



## Ocean County Vocational Technical School

### Sharing Success Stories

### Owning Your Own Business

**Student:** Phil Strada

**Name of Business:** Strada's Electric LLC, Barnegat

**# of years in business:** 1

**Website:** facebook.com/stradaselectric

**Class of:** 2005

**Instructor:** Tom Pernal

**OCVTS Program:** Electrical Trades/Cabbling

**Center:** Toms River

**In Phil's own words:** I first started by attending OCVTS in my senior year of high school in Mr. Pernal's electrical program. When I attended OCVTS, honestly I knew absolutely nothing about electrical. I was just always interested in it. OCVTS prepared me in so many ways the list can go on and on. Mr. Pernal is such a patient teacher. He always took time out to concentrate on the students that needed it...me included. I got a job the day I graduated as an apprentice. I worked for a full year. Then, I entered the four year apprentice program while continuing to work for the company. I worked in the daytime and attended school two nights a week.

Being the owner of Strada's Electric when I am hiring, I look for someone who is motivated to learn, a clean worker. I also look for someone who wants to be in this field because they enjoy it! I love my career!

"To the future graduates in the electrical trade, I would say, always keep a positive attitude and ALWAYS continue to learn your craft. Stay organized and take a business class that will also help. I learned as I went along, and I am still learning today. Keep an open mind and every day you too will learn something new. Do not take short-cuts, you are only cutting yourself short. Ask questions if you are unsure of something. The day you obtain your electrical license is the day you will realize all of the long hours, studying, and work has paid off! I must add that it's so worth every minute!"



One year in Tom Pernal's class has certainly been a positive experience and has set Phil on an excellent career path. Tom was delighted but not surprised to hear unsolicited comments from Phil's customers. "They praised Phil's quick response and professionalism. They were very satisfied with the electrical work completed."