



## Ocean County Vocational Technical School

### Sharing Success Stories

### Greetings from SUNY Maritime College

**Student:** Tucker Weisleder

**OCVTS Program:** Marine Trades

**Instructor:** Robert Berenwick

**Post-Secondary School:** SUNY Maritime College, Bronx, NY

**Class of:** 2012

**Center:** Toms River

**In Tucker's own words...** Before OCVTS I wasn't sure what I wanted to do with my future. Once I started my OCVTS training, I instantly fell in love with working on and with boats. During my time at OCVTS, all the teachers that I ever encountered were nothing short of professional. Every single one of them was willing to help in any way they could, even if they were a teacher from a different trade class. After graduating from OCVTS, I decided to take the skills I had learned in the Marine Trades Program to the next level. OCVTS would be the stepping stone from working on small recreational boats to the largest man made moving objects in the world.

I used what I had learned at OCVTS to graduate from the most prestigious and oldest maritime academy in the U.S. as a United States Coast Guard Third Officer Unlimited Tonnage in the United States Merchant Marine. If it were not for OCVTS, I probably would not have gone to SUNY, seen the world, and be an officer on ships.

In the future, I hope to work my way up in rank until I reach master or captain. At that point, I will have a license to be in charge of any size ship operating on any body of water. After that I plan on retiring and either going back to SUNY to teach or start my own business.

The number one suggestion that I would like to share with students is to never give up. The only person that can hold you back is you! I would also suggest continuing your education to the next level. If you go to school for something you love to do, it feels as though you are not going to school at all. Lastly, never be afraid to ask for help and do not be afraid to be wrong, that is how you learn!

Rob Berenwick, Marine Trades Instructor, knew Tucker would be a success. Since he maintained an A average in his class and went to the SkillsUSA National Competition for Marine Service two years in a row. Mr. B. commented, "Tucker was well liked and respected by all students as his positive attitude was always shining."

