



ELIADA
ESTA

ELIADA SCHOOL OF TRADE ARTS

2014
VIEWBOOK

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Eliada School of Trade Arts

THE ELIADA SCHOOL OF TRADE ARTS

A post-secondary trade school and transitional living program for exceptional young adults who are aging out of out-of-home placements.

What is ESTA?

The Eliada School of Trade Arts (ESTA) is a new post-secondary residential school developed to specifically meet the needs of young men and women recently transitioning from long-term care to adulthood.

The mission of ESTA is to promote the development of useful trades, provide opportunities for character development, and cultivate an enthusiastic work ethic that enables students to become successful and respected members of our community.

The development of ESTA was driven by the bleak statistics that characterize youth who have been in some type of long-term care, including foster care, juvenile justice custody, or mental health treatment. Shuffled between foster or group homes for the majority of their childhood, they are often unequipped and ill prepared for life as independent adults. Overwhelmed by the sudden lack of structure adulthood represents, they find themselves without resources, skills, or support.

These young people are at extreme risk for incarceration, substance abuse, homelessness, and early parenthood. They are unlikely to finish high school, let alone complete a college degree. They lack basic skills and education necessary to build a stable future. Without the support of caring educators and mentors to guide them to success, they are likely to fall through the cracks of society.

ESTA is poised to offer these youth a unique opportunity. Through vocational and academic training, character development, a support network, and the experience of transitional living, ESTA will give needy young adults the tools to become self-sufficient adults and productive members of society.

Aging Out of Care: A National Look

- 25% of youth exiting care are incarcerated within two years.
- 66% have not finished high school/GED by age 19.
- 50% are unemployed within 1.5 years.
- 25% are homeless within four years of leaving care.
- 3% of former foster children complete a college degree.

The ESTA Difference

After completing ESTA, students will leave with:

- Skills in a specific trade;
- Real-world work experience and compensation;
- Transitional living experience to foster independence gradually;
- Opportunities for service learning and high-adventure team building experiences;
- Access to long-term individualized career counseling and job placement assistance, available even after graduation;
- A network of support comprised of community connections, long-lasting friendships with fellow alumni, and staff mentors.



The ESTA Model

At Eliada, our goal for ESTA students is simple: to create self-sufficient, employable graduates who have the skills, character, and knowledge to successfully navigate independent life.

The program is new and evolving to meet emerging student needs. The ESTA model of care is based on a three-pronged approach that focuses on:

TRANSITIONAL LIVING

Every young person needs a safe, stable place to live. We believe in the value of transitional living, fostering independence gradually and with the support of caring mentors and adults.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Our program focuses on instilling practical skills toward a real-world trade, equipping our students to become self-sufficient, employable adults.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

We believe that character is as important as education and experience. Our goal is to develop an “enthusiastic work ethic” in ESTA students, helping them realize the value of goal setting and deferred gratification.



“The one thing I know for sure is that we’ve been offered something huge by being here at Eliada. We’ve been offered a chance to make something of ourselves. Without this program I’m not sure what I would have done with my life. I’m sure I would’ve made something for myself, but being here has opened so many opportunities for me.” -Eric, Class of 2014

Vocational Education

The primary goal of the ESTA program is to produce graduates who are employable, resilient, and have an enthusiastic work ethic.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Fifty percent of instructional time is spent in experiential, hands-on educational opportunities to foster real-world skills. Beginning with the most basic skills and progressing to advanced levels of his chosen trade, each student will have the opportunity to become an expert in his or her field. Currently, the program is focused on culinary technology.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a capstone project in conjunction with established businesses in the greater Asheville community. This resume-building experience will give the opportunity to practically apply classroom knowledge to on-the-job projects.

PAID WORK-STUDY

During their time with ESTA, students have the ability to take advantage of on-campus work study employment. This experience allows ESTA students to apply their vocational training immediately in a supportive environment. Students are paid an hourly wage for their work-study time.

In addition to on-campus work opportunities, students also work off-campus in paid internships in Asheville's finest restaurants. Current placements include Chestnut, Nona Mia, Biscuit Head and Deerfield Retirement Community. Other placements have included Homegrown and Pasta Fasta.

