



NEWS RELEASE

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Los Angeles Fashion Week will feature work of SVCTE alumni Isabelle Leong



San Jose, CA: Former [Silicon Valley Career Technical Education \(SVCTE\)](#) center fashion design student Isabelle Leong was recently discovered by The Fashion & Music Conference and selected to showcase her SHEIN collection clothing designs on the runway of Los Angeles Fashion Week 2023 in March.

“I was so surprised and initially thought it was a scam,” admits Leong. “Designing the collection with an internationally known company was a great experience and one that I am so proud of. I can’t wait to show off the collection during LA Fashion Week.”

Leong came to SVCTE in 2017 during her junior year while attending Prospect High School in the Campbell Union High School District and immersed herself in the [Fashion Design and Textile Art](#) class taught by Johnny Paul Vera.

“SVCTE is a fantastic program, especially for high school kids who don’t want to follow the traditional path of learning,” Leong said. “All the classes are very hands-on and fun.”

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Leong credits both her foundational skills of fashion design and illustration in addition to many of her advanced skills to Mr. Vera. While in his class, she developed a postsecondary action plan, apparel designs, and a portfolio highlighting her unique talents. Leong's mother even modeled a custom-made evening dress during SVCTE Fashion Week.

"I have earned a lot of advanced skills from Mr. Vera that I carried on to middle college and the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM), such as setting up and using industry sewing machines, pattern drafting by hand, working with Adobe Illustrator, some general fabric knowledge, and fashion illustrations with drawing nine head croquis," she explained. "He taught us so many skills, not just those required in the fashion industry but also soft skills such as how to present yourself professionally."

Leong went on from SVCTE to graduate from FIDM with a bachelor's degree and is currently a technical design intern at K+K Clothing, which produces apparel for Macy's, Francesca's, and Dillard's.

"She is a true example of hard work, passion, and dedication," Mr. Vera said. "Isabelle has a powerful story of giving herself the chance to believe in herself. Before parents and teachers can support students, they need to take the first steps in believing in themselves and skills, and dreams."

Leong says the lessons taught by Mr. Vera withstand the test of time, along with the positive impact he made as her instructor.

"I have not met another teacher who is more passionate about teaching and who cares so deeply about his students' successes as Mr. Johnny Vera," she said. "Thank you for being such an amazingly supportive and kind mentor. You inspire me every day to continue working hard and learning. I truly appreciate all the time you have invested in giving me advice and guidance, even now, years after I finished high school. I feel so fortunate to have been in your class."

For more information about Leong, pictures of her work, or to support her, read a [FIDM article](#), visit her [website](#), and/or her [Etsy account](#).

About Metropolitan Education District: MetroED is a regional provider of Career Technical Education (CTE) and Adult Education. We are the largest career-oriented education organization in Northern California for high school and adult students. Annually, MetroED provides 2,600 diverse students with the skills to help them be productive, income-earning and tax-paying contributors to Silicon Valley. Register for a free campus tour or get more information at www.metroed.net

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