

SCVTHS Graduate Finds Success at Rutgers' Mason Gross School of the Arts

By JAMES STRICKHART

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Photo: Anna Gichan poses for a photo while studying abroad in Israel.

BRIDGEWATER, NJ - Anna Gichan, a 2013 graduate of Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Gifted and Talented Honors Dance program has found success at Rutgers' Mason Gross School of the Arts and was recently featured in the *Rutgers Today* series entitled "RU Remarkable."

Deb Gichan, Anna's mother and current Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School Photography Instructor, spoke of Anna's decision to attend SCVTHS by saying, "I knew that she needed the nurturing and education by teachers who could develop her technique and artistry. I knew the curriculum here as an employee and knew that it would give her an advantage in college."

"Vo-Tech helped her in her approach to the art form in college," she added. "Vo-Tech's dance department teaches the student how to work their bodies to reduce injury, stay healthy and grow as a dancer."

Dance Department Coordinator Sheila Buttermore recalls Anna as a "passionate and hardworking" student at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School.

"Her enthusiasm for the art form has always been present and it is a joy to see her discovering her voice so that her art can impact the world," she said. "Anna is a great example of going above and beyond and finding success due to her work ethic and passion."

Anna reflected on her time at SCVTHS saying, "SCVTHS technically prepared me for a career in Dance. It taught me time management, communication, determination."

"Without my Dance Training at Vo-Tech, I wouldn't have had the understanding of what it means to study dance," she added. "Vo-tech required us to see shows, produce choreography, and learn history, nutrition, and anatomy. They provided me with the ability to become an educated and well-rounded dancer. I'm grateful that I've built such positive relationships with the faculty and that I can still reach out to them."

To read about Anna's "RU Remarkable" story, please follow the link here: <http://news.rutgers.edu/feature/deafness-provides-unexpected-richness-dancer%E2%80%99s-life/20161026#.WBjmXi0rIdX>