

Ingham Impact Episode 36 – Jeff Grossman

Adam Petrowitz: I came to meet Jeff when I came here the first day, when I decided I was going to go into the Welding Program here, at the Career Center, I thought he was just very adamant about his job; at that point had 35, 40 years already teaching, and he knew what he was doing, and made it really fun for the students. Zachary Douglas: First impression of Jeff: he intimidated me. He's not the biggest of men, but, I'll tell you what, he could probably take down the biggest of men. Once you get to know him and really start interacting with him, he's a really good guy, you know, there's really no other words for it. He'll help you, he'll talk to you, he cares about you. Adam Petrowitz: Jeff wasn't just a welding instructor to me, he really started teaching me about life; not only welding at this program here. We went into booth one, which is now his current office, and we would always talk about life; he would really want to get to know every student personally, so that he could properly guide them to a successful future. Zachary Douglas: You know, if it wasn't for him and Craig, there would have been no respect gained, there would have been no skills earned. Adam Petrowitz: As long as he sees that you're putting your work in; he doesn't want someone that's just going to bandwagon onto his help. You have to be able to put some effort towards it as well. That's something I think he saw in myself, was that I was always willing to put effort in. Zachary Douglas: You ask Craig or Jeff: "Did Zach Douglas really work for his skills?" And, they're going to tell you, "Yeah, he did. He was one of the hardest working students we had in those two years." Ask Nick Yonish; ask Austin Blackburn; ask Randall Whitaker, Training Coordinator of the UA 190; I just named three former students ranging back from 1996, all the way to 2017, and they're all going to tell you something different but it's all going to be positive. Adam Petrowitz: And having Jeff for two years here, really made me feel like, welding's where I want to be; he's happy, he's been doing it for now almost 50 years. I always appreciate him more and more just because he welcomes me back like I had never left. Like, today I'll go back and talk to him for probably an hour, and we talk like we never even skipped a beat. And I get to talk to students about my experiences in my two different jobs that I've had in the welding field, which is nice to give back, and I really appreciate that he helps let me do that. Jeff Grossman: I'm finding that in education, you have an opportunity as a teacher to kind of light the fire of students; it's kind of like the fountain of youth and it keeps happening every year, because students come in, and if you can find the formula, which is getting them excited about coming to school; they want to learn because of how you've laid it out, what it is, and this to them is, kind of like, from heaven. It's wonderful! Adam Petrowitz: He just want to change lives because, I've seen him change kids from being trouble-makers to successful welders out in the field right now; guys that became my friends, girls that became my friends, and, as well, they are successful welders in the field now because Jeff touched their lives at the right time, where they were kind of in the beaten path, and he got them back on the paved road.

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