

# Ocean County Vocational Technical School

## Working in the Field Sharing Success Stories



**Student's Name:** Ryan Kaliske  
**OCVTS Program:** Cabinetmaking  
**Instructor:** Robert Gonsalves  
**Employers:** Viking Yachts, New Gretna, NJ and Home Depot, Forked River, NJ

**Class of:** 2017  
**Center:** Jackson  
**High School:** Lacey Township

**In Ryan's own words:** My first thoughts on attending vocational school were that it was going to be stressful and scary especially since I would not know anyone there. But, less than halfway through my first year, I loved going there. "There" being Mr. Gonsalves' Cabinetmaking class. I learned all about the different types of wood, how to read rulers, and the use the tools and machines. Now, I have two jobs! I love being a part of building the million dollar yachts at Viking Yachts. It makes me feel very important. At Home Depot, I like helping to organize my department and assisting the customers for the third ranked retailer in the world!



"Ryan has done a great job learning how our department helps build the best yachts in the world. He takes pride in everything that he learns and has a good work ethic and good attendance. His coworkers like working with him. We are looking forward to his continued growth, as every day brings on a new learning opportunity. Ryan has been a great addition to our team here at Viking Yachts Company," commented Scott Cowling, Mill Supervisor.

Mrs. Kaliske, Ryan's mom, wanted to share some heartfelt words. "I knew that college was not in Ryan's immediate future, because traditional schooling was not a good fit for him. However, he took to vocational school immediately. Mr. Gonsalves, his teacher, and the staff at the Jackson Center took their time with Ryan. They made sure he mastered each skill before moving on. It was like a switch went off! The projects he brought home were unlike anything in the past. I saw a growth in him that I could have never imagined."

"Ryan went through the Cooperative Education program. Mr. Morelli, the coordinator was instrumental in assuring me not to worry that Ryan would be fine. Ryan had the skills to interview, the Jackson Center staff made sure of that. The first two jobs that he interviewed for, he was hired. His instructor, Mr. Gonsalves made all the difference in the world. As a parent, I am forever grateful that he was able to unlock something in my child that I did not know existed. Not all children are ready for college right after high school, and not all college students are able to find a career out of college. Vocational school is a great option. Ryan has two careers right now out of high school. He just made permanency in both. I cannot recommend this program enough. We love OCVTS!"



Mr. Gonsalves commented, "Ryan Kaliske was a student of mine for two years. He progressed from our Employment Orientation class, into my Cabinetmaking class in his second year. Ryan was hired at Viking Yachts, via our CE program. He also works at Home Depot on the weekends. Ryan is a wonderful young gentleman with a great work ethic. He already is a success."

*Success is having not one, but two jobs that you love!*