

Workforce Development

Helping You To Meet Your Workforce Challenges

Training the Next Generation:

Machining a Great Career Choice— Matt Schowalter of Machiningcareer.com

Matthew Schowalter is a machining professional doing what he can to promote careers in manufacturing. He offers great advice to those interested in having a career in manufacturing and has identified six steps to having a successful career in machining. These are his building blocks to having a successful career and can be obtained by applying one's efforts. Here's his list:

- 1. Get a technical education.** A solid educational foundation is a critical building block. You can make a lot more money in your career if you follow through with an education through a technical college.
- 2. Serve a state-sponsored apprenticeship.** This is an excellent way to learn the skills of the trade and climb the pay scale. It ensures that you are viewed as a professional in your career. By finishing an apprenticeship and becoming a journeyman, you will be put in a position to make a good wage for the rest of your career.
- 3. Never stop learning.** Enroll in at least two specialized classes per year. It is an excellent way to build a great resume, and it shows future employers that you are a dedicated career professional.
- 4. Become proficient in working with others.** This is the most important factor of the six steps. You will have more

opportunities presented to you if you have the ability to work with everyone effectively.

- 5. Gain the ability to turn manufacturing issues into career opportunities.** These are the challenges that build a great resume. Ask your boss how you can help fix the major issues encountered in the shop.

- 6. Become a certified professional in manufacturing.** Consider this the bow on your career package. It will set you apart from the others in the industry. A certification from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers ensures that you have

the knowledge to make a difference in the manufacturing industry. It also challenges you to be your best, by obtaining credits for re-certification.

Matthew started a website, **machiningcareer.com**, as a way to give back to the industry and get students interested in manufacturing. His website was designed to be a top resource for students who are getting started in the machining industry.

Take a look at what this machining advocate is doing to promote our trade to the next generation of talent.

