



Parent: Mr. Gavino Villapiano

From the standpoint of a parent, I'd like to say:

Hofstra Sportscasting for Teens is NOT a "camp", in the traditional sense of the word, but a YEAR ROUND PROGRAM, where young people can get not just a taste for the sports broadcasting craft but an actual, serious hands on experience mentored by people actually working in the industry.

Previously, our son had participated in multiple camps - true camps, summer amusements, really - that at best gave a little taste of what goes on. That's not the Hofstra program. The Hofstra program is a serious, multi-course program, presented like a college curriculum. It's fun, of course - but SERIOUS fun.

And the breadth and depth of topics is amazing. Everything from behind the board to in front of the mic and camera, but also the craft of journalism and presentation. Not only a chance to get out there and present, but a great of opportunity to learn what goes into the research and preparation beforehand.

It provides young people with actual in-depth participation in the process of Sports Journalism so that they can decide in an informed way whether the industry is truly for them, based on reality, not merely interest.

A young person gains in confidence, is treated like a serious professional, and grows in that sense. Life skills are conveyed. Our son made giant steps in that regard, all the while learning what it takes to succeed in the business, taking it out of the realm of interest and into the realm of experience.

The fact that this is a Certification program was an unexpected plus, as well. Aside from providing a sense of accomplishment, our son got the additional benefits of media exposure and recognition even from his own school's teachers, administrators, even state office holders!

Again, this is a serious 10 course program that is not just fun but rewarding, in many different ways. After the first weeklong introduction, we recognized its value and our son got up early in the morning to commute in all the way from the Jersey Shore to participate in it, coming home, especially during the year, late at night. That was dedication, but dedication to a program of great content and value.

I strongly recommend it.