



It's Funny How Things Work Out

Phil Andrejczyk was often the class clown in his Accelerated CNC Skills Training class. At times, he didn't appear to be taking things too seriously but was actually taking in much more than you would think. A voracious reader, Andrejczyk typically had a book in his hands whenever there was a break in training. Phil is a veteran of both the Marines and the Army, which could be the reason for some of his "don't sweat the little stuff" attitude. During class, he spent a lot of time standing or leaning due to a military related back injury. This has never stopped him from putting in a good day's work, which he proudly did for almost 30 years before losing his job when the company closed.



At 16 Andrejczyk began working part time for Heritage Cabinets in Shirley MA. He honed his skills through years of on-the-job training. Phil always enjoyed working with his hands and returned to Heritage after serving 4 years in the Marines and another 2 years in the Army. Heritage was the only place Phil had ever worked. They were like family.

During the last five or six years, the company had gradually laid everyone off but him. This forced Phil literally, do the work of five people. The stress was incredible and he grew very depressed. "The weight of the company was on my back," says Andrejczyk, "and the pressure was killing me!" When they finally closed their doors Phil found himself out of a job at the age of 45 with all his job experience from only one employer.

At the Leominster Career Center, Phil learned about MassMEP's Accelerated CNC Skills Training.

He knew that working with his hands and his experience with many different machines and tools might prove helpful so he looked into the program and earned a seat in the training.

Phil was more than a little bit worried about starting on a new career path, but the idea of machining was both appealing and familiar. Today things are going very well for him again. He is glad he took the chance. Phil works as a CNC machinist, machining plastics. He was able to catch on quickly. "You can't believe how many different kinds of plastic there are," he said, "it is a lot like all the different types of wood I used to work with."

"Now, for first time in long time, I like my job again. I am happy to go to work!" Andrejczyk received several job opportunities through the MassMEP program. He accepted a position with Slideways, a Worcester manufacturer of plastic machine parts and plastic strips that prevent wear on conveyor belts. Phil explains that Slideways works a four-day week, Monday through Thursday, ten hours per day. Friday and Saturday, they are off or have the opportunity to work overtime. Phil says, "I've worked every Friday and Saturday since I started, not because I have too, but because I want too. It has been a very long time since I have said that I want to go to work."

Every so often, Andrejczyk checks in with MassMEP, recently to offer opportunities at Slideways to other program graduates. He recognizes the value and benefit of the training he received and hopes the company can hire others.



“Please convey my thanks to Bill (MassMEP instructor, Bill Seaver) and everyone else who taught us during the program.” Thank you for allowing me access to the grant and the training. It has definitely changed my life for the better!”

Please visit Slideways at www.slideways.com for more information and videos.

To learn about MassMEP’s Accelerated CNC Skills Training contact Lisa Oden at lisao@massmep.org.