

Tyler Thiellen



Age: 21
Company: Lincoln Machine
Title: CNC Machinist / Welder
College/Degree: Southeast CC, Welding Tech/Machine Tool Tech.

As a graduate of Lincoln Northeast High School I knew exactly where I wanted to go. It was off to Southeast Community College in Milford Nebraska, one of the best technical schools in the region. It was there that I planned to get not one, but two associates degrees. One in welding technology and one in machine tool technology.

As I entered my senior year in high school many people told me I had the potential to do anything I wanted. Many people also told me that I shouldn't waste my time going to a tech school, and that the only way for a guy like me to go would be the four-year route. I didn't agree much with the second group of people. You see, I knew that with two degrees in manufacturing related occupations, I would never have to look far for a good job. Whereas many of the people I graduated with who followed the advice of that second group of people have had to look long and hard for a good job in their field of study and may never use their degree at all.

This is why I would highly encourage anyone to consider going into a field of manufacturing. There are so many great opportunities in the Midwest and throughout the country. No matter what field you decide to go into, if it has anything to do with some type of manufacturing, most likely you will not have to look far for a rewarding career. This applies to the four-year schools too. It may not have been my choice; I am a little partial to tech schools. Four-year degrees in engineering or something else related to manufacturing are highly employable career choices.

I am currently a CNC machinist employed at Lincoln Machine, a very reputable machine shop in Lincoln Nebraska. My primary job duties are the setup and operation of our CNC mills. It is on these machines that we make everything from tiny parts for biochemistry equipment, to huge parts for our custom machines.

The career path I have chosen has many opportunities and avenues for me to expand my knowledge and skill. It has given me the opportunity to make some good money that allows me to afford the things I love to do outside of work. This is why, like I have said before, I would HIGHLY encourage anyone and everyone to consider a manufacturing related career choice.