



October 2024 | *Spotlight on Regional Career Pathways*

Wastlick's Journey Exemplifies Academic and Career Planning Using Regional Career Pathways



Carter Wastlick's journey from high school to full-time career exemplifies the power of career and technical education with its underpinnings tied to a rigorous contextual experience as well as access to professional certifications in shaping a successful career path.

Carter's story is a testament to the opportunities that exist in the Prosperity Southwest/CESA 3 region for all of its school districts. From combining relevant classroom learning with rigorous real-world experience, today's students have tremendous advantages in jump starting their career.

A Journey That Began in High School

Carter's journey began at Weston High School, where from his earliest days of high school, first discovered his passion for welding. From his first days in Weston's welding classes, Carter quickly found himself immersed in the practical aspects of the trade. Weston's welding program provided him with the foundational skills, the essential introduction to the techniques and deep understanding of the safety protocols crucial to the field. Carter would later on register for a transcribed welding course at Weston. This course not only allowed him to continue polishing his skill set, but it let him earn college credit from Southwest Wisconsin

Technical College. This early exposure not only hone his technical abilities but also ignited a deeper passion for welding and metalworking.

Hands-on Experience with Youth Apprenticeship

Eager to gain more practical experience, Carter took a significant step by participating in the Wisconsin State Youth Apprenticeship (YA) Program. YA allowed him to work at Wisconsin Metals, a local company known for its expertise in metal fabrication. Through his Youth Apprenticeship, Carter applied the skills he had learned in the classroom to real-world projects. His responsibilities included working alongside master welders, learning advanced techniques, and understanding the





day-to-day operations of a metalworking shop. Carter's Youth Apprenticeship was more than just a job; it was a vital learning experience that helped Carter build a strong connection with industry.

Expanding Knowledge at Southwest Tech

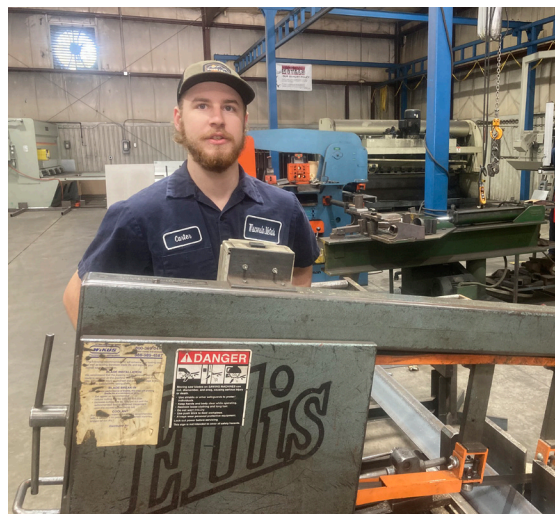
Upon completing high school in 2023, Carter continued his education at Southwest Tech. There, he pursued further training in welding and metalworking, expanding his knowledge and skills in more specialized areas. Southwest Tech provided him with advanced technical education and occupational experience, ensuring that he was career ready for the demands of the industry. Carter's dedication to his studies and ultimately to himself, paid off, as he excelled in his coursework and developed a deep understanding of the intricacies of welding.

Employment Offer Brings Experience Full Circle

As he approached the end of his time at Southwest Tech, Carter's hard work and commitment were recognized when he was offered a full-time position at Wisconsin Metals. This opportunity was a full-circle moment, as the company where he had begun his apprenticeship was now offering him a permanent role. Carter's transition from an apprentice to a full-time employee was a testament to his growth and development in the field.

Benefits of Industry Recognized Certifications

In addition to his formal education and hands-on experience, Carter recognized the value of industry-recognized certifications. He pursued and earned numerous certifications, including OSHA 10 and OSHA 30, which provided him with comprehensive knowledge of workplace safety regulations. These certifications not only enhanced his safety awareness but also made him a more competitive candidate in the job market. Furthermore, Carter completed a certification in Precision Measurement Tools, adding another layer of expertise to his skill set. These certifications were instrumental in advancing his career and demonstrating his commitment to professional excellence.



Perfect Example of Academic and Career Planning

Carter Wastlick's journey from high school welding classes to Youth Apprenticeship to Southwest Tech to now with a successful career at Wisconsin Metals underscores the importance of combining education, practical experience, and professional certifications as a recipe for life success. His story highlights how high quality Academic and Career Planning using the Regional Career Pathway maps while combining with career and technical education programs and Youth Apprenticeships can serve as a powerful compass toward career success, providing students with the skills and opportunities needed to excel in their chosen fields. Carter's achievements are a testament to his hard work, dedication, and the invaluable support of educational liaisons and industry programs that have shaped his career trajectory.



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