



"I went to cosmetology school straight out of high school in 2009.

I had originally wanted to do just make-up, but once I was in school doing hair just came very naturally to me. I focused primarily on that and graduated from cosmetology school in 2010.

After graduating, I started at Panache and worked on perfecting my craft with hairdressing by continuing my education with every opportunity I can get my hands on and helping other stylists as well.

I stayed at Panache for seven years before I decided it was time for me to go and do my own thing. And that was when this opportunity to work with Robert Watkins, a local barber, presented itself perfectly.

We joined together and opened the Mailroom Barber + Studio in 2016.

It was very scary to go from working somewhere under someone to now having to do everything myself while I was still so young, but it was also very freeing. I was able to pick out everything from the chair that clients would sit in, to the mirror that they would be looking at.

It was really exciting for me to get to design the work environment that I wanted to be in as well as the environment I wanted my clients to be in. I wanted a very comfortable, open space where they could feel like they could wear whatever they wanted free of judgement, and leave feeling their best.

A few months after we opened, Robert and I had to hire an additional barber and an additional stylist just because the overflow was crazy. We were both working almost 12-hour days and knew we needed to expand. I hired another stylist when we moved Downtown and then a year after that we expanded even more to now being fully staffed with 7 full-time stylists and a new receptionist.

I'm only 30 years old and just eleven years into my career and I wouldn't have believed you if you would have told me five years ago when we started this that I would be running a studio with so many stylists.

And it's even crazier to think we grew this much just in such a short time because we really had no idea that Florence would welcome us as well as they did since what we're doing is so different from your typical salon or barbershop here in town.

We're so thankful that the Florence community opened their arms to us because it's allowed us to create a bigger space to have more stylists seeking the same type of work environment that we were which was that you can be confident being yourself and so can your clients.

We want every single person who walks through our door to feel welcomed and comfortable while they are here and then leave feeling like the best version of themselves."

- Molly Norton, studio manager and stylist at The Mailroom Studio