

Ocean County Vocational Technical School

Working in the Field

Sharing Success Stories



Student's Name: Kevin Carswell
OCVTS Program: Marine Trades
Instructor: Rob Berenwick
Employer: Performance Marine, Doha, Qatar

Class of: 2011
Center: Toms River

In Kevin's own words: Here is my story. When I began my trip into the marine mechanics' world in 2003, I knew I wanted to be a mechanic, but my passion to be on the water was even greater. The choice was easy once I learned about the Marine Trades class at the OCVTS. I was a bit of a troublesome student my first time at the school to the point where I did not graduate. When the time came to follow my calling again Mr. Coleman, the principal at the time, as well as, my teacher Mr. Berenwick, were gracious enough to allow me back in the program to complete my final year. After that, I excelled in the Marine Trades class. With their help, I earned multiple awards including Most Improved Student and honor roll. I also placed first in the SkillsUSA State Competition and 5th in the nation, behind technicians twice my age.

After graduating from the Marine Trades class, I went on to work in the marine mechanics' field, which can be very demanding at times. For the next several years, I worked in New Jersey and Florida gathering skills and learning different techniques. All the while making a name for myself in this tight knit industry. My employers were impressed with my knowledge and work ethic. Now in 2017, I have worked my way into the position of service manager for a high performance marine shop in Doha, Qatar called Performance Marine. I am now in charge of many very high-end boats exceeding one million dollars and capable of blistering speeds surpassing 200 mph in some cases.



None of this would have been remotely possible without the support and guidance of Mr. Berenwick and the rest of the staff at OCVTS. For the last fourteen years, I have seen Mr. Berenwick as a mentor in my life, allowing me to become the man I am today. I would like to thank him for giving me as much knowledge as possible and taking a second chance on me. He truly is an excellent teacher who puts his heart and soul into his class every day. I strive every day to become a better person for my beautiful wife and kids, and to be the best technician and person I can become.

After reading this article and viewing the photos, you can understand why Rob Berenwick submitted Kevin's name as his success stories!



Kevin taking the boat out for a spin with Qatar in the background; check out the inboard motors and the 400hp outboard motors!