

Four interviews and two job offers before class even ended!

Christopher Campbell, a recent graduate of MassMEP's Advanced CNC Training, explained the path his life had taken which led him to be part of the program. The intense 280 hour, eight-week training attracts people of all ages and backgrounds, men and women, with past manufacturing or machining experience and without. Participants are able to graduate with MACWIC Level 1, 2 & 3 credentials, as well as Lean Manufacturing and OSHA certifications.

A native of the state of Washington, Christopher spent two years in college after high school and then enlisted in the Army. He was sent to Germany as a Petroleum Supply Specialist. Once his tour was complete he stayed in Germany working as a cook and bartender and eventually opening his own restaurant and bar. The business was not a success so he closed it and returned to Washington where he met his wife, who was raised in Massachusetts. Seven years later they decided to return to Worcester, Massachusetts to be near her family while starting one of their own.



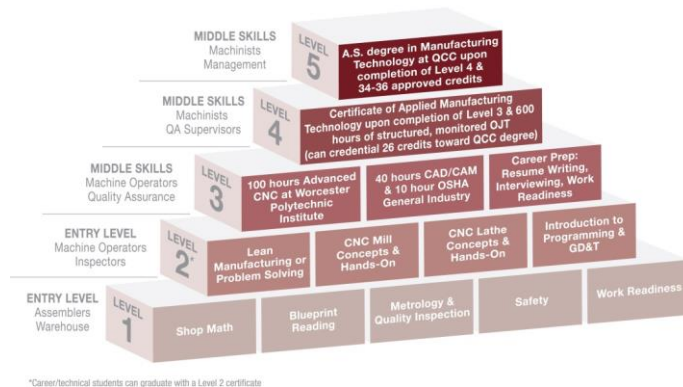
Christopher Campbell (right) pictured with instructors Toby Bergstrom of WPI (left) and Matt Healy of MassMEP (center), at Advanced CNC Training graduation on May 22.

“On March 30, 2015 the classes began,” shares Campbell. “I was a 37 year-old father and husband, who had been unemployed for over 5 months. I was nervous and had no idea what to expect having been out of school for nearly two decades but, I was still excited! I really didn't know much about CNC machines other than having a rough understanding of what they could do,” he added. “I'd never even seen one!”

Campbell described the first week of class as “the longest week in recent memory.” There were many new faces for him to learn, both classmates and instructors; a deluge of subjects like math, blueprint reading, OSHA safety and metrology and then the actual CNC machines themselves. The first week of eight hour class days “made his brain ache”, but gradually it got easier. The second week brought hands-on time in the machine lab at WPI where the students gained experience on actual CNC machines. These days began promptly at 6am in order to allow the Advanced CNC group time in the lab before WPI classes began. “The whole group struggled with the CNC machines at first,” said Campbell, “but at the same time we were growing together as a class and helping each other.” MassMEP trainer, Matt Healy, commented that Christopher often stayed after class to sharpen his skills and even challenged himself to write programs for the machines. “He was very focused on being successful,” said Healy. By week three of the program, Campbell said classes passed so quickly it seems like a blur. “In retrospect,” he added, “it was a fantastic experience and one I wish I could repeat.”

MACWIC's Applied Manufacturing Technology Pathway Certification

The MACWIC's Applied Manufacturing Technology Pathway Certification is an advanced manufacturing certification program that serves two main purposes. One is to add value and merit to the industry to encourage individuals to consider careers in manufacturing.



The second is to create a standard instruction set and evaluation process (which is continuously improved) so that employers readily understand the skill set of an applicant, therefore reducing the cost of hire.

Christopher gave a very positive review of the job fair that was hosted by MassMEP as part of the Advanced CNC program. Several local manufacturers with employment needs were invited to the “speed dating” style event that allowed them to meet with each of the eleven candidates face-to-face and determine who they would like to invite for more in-depth, on-site interviews later on. Campbell felt that the job fair component as well as all the preparation they did on interviewing skills and resume refinement was extremely important. “On the day of the job fair I was bursting with confidence thanks to the career and interviewing prep work and to my own achievements - learning what I had within the class,” he shared. Before the group even graduated on May 22nd Christopher had 4 interviews and 2 job offers!

“For me to label the Advanced CNC Training a mere success would be a phenomenal understatement. Entering this program I was worried that I might not find a job before my unemployment benefits ended and had little hope of earning what I had in my previous position. Now, I begin a new job two weeks after graduation and will be earning more money than before. I have the ability to excel at a position that I knew nothing about a few months ago. The program has given me knowledge, confidence and a renewed sense of motivation to do well for my family and for myself because I know I can. Thank you to all the people at MassMEP, WPI and QCC who helped make this a reality, especially our instructors Matt Healy, Lisa Derby Oden and Toby Bergstrom.” -- Christopher Campbell