

Ocean County Vocational Technical School

Working in the Field

Sharing Success Stories



Student: Jesse Bingham
OCVTS Program: Culinary Arts
Instructor: Chef Gary Lesniak
Employer: United States Navy

Class of: 2012
Center: Brick
High School: Toms River South

In Jesse's own words... One day in the kitchen, I was asked to bake off all of the bacon. I did not pay too much attention to it, and I do not know why. All I can remember was the cloud of delicious smelling smoke bellowing out of the ovens. I opened up the oven to realize that I had burnt all of the bacon. I looked at Chef Gary, along with my giggling classmates and he said, "Son, you are not a chef unless you burn bacon!" Not only had he instilled a thirst, a hunger, and a desire for me to strive to be a chef, Chef Gary and many other instructors helped me to become the cook I am now. Ocean County Vocational Technical School was and always will be my favorite memory in the kitchen.

"CS3 (SW) Bingham is very passionate about his job and his products. It is noticeable to his supervisors and his peers. He possesses a passion to learn and to do his job to the best of his ability. Any chef can understand that the culinary field is not just any job; it is a lifestyle in and outside of the Navy. I believe CS3 has what it takes to do well for himself in this field. I am excited for him in his future endeavors," stated CSC (SW) Matthew Palafox, USS Momsen.

Chef Gary nominated Jesse as his success story. The accolades continue with Chef Gary commenting, "I am very proud to say Jesse was one of my students. He gathered the wisdom I espoused while in my charge. Enlisting in the Navy, he went on to further his knowledge and skills in the culinary field. I wish him luck as he sets out on his new adventure. I must also admit, I am envious that he will be studying the foods of Italy, in Italy! An experience I would relish if given the opportunity. I know Jesse will make the most of it. Jesse friended me on Facebook after he graduated from the Culinary Arts program at OCVTS Brick Center, and I have been able to see how he has matured and what he has accomplished while serving his country in the Navy. As a culinary arts instructor, there is a certain sense of pride you get when you see one of your students turn his interest into a career."

Recently, Jesse posted on Facebook, "I am so excited to announce that I will be going to Naples, Italy! Having been accepted into the Chefs Program, I will be working with Admiral Michelle Howard. I want to thank all of you who have helped, pushed, motivated, and backed me up on this long process. I would not have gotten this far without you."



Jesse proudly serving our country in the United States Navy!