



Product Development Partner, LLC Employee “Learns While He Earns”

DMACC Scholar Program:

Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Scholar’s Program is an effective solution for Iowa companies who want to hire individuals who have the desire to work hard and train hard to become productive members of the company’s workforce. Through the Scholar’s program, participating employees not only gain on-the-job experience working at a company, they also gain the necessary formal education and training from DMACC to help them grow into long-term valuable team members. Participating employees work part time at their sponsoring company while attending relevant full-time training at DMACC. DMACC provides scholarship support to the sponsoring company which makes this program a win-win for both companies and their employees.

Background on Product Development Partners, LLC (PDP)

PDP is an injection molding company in Newton, Iowa. PDP has been providing quality and dependable service for over 50 years and prides itself on its “Rapid Response Cycle” which streamlines the work processes to reduce development time and move new products into the market place quickly.

Challenge:

Advanced manufacturing companies throughout Iowa, and throughout the nation, in fact, are experiencing a skilled workforce shortage. The workforce challenge is even more daunting for smaller manufacturers in more rural areas, such as PDP. Attracting and keeping committed, hardworking employees skilled in the critical tool and die skill set necessary for PDP’s work was a challenge for the growing company. PDP had a part time employee, recent high-school graduate John Miller, who had the drive and the desire for a full-time career with PDP, but who lacked the necessary tool and die training.

Solution:

PDP was fortunate to be one of the first companies to participate in DMACC’s Scholar’s Program. Thanks to this program, employee John Miller was able to enroll in the DMACC tool and die program full time while still working some evenings, weekends and school breaks at PDP. John’s work schedule of about 20 hours a week enables him to stay current with his workplace skills while being able to maintain a full college course load. Following his graduation in 2016, John is committed to a minimum of two years full time employment at PDP. PDP gains a trained employee (both on the job and in the classroom), and John gains the skills he needs to succeed at a company he appreciates in his own community.

Results:

PDP and John have been involved with the Scholar’s program for one year and both parties could not be more happy with the arrangement.

“We are thrilled to be able to provide one of our own committed employees with an opportunity to get the training he needs to be professionally successful with our company.”

– Don Fisher, CEO, Product Development Partners, LLC

“It’s great to be able to go to school at the same time I’m working at the job I love. A lot of what I learn at school helps me excel in my job at PDP and it’s also awesome knowing I’ve got a full time job waiting for me at PDP when I finish at DMACC.”