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A special Endicott homecoming

When Dr. Richard Wylie, president of Endicott College, and David Vigneron, Endicott's director of institutional advancement, paid a visit to GAP Promotions headquarters of Gloucester's Eastern Avenue last week, they may well have thought they walked into an Endicott homecoming.

Not only is GAP Promotions President Gayle Piraino an Endicott graduate, but seven of the company's 12 employees are as well.

Piraino founded her company in 2006 after a successful 21-year retail career which emanated from her Endicott Internship years ago. And three of the seven current Endicott grads employed at GAP had served as interns there, too.

"Because the company culture is so important to our success, the internships give us an opportunity to assess the fit of a potential new team member before we make an offer," Piraino said. "And it allows the interns opportunities to assess whether this is the kind of environment in which they will be happy."

GAP also engages Endicott faculty members as consultants on various issues such as strategy and operations.

Piraino invited Dr. Wylie to express her appreciation and esteem for all that the college has contributed to the success of her business."

"Dr. Wylie is an amazing leader, and the growth of Endicott College, the strength of its internship program, and the caliber of the graduates are all testaments to that," Piraino said. "I wanted Dr. Wylie to have an opportunity to see what his graduates have achieved, what we have built together, and to thank him and the college for helping to prepare us all for success in the business world."