



## **Spring Teacher Spotlight: Dennis Tetreault, Sheet Metal 1 & 2**

### **By Mike Maloney, Instructor Liaison Director**

- **Which skilled trade are you currently teaching?**  
Sheet Metal
- **When did you start at Gould as an instructor?**  
2017 or 18. I started as a sub, but quickly began full time teaching a class.
- **How did you get into being a teacher?**  
Even when I was a student in high school I would often be asked to help students in my class with their work. When I was in the US Navy and Navy Reserve I spent a lot of time as a trainer, and I enjoy teaching someone a new skill. An opportunity opened up in the high school vocational program that I graduated from and I jumped at the chance.
- **What do you like about being a teacher?**  
I truly enjoy training the next generations of trade workers. Being a high school teacher I can take a student from little to no trade knowledge, to a first or second year apprentice level. Teaching for Gould affords me the opportunity to help apprentices on their way to getting their license, but more importantly helping them advance in their trade knowledge and skills. When you see or hear from a former student, and they tell you where they're working and what they are doing in life that is the reward.
- **How would you describe your teaching style?**  
I'm still pretty "old school". I believe in learning things the long way before learning the shortcuts. It's just as important to learn the why, or how, than just the outcome.
- **What should someone know about being an apprentice?**  
It takes time and perseverance, but the end result will be well worth it. You are going to make mistakes, but learning from them is a key to being successful.
- **What does it take for someone to be a successful apprentice?**  
You need to have a willing to learn mindset. Having the mindset that there is something to learn from every class or topic will help you make the most of the classes. Showing a willingness to learn from your journeymen or instructors will give you the best outcomes.
- **When not instructing, what do you do to unwind?**  
I'm an avid outdoorsman, and like to write stories or books about it. I enjoy hunting, fishing, archery, and all the things associated with being a sportsman. The hunting I like most is waterfowl and upland game hunting. My favorite part of all that is training and hunting Labrador Retrievers, which I have three.
- **If you were not a journeyman and teacher, what would be doing for a career?**  
I would be a hunting/fishing guide. As an extension of teaching I love to be an outdoor mentor.
- **Favorite part of being a teacher for Gould?**  
Teaching for Gould affords me the opportunity to help apprentices on their way to getting their license, but more importantly helping them advance in their trade knowledge and skills.