

A LIFE *Transformed* Essay Project



Emilio Di Concilio Class of 1974

"Schoolcraft College opened up the doors of higher education to me. The College's motto 'Semper Altum Auspices' (Look Ever Upward) inspired me to look "High Up".

I had professors that believed in the enrichment of student lives as a means of improving society and the betterment of the individual."

Emilio's Bio

Raised in Southern Italy, Emilio emigrated to the United States in 1969 and became an American citizen. He credits Schoolcraft College for enriching his life by opening to him the doors of higher education. Following graduation from Schoolcraft, he continued his



studies at the University of Michigan where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Psychology. He went on to earn a teaching certificate and a Master's degree in Romance Languages from Wayne State University. Emilio has held several teaching positions, specializing in teaching Italian language, grammar, and culture and business translation. Retired, he lives in Dearborn Heights, MI.

Read Emilio's original essay below.



Alumni and Friends

The Schoolcraft College Alumni Program exists to strengthen and maintain the ties between the college and its alumni. We recognize and celebrate alumni accomplishments and create opportunities for alumni to share in the growth and success of Schoolcraft College.

To learn more about our Alumni Program contact the Alumni Relations Office at 734-462-4501 or vrexius@schoolcraft.edu

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Living Semper Altius Aspice

My name is Emilio Di Concilio. I graduated in 1974 from Schoolcraft College with an associate degree in general studies. Although I am an American citizen, I am also a product of southern Italy where I studied in my hometown of Prignano Cilento until the eighth grade and then in Milano in northern Italy for my first year of high school.

I emigrated to the United States of America in 1969 and I attended one year of high school in Dearborn Heights, Michigan. I received an honorary high school diploma in June 1970.

I applied to Schoolcraft College that year and after taking the ACT test I was admitted for the fall semester of 1970. Schoolcraft College opened up the doors of higher education to me. I studied, worked outside of campus, and participated in a variety of college activities.

My studies and activities enriched my life and motivated me to pursue a bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan. I graduated in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology and psychology. I continued my education by pursuing a teaching certificate in the social sciences, which I received in 1979. I taught for a year in the Detroit Public Schools and in the fall of 1980, I returned to Italy where I lived for three years.

I eventually returned to the United States, renewed my teaching certificate and began substitute teaching at Bishop Borgess High School, where I had done my student teaching, and then in the Garden City Public Schools where I remained for four years before returning again to Italy in 1987.

Returning to the states in 1988, I again renewed my certificate and I worked for three different schools during the school years of 1988-1990.

In 1990, my life took a different course when I obtained some full-time positions outside of teaching. Eventually I was promoted to an executive position. I worked in the mental health field, but returned to teaching in 1998. I began to teach Italian language, grammar, culture and conversation, and also taught business in translations and interpretations. I taught and translated-interpreted from 2000-2010 while at the same time I attended Wayne State University. I received a Master of Arts degree in romance languages with a major in Italian.

Today, I am 58 years old, retired and doing the best I can. I wrote this essay to let you know that Schoolcraft College allowed me to look "Ever Upward" with its motto "Semper Altius Aspices." While there, I had instructors and professors that believed in the enrichment of student lives as a means of improving society and the betterment of individuals.

Emilio Di Concilio – Class of 1974