

Ocean County Vocational Technical School

Buy Local, Hire Local

Sharing Success Stories



Student: Joseph Kramer

OCVTS Program: Custom Cabinetmaking

Instructor: Robert Gonsalves

Employer: PL Custom Emergency Vehicles, Manasquan, NJ

Website: plcustom.com

Class of 2004

Center: Jackson

In Joe's own words... I was a student in Mr. G's class for custom cabinetmaking. He taught me many things such as the proper use of tools, the importance of measurement and how to be confident in my ability to build. He assisted me in building a beautiful oak table with a granite top. After graduating from OCVTS, my family moved to South Carolina. Upon returning to New Jersey, I visited Mr. G to inquire about job openings. It just so happened, that same day PL Customs called with a job opening. He called them back and opened the door for me. Before leaving, he gave me a few interview tips and wished me good luck. Oh happy day, I did get hired! Seven years later, I am now a line lead at PL Customs in Manasquan. I assist my supervisor in making sure the plant runs smoothly. I directly oversee our cabinet trim department where we finish the cabinets with shelves, hinged doors, squad bench cushions, and lift up frames. I also help with the installation of the cabinets, and I assist in training many of the new employees. All of the skills that I learned at OCVTS were instrumental in me achieving success in my career. What do you say to someone that taught you so much and who you now consider mentor and friend? You say, thank you Mr. G!

"Joe was a student that was always eager to learn new things. He was always the first to volunteer for the community service projects that the cabinetmaking class was involved with. He had a great work ethic and a keen eye for attention to detail. Joe was very ambitious and focused on a career. He was a pleasure to have in my class and I knew PL Custom would be a perfect fit for him," remarked Mr. Gonsalves.

"Joe is an excellent employee. He cares about his work. He ensures his work is of a high quality because he recognizes the impact of quality work upon his customer and the company. Joe has grown professionally in the time he has been with us. Not only has he broadened his own skill set, but he has a positive impact upon other members of his work group. He is now functioning as a team leader and directs the work of ten others. We believe Joe has a bright future with PL Custom and we are expecting even bigger contributions from him," Terri Bower, Human Resources at PL Custom.

