

Dear Greg Van Antwerp,

I am writing on the behalf of my experiences with recording weekly weather forecasts at Charter Communications in Newtown CT. First of all, I am beyond grateful to have the privilege to use a professional-quality studio which has everything from several cameras, lights and a “blue screen” to great editing software and sound equipment. As someone whose dream is to be on live TV forecasting the weather one day, it means a lot to have the chance to get an early start on my career.

I am currently a sophomore at Western Connecticut State University who is majoring in meteorology. While I have a considerable amount of respect for the school as well as the well-known meteorology program, there is one thing that has always bothered me. Students are not able to take a weather broadcasting class until their senior year. This means that students may only have about 20 weather forecasts to send to potential employers. Just like with anything else, the more practice someone has in front of the camera the better and 20 weather forecasts that the school curriculum allows for is just not enough.

I was approached by you in my freshman year at WCSU. Not too long after that, I came to the studio in Newtown CT, about 15 minutes away from campus. My first forecast that I ever filmed at the studio was my Winter Forecast which received over 1500 views. Ever since that moment, I realized that this is what I was meant to do for a lifetime. I started coming into the studio more and more often, sometimes even several times a week to film a storm forecast update when a snowstorm was pending. I decided to go on a suit-buying spree so I would not just performing the part as a weather broadcaster, but also look the part.

I live my life everyday by two of the following mottos. First; everything happens for a reason whether it is good or bad, and second; take full advantage of every opportunity possible. I along with the other sixty meteorology students at Westconn were all given the opportunity to use this amazing studio which is close to our campus to film weather broadcasts.

This is an opportunity of a lifetime in my eyes. Being able to walk into a professional studio, free of charge and spend as much time as is needed to complete a product to the best of your ability is something that just does not come around often. I plan on continuing my weekly forecast updates at this studio up until or even after I graduate. Not just for the practice, but also because I can honestly say that I love filming weather forecasts and cannot see myself doing anything else for a career. One day, when I hopefully become a meteorologist for a major news station, I can without a doubt say that I probably would not have made it here without the practice that I obtained while forecasting weather at for CTV192. I am already living my dream thanks to you and everyone at Charter Communications.

From your Student Meteorologist,

Zachary Duhaime