

Ocean County Vocational Technical School

Working in the Field

Sharing Success Stories



Student's Name: Evan Bahrle
OCVTS Program: Welding
Instructor: James Mansfield
Employer: Viking Yachts, New Gretna, NJ

Class of: 2012
Center: Toms River
High School: Lacey Township

In Evan's own words: I started the OCVTS Welding Program because at the time I never pictured myself going on to college after high school. I have always liked working with my hands, and I have a great appreciation for art. The OCVTS Welding Program was definitely a big part of my success having had a great instructor, James Mansfield. He taught me all of the fundamentals of welding and fabrication, while inspiring me to become one of the best welders in the program. With the support and encouragement from Mr. Mansfield and my parents, I decided to further my education at the Pennsylvania College of Technology (Penn State) in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Because of the experience and information learned in the OCVTS Welding Program, I was able to graduate with my Bachelor's Degree in Welding and Fabrication Engineering in just three years.

While attending college, I worked summers at Viking Yachts in New Gretna as a welder fabricator. After college, I was hired full-time in the position where I learned to fabricate almost every part for all of the yachts. I had the opportunity to apply my college degree towards all aspects of the job, and after a year and a half, Viking promoted me to supervisor, the youngest in the company's history.



Evan at work, checking out one of the yachts.

"Viking Yachts is a worldwide leader in yacht construction and is continually seeking talented professionals to enhance our workforce. Evan Bahrle began with us as a part time, summer employee while he worked his way towards his Welding Engineering Degree at Penn State. Upon graduation, he chose Viking to begin his career within his field, enhancing our knowledge and capabilities in metal fabrication and welding technology. He has become an integral part to the operation, management, and development of our workforce. He is an asset to the expansion and growth of this company. Evan has a promising future in the industry," stated Joseph Martorana, Supervisor at Viking Yachts.

Jo-Ann Price, retired principal of the Toms River Center, nominated Evan as an OCVTS success story. "Evan was a graduate of Mr. Mansfield's welding class. He competed in the SkillsUSA competitions and won the gold with his team for welding fabrication. Evan continued his studies in Pennsylvania. He was promoted to supervisor at Viking Yachts, responsible for about 20 employees. Oh yes, and he is only 22 years of age!"

Jim Mansfield beams with pride when talking about Evan, "He did two years in my welding class. Evan was way ahead of the other students. After graduation, he continued his education at Penn State where he completed a welding engineer degree. He continued to work at Viking Yachts in New Gretna, where he has moved up to a supervisor position. Evan is truly one of our success stories."