

Kevin Gorum



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When Kevin Gorum graduated Penn Wood High School in 2006, he never believed that he would be set on a pathway to a career with a major manufacturing company. Encouraged by his mother to take a look at the programs in Applied Engineering Technology (AET) at Delaware County Community College, Kevin was intrigued by the Machine Tool Technology Program and applied for the associate's degree. As an applicant, Kevin was eligible to apply for a scholarship offered by Synthes North America, a worldwide manufacturer of medical devices and a business partner of the AET Program, located in West Chester. Again to his surprise, he was awarded the scholarship to assist with his first year tuition.

Wanting to express his gratitude for being a recipient, he contacted Synthes and spoke to Mike Sticklin, Human Resources Manager for their North America operation. They arranged a meeting and Kevin arrived, dressed professionally, and was able to offer his thanks and see, firsthand, the production facility and operations. "That said a lot to me about Kevin," said Sticklin. "He was very polite, very professional and very courteous."

A short time passed and Kevin decided to take a risk. He contacted Sticklin again and inquired about the possibilities of a job opportunity. Being initially impressed with Kevin, an interview was arranged and in June of 2008, with about 45 College credits under his belt, Kevin began his new position as an entry-level self-support operator. One year later, now 20 years old, Kevin has worked his way up to a Computer Numerical Controls operator (CNC) with an annual salary in excess of \$29,000 and benefits, which includes tuition reimbursement as he completes his studies at the company's expense.

"We look for job candidates with mechanical aptitude," said Sticklin. Delaware County Community College has an automated manufacturing lab. Students are actually trained on state-of-the-art equipment and know their way around operation and production. They have the benefit of learning the theory and applying that knowledge in a hands-on, real life experience.

Gorum is now on the cutting edge of a career that will take him to higher places. He drives 40 miles a day to fulfill his dream of working in a position which benefits our society. With the current generation of highly skilled workers ready to depart, Kevin is in a wonderful position to develop and advance his career. This is in tandem with the mission of the AET Program, which offers programs where young people can apply their talents and skills in a variety of engineering related careers at lucrative starting salaries and numerous opportunities for career expansion and promotions.

"The associate degree program in AET has given me a tremendous opportunity to learn and grow," said Gorum. "I want to secure my future and be able to support a family someday. I would also encourage other young men and women to look into the AET programs at Delaware County Community College. There is so much variety, it's an exciting opportunity."