

Ingham Impact Episode 29 – Advanced Manufacturing

Caleb Thomas: I'm in Precision Machining program and it interests me because I was interested in engineering; to be an engineer you gotta understand the process it takes to make all the parts you need, so taking this class really broadened my horizon on how to make the parts, and actually collaborate with the two things. Jon Daman: So, I'm in the Engineering Technologies program, and I did that because I'm a hands-on guy, I like working with my hands and I like solving problems that people face every day, and I think this class is just a great fit for me. In the real world, if you have an engineer, the engineer's not just going to work alone and weld everything together, and machine every part; he's going to have to go out and meet with the machinist, and meet with the welders to get the problem solved. So, I think it's a really good idea that we have this collaboration space where we can all work together to solve the problem. Matthew Frantz: We learn a little bit about all those different things but, they're doing it like every day, and they really know exactly how to do it, so if we're going to build a go-kart or something, and we need a piece welded onto the frame or something like that, we can go to them and they'll do it for us. Corban Ferris: We have a lot of new technology here; it just helps us gain all this knowledge of different machining that is useful to employers because a lot of other places don't have that experience so they would have to take the time to train us, but we already have that knowledge. Lori Morgan: Well, there's a high demand for machinists, engineers, welders; anything along this line. Most people who are in this field right now are getting ready to retire, so they need younger, motivated students. Jason Melema: By investing in education, by investing in these students, this is the start of something amazing. This is the start of educational opportunities. It's a reflection and an understanding of the value that we have to make sure that every student that graduates from here in Ingham County, has a purpose and a passion. Paul Guetschow: What works is having them all together, talking about problems; so that's what's going to happen with in this space, when we're working on projects, we're going to have some students come over from welding; 'what do you think about welding this?' We're going to have some machining students come over; 'we need this part. can you help us out on this?' And I've really seen the benefits of doing that. Caleb Thomas: Instead of us walking back and forth and interrupting ourselves in our environment; we can all meet in there and actually have a one-on-one with each other about what it takes to make it, and actually talk about the process between them. Corban Ferris: Local jobs, they want to have us young people because we are more experienced in this field, and we know problem solving is a huge thing, so, they're really looking for us. Lori Morgan: So we always have opportunities to job shadow, go to these companies, tour them, and if they think that we are someone that could help their company, they're going to reach out to our instructors. Jon Daman: I know a few people like my brother; he graduated from the machining program a few years ago, and he's working right now at a machine shop in Lansing, making good money and he really likes it, and he just finished his bachelor's degree and his work actually paid for it, so there are so many opportunities. Caleb Thomas: I think anybody should come to Wilson because, it's not taking a ton of time out of your day, but it's helping you prepare for the future, in what you want to do and giving you a broad idea of it.

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