

## Ingham Impact Episode 41 – Mike Lilly

Barbara Allender: At the time I was teaching a Nouvelle Networking class; Mike came in as a junior from Dansville high school, had to interview; was very serious, very quiet, but very knowledgeable already in his field. Knew what he wanted to do. Mike spent two years in my program, and then it was "What are we going to do next?" We said, let's see if we can get him an interview, and a position here at the ISD, in the technology department. That was a tough fight because, are you going to let your high school students be in your network with a lot of that new technology? But, Mike proved himself and we were able to get him an internship position for his senior year, and it took off from there. Michelle Hilla: Some of the things that Mike and the team have brought to Stockbridge are security, and the ease of mind that when we have all these great technological tools, we want to make sure we can provide instruction in an engaging way while they're using these tech tools, but also in a safe way, and so that's something that Mike and the team have definitely brought to Stockbridge. Terry Egerer: I think the impact Mike has had in being able to grow with the district has been a really positive thing for everyone. We can see the difference in the employee interaction with staff, where, my husband's an IT guy, so I know that kind of... they'd rather work in the background and not deal with people, but now we see those staff working with people in a personable way, and that's really important to us here, to have that type of a connection with them. They're willing to chat, they say hi, it's really a good atmosphere and I think Mike played a big part in that, because that's his personality. Mike Lilly: Simply put, I get to work with cool people every day to support the educational process of thousands of kids; it's a satisfying thing to be a part of, and I really found a comfortable niche for myself at the intersection of supporting and helping people, and supporting technology. Michelle Hilla: He is very into building relationships and putting that first and foremost. You earn their trust, and they'll listen to your voice and leadership, and that can go miles, you know, happiness is contagious, and positivity is contagious. Barbara Allender: I don't think Ingham would be where it is today without Mike and his IT team, only because of the hard work, the hours, the dedication, and just the time in problem solving. Terry Egerer: It's not only us, it's the students that he had connections with once he started working through our building, he also touched their lives in helping them. They got to see that someone that went to our school was actually able to work within the district, and now we see that again; we see students that were in our programs here, working in the district, and their personalities shine. They love what they do. Barb Allender: I am very proud; I have many proud moments with students, be he stands out as one of those who has made it, and has truly used what we were trying to do, just as a little program in a Career Center, and he's the epitome of what you do in education, to see those success stories, and he is a success story.

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