CESA 11 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

CARSON SIMON

Prepared by Katie Feuerhelm,
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Carson Simon is a senior at Frederic High School who has a great and unique job at a local manufacturer. Growing up farming with his family, Carson appreciates working with his hands and the art of fixing and building things. Through Youth Apprenticeship, he has secured a position in the manufacturing industry which has presented current and future opportunities to use his skills and knowledge in a fast-paced environment. When looking for a job last fall, Carson learned about Youth Apprenticeship and the benefits that it offered. Following his father's recommendation, Carson applied for a position at Durex Products Inc., a Wire Cloth and Specialty Screening Media, Wear Parts, and Accessories manufacturer. Located in Luck, Durex supplies products for the Mining and Aggregate Industries. Tanya Hoen, Human Resources and HSE Manager at Durex has worked with CESA 11 in the past and is familiar with the benefits of Youth Apprenticeship. Tanya recommended Carson apply to the program. Following his interview, Carson was hired to work on the shop floor at Durex with their looming department.

MORE INFO

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP, CONTACT:

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During the onboarding process, Carson was matched up with a Department Quality Lead to serve as an on-site mentor. Though Carson says his main role is weaving wire into mesh screens using large machines run by air-powered levers, he has learned new skills and taken on additional responsibilities in the 14 months that he has been with the company. Rather than creating the same part over and over, each order is unique and comes to the looming department with a specialized 'blueprint' indicating how it should be manufactured. Carson says this type of customized work keeps the job interesting. Carson credits the technology education courses that he took as a component of the program critical in the knowledge and skills that he uses on the job. He also noted that the program was helpful in obtaining a pair of work boots and the required special trainings for the position, including OSHA 10 and First Aid