

# APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE



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Intern

## Apprenticeship Programs Are Life-Changing

Graduating from high school can be an exciting time, but for those who don't have plans to go to college; the transition period can be perplexing and intimidating. However, with programs like the Manufacturers Alliance Intermediary Apprenticeship Program (MIAP) we can continue to encourage career development and ease the anxiety. Some people associate continuing career development programs with lack of education, motivation, or responsibility. However, it is programs like these that will enhance workforce development by creating jobs and stimulating economic growth. In fact, individuals in apprenticeship programs are some of the strongest and most dedicated workforce members in society.

Angela is 32 years old and was born and raised in Madison County. She started a career as an Engineering Technician at Knowles in Cazenovia where her father worked for 40 years. Angela had what's considered to be a great job where she made good money for about 10 years. Unfortunately, Angela found herself battling addiction and because of that she suffered many hardships that put a temporary halt to her career. She ended up losing her job and was out of work for a year and a half. One day Angela saw a social media post about the apprenticeship program. Angela decided to pursue the opportunity and was fortunate to get a chance to start the program. Currently, Angela works for Manth Brownell in Kirkville as a CNC Machine Operator. "The opportunity seemed like a good fit for me. The idea of participating in the curriculum for four years while getting paid was very attractive." Eventually the goal is to offer these programs in tandem with some of the curriculum in community colleges.

Angela is constantly recommending the program to her friends and posting comments about it on social media. "During the first few weeks, the teachers observed and assessed our skills. I am really learning a great deal from this experience. If I knew about the opportunities that apprenticeship programs offered, I would have investigated these programs when I was in high school. It would have been extremely valuable to learn the trades in early high school." Apprenticeships can be a great option for individuals like Angela who need an opportunity to learn valuable skills for jobs in manufacturing.

"It's hard work, but once people start the program, they will realize how valuable it is to learn the skills necessary for a career. I value the experiences that I have had because they have molded me into a responsible hard worker who is willing to contribute to society. If you want to learn, this is a great opportunity, but you have to be willing to work at it as well. I wanted to work hard because I saw a better life for myself and if it wasn't for the program I would not be where I am today."

For individuals like Angela who have experienced hardship or feel like they are out of options, apprenticeship programs can offer endless possibilities for career development. The Manufacturers Alliance program can provide the training and tools necessary for individuals to pursue a career in manufacturing.