31 as 48 students of Ridley- Lowell Business & Technical Institute in Danbury filed proudly into the event. For some of them they were the first members of their family to graduate from a higher educational institution, and it was also the first graduating class of the accredited school’s Danbury campus.

Ridley Lowell was established under another name in 1850 by Daniel W. Lowell and has grown to include four campuses in Connecticut and New York. The Danbury location opened in 2010.

As those students marched toward their degrees they were also marching toward a brighter future. Armed with diplomas in medical assisting and massage therapy, those graduates are now entering the workforce with job skills they’ll need for the rest of their working lives.

“They are in the process of being placed in jobs,” said Lauren Weymouth, director of the Danbury school.

The demand for medical assisting, even in this roller coaster economy, continues to grow and Weymouth said Ridley- Lowell is working to accommodate that need. The school is developing relationships with other medical facilities in which to place its medical externships, which in turn may lead to employment as soon as they graduate from the technical institute.

“We dedicate our syllabus to be in line with the shifts in the market. Our mission statement is all about reflecting the needs of the market,” Weymouth said.

Weymouth said about 240 people attended the graduation ceremony. Students invited their families and friends, those people who comprise their support system. Perhaps, unbeknownst to them, they were helping the first graduate class of the accredited school’s Danbury location.

“We only gained relevant job skills and career opportunities, they also gained another support system in the administration and faculty of Ridley- Lowell, and not just during their time in the classroom but for the rest of their working lives.”

“...marching toward a brighter future.”

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