

I first learned about the Apprenticeship 2000 program in a Manufacturing Technology class at Highland School of Technology. At that time I knew what I wanted to do, I just did not know how to get started. I knew I wanted to work in a machine/fabrication facility but it was not easy finding people willing to share their knowledge with a junior in high school. After hearing about the Apprenticeship 2000 program, I knew that would be something I would be interested in. So I attended an open house at Blum with my dad. Even after the open house, I was a little skeptical, but my dad pushed me to keep going with the process of becoming an apprentice.

Now that I have made it through the program I am extremely grateful to my family, my mentors, Daetwyler, and CPCC. The apprenticeship program helped me learn the skill that I wanted and that is how I plan on making a living for a very long time. I watched people weld, fabricate, machine, and assemble things that I just thought was amazing. Now I would like to think that I am at least in the same *ballpark* as those people I watched so many times.

If you are someone who wants to acquire one of the skill sets offered in the Apprenticeship 2000 program I would encourage you to give it a shot, you have nothing to loose. There are not very many places or people who are willing to share their knowledge and time to help train you in a skilled trade. The only other alternative is school, and with school, you gain no experience. That is, I think, the greatest thing about the apprenticeship program.

Thank you for your time and I hope that the apprenticeship program has something to offer you.

- Andrew Deese
March 2010