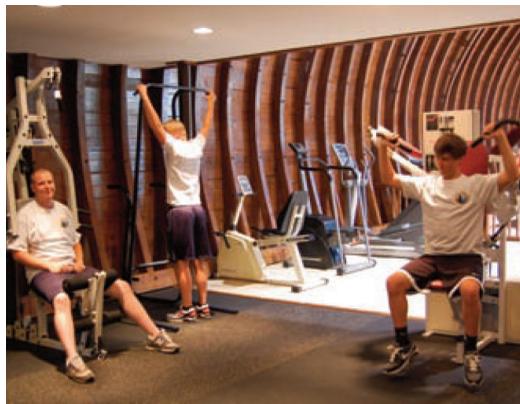
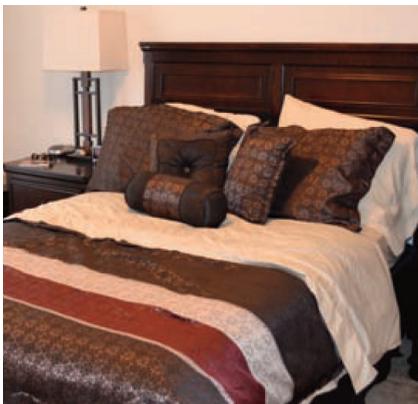
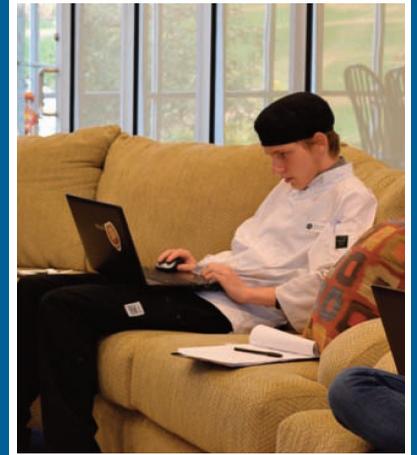


Transitional Living

One of the most immediate needs our students face is the lack of a secure place to live. During the academic term, all students live in on-campus duplexes. Newly constructed in 2012, ESTA student housing provides a high standard of living in a safe residential area adjacent to Eliada's campus. A full-time Student Affairs Coordinator is available 24/7.

ESTA students are able to take advantage of all the amenities Eliada's campus has to offer, including:

- Living room and kitchen facilities;
- Washers and dryers (free to students);
- Workout facilities, including weights, exercise machines, student driving range, a climbing wall, tennis courts, and outdoor pool;
- Campus-wide wireless internet;
- A dedicated student union with large screen television, study area, and dining area.



Character Development

Equally important as the vocational coursework is the character development that ESTA students will receive. Students will benefit from service learning opportunities, team building exercises, and values-driven mentorship. Each student will develop their character and ethics through opportunities to plan for their future and make important life decisions for themselves. With the assistance of residential advisors and mentors, each student will also participate in Eliada's curriculum, which is based on **"The Slight Edge"** system.

"The Slight Edge" explores the student's hopes for their relationship with their future spouse, children, co-workers and friends; their spiritual and philosophical beliefs, how they practice those beliefs, and how to incorporate them into daily life; their education and career goals; their ideal place to live and what role they see themselves playing in the community; achieving a healthy lifestyle that will be a part of daily adult life.

ESTA also utilizes an evidenced-based life skills curriculum called **Botvin LifeSkills Training Transitions**, a dynamic skills-based program that promotes health and personal development. It is specifically designed for those facing the new roles and responsibilities that come with the transition from high school into the workforce and further education. Using developmentally appropriate and interactive teaching strategies, this program comprehensively promotes wellness and avoidance of high-risk behaviors.

"The Slight Edge" is a program that allows individuals to capitalize on the immense power of the strategic planning process in a very personal and meaningful way.





Admissions

SELECTION CRITERIA

- US citizen
- History of long-term out-of-home care or homelessness.
- 17-19 years at the start of first term
- Unmarried
- Negative drug screen
- Less than \$10,000 in personal assets.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Official, state-issued birth certificate
- Copy of recent physical and immunization record
- Completed application form
- Personal interview with members of Eliada's senior management and Board of Trustees
- Signed contractual agreement stating expectations for academic performance, progress toward trade skills, and conduct (provided once admission is offered)
- Signed authorization form allowing Eliada to seek aid sources on applicant's behalf
- Signed photo and media information release.

Students wishing to take a pre-admission campus tour or requesting application materials are invited to contact Student Affairs Coordinator **Luke Fernbach** at (828) 254- 5356, ext. 354, or lfernbach@eliada.org.





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