

CUT,

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he could pursue barbering through the Career and Technical Education Center's cosmetology program, he began to take his education a lot more seriously.

"School wasn't that fun for me. There were even a couple times my sophomore year where I thought about dropping out because it was so hard and I didn't find it interesting. But when I heard about the program, it motivated me to have good grades and attendance and be on track to graduate," Garcia-Reyes said.

Another big reason for his change in mindset was through his CTEC teacher, Darcey Hill, who encouraged Garcia-Reyes to take his skills into competition — which involves doing a multitude of different cuts and styles on mannequins.

"It's been really exciting to see him come out of his shell," Hill said. "Anthony has a passion for barbering and he really wants to be the best. He's taken full ownership of his education."

After taking first place at the SkillsUSA state competition in February, Garcia-Reyes qualified for nationals in Louisville, where he was accompanied by Hill.



Saluting the people that make us proud of our community

Anthony Garcia-Reyes shows off his finished work at the national competition. Submitted

One of the big surprises to the majority of the competitors was when they were notified that they couldn't use any clipper guards. But because of his training, Garcia-Reyes ended up being more prepared than the majority of his competition.

"(Hill) made me cut hair without guards. She was training me for that competition," Garcia-Reyes said. "It helped be learn to be really careful and steady."

For his first cut of the competition, Garcia-Reyes

was given 90 minutes to do a inspirational cut and style. He chose to do a similar rendition to Jason Momoa's look in the movie *Aquaman*.

He got 45 minutes for his second cut, which had to do with only scissors based on a picture he was given.

For the third and final haircut, Garcia-Reyes attempted to create the perfect flat-top.

"I'm pretty sure that was the flattest hair I've ever done," Garcia-Reyes said.

When it was announced that Garcia-Reyes had placed second, he was visibly thrilled. But his teacher was just as excited when she heard the news.

"I was overjoyed with excitement," Hill said. "I can't

even explain how great it was."

Even though he doesn't have his license, Garcia-Reyes

still gives free haircuts for people who set appointments through his Instagram business account (@agthebarber17). But by the end of his senior year, he will be qualified to be an officially licensed barber — upon his

completion of the cosmetology program at CTEC.

"I expect him to challenge himself this year with everything that goes into barbering and potentially running his own business one day. But mostly, I expect him to excel," Hill said.

It's rare for most 17-year-olds to be so confident in what they want to do for their future occupation. But Garcia-Reyes has had enough experience in the world of barbering to know how much

he wants to pursue it and be the best he can possibly be.

"Barbering is pretty fun, because I can work on my own schedule and I can make as much money as I need," Garcia-Reyes said. "It's a job where I can talk to people. I don't want a job where I'm just in an office all day being bored and being a zombie. In barbering, I get to stand and walk around and talk to people. I just like the feeling of making someone look good. I love seeing how happy they are and how fresh they feel when they look in the mirror, because that's how I feel when I get a haircut. I feel good about myself, and I want to give that feeling to other people."

Once he gets his barbering license, it appears that Garcia-Reyes won't have any trouble finding a job.

"Anthony is very friendly and easy to get along with. I can't wait to have him as a barber in my shop," Martinez said.

Free sports physicals at Hope Ortho Aug. 10

Hope Orthopedics will be hosting a free sports physical clinic on Saturday, August 10 from 9 – 11 a.m. The physicals will be provided at Hope Orthopedics of Oregon, located at 1600 State Street in Salem.

Each year, Hope Orthopedics designates a charity to support during this event. This year, Hope Orthopedics will be collecting donations for The Salvation Army's

Apple Tree programs, which helps local kids get the back-to-school supplies they need.

Donations of \$5 are requested but not required to receive a physical.

Athletes must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Parents or guardians should complete the School Sports Pre-Participation Examination form ahead of time and bring it to the clinic.

Forms can be printed off the school's website or the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA).

This is the third consecutive year that Hope Orthopedics will offer free sports physicals to school athletes at the State Street location.

More than 40 clinicians and administrative staff at Hope Orthopedics of Oregon, Willamette Surgery Center and other area medical clinics volunteer in order to provide the community service.

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