You see them all over television these days – makeovers. From rooms to houses to yards to faces, everyone’s looking for a fresh look. And for those who successfully complete WITC’s Esthetician – Basic program, the transformation happens not only in the lives of their clients, but in their own, as well.

“My love for the patient’s benefit, not just mine,” says Darcy Mlejnek, a graduate of WITC’s Esthetician – Basic program who currently works at Parkinson Dermatology, SC., in Spooner. “I get true satisfaction from being part of the process of improving a patient’s skin condition. A patient can come to us with moderate to severe acne and three months later, they can be very happy with their skin.”

Specializing in the study of skin care, estheticians are skilled to provide various health and beauty treatments such as facials and body treatments, hair removal techniques and cosmetic make-up services, but also advanced services that require a doctor’s supervision.

“The blend of prescription therapy with the proper skin care products is a powerful combination. I love being able to make a difference in someone’s self-esteem and health of their skin,” Mlejnek says.

“We were hands on very fast, which was amazing,” says Tiffany Boettcher, also a graduate of WITC’s Esthetician – Basic program who currently works at Bravo Salon and Spa in Chippewa Falls. “I felt like every night there was always something new and exciting to learn,” says Boettcher. “We would learn how the skin worked, the anatomy of skin, diseases and much more. We got into basic facials and got to practice on each other and practice massage. Our instructors worked right with us. It was totally amazing how fun they made it and how in-depth we got.”

Students learn everything from the history of esthetics and professional image to facial and body treatments, Wisconsin laws and even the importance of a business plan.

“My instructors gave me a lot of confidence which I think is a huge part of why I have succeeded,” says Mlejnek. “I came out of the class confident, educated and had hands-on experience because of the amount of hours we spent actually working with real clients.”

It has been the intent of the program to allow graduates to transition smoothly to the workplace.

“The goal for this program would be to ensure that all graduates have a strong understanding of skin basics,” says Dr. Katherine Parkinson.

Both Dr. Parkinson and Mlejnek serve on the advisory committee for WITC’s Esthetician program. Their input helps guide the program to produce graduates ready to contribute to the workforce.

“They need to have the skill set to work in a multitude of environments, whether it be in a salon, spa, medi-spa or medical facility,” says Dr. Parkinson. “As an esthetician, graduates will be considered ‘specialists’ in skin care and therefore need to possess the knowledge base to properly perform skin treatments and educate patients on proper skin care.”

Hard work in the classroom paid off. Boettcher and Mlejnek both found careers in their field before graduation.

“I felt really prepared and confident when I started my job,” says Boettcher. “I think I surprised my employer and my clients with my knowledge. Some of my clients still do not believe that I haven’t even been out of school for a year. I feel educating my clients is very important – that was stressed very clearly – and I think that adds a lot to my success with my client base.”

Boettcher continues, “I have had some of the most amazing compliments in my job. I have a lot of heart and passion for what I do, and I guess with my education and confidence, it shines through in my treatment room.”

On the job, both graduates relish the fact that their daily routine can change from day to day.

“My workday is never the same and I love it,” says Boettcher. “I could never get bored. Some days I have all facials or all body waxing. I get to offer many different services, so it is a lot of fun to have something different each day. It ranges from facials, body waxing, eyebrow, eyelash tinting, ear candling, makeup, and body treatments.”

While these treatments often result in a fresh look for clients, an equally impressive makeover has happened for graduates of the program.

“My dream was to go to school for something I would love to get up for, I didn’t know if that was even possible, but it is.”

Tiffany Boettcher

“My instructors gave me a lot of confidence which I think is a huge part of why I have succeeded.”

Darcy Mlejnek

Esthetician-Basic is a one-year program offered at WITC-Rice Lake.
For more information go to witic.edu/pm/pages/esthetician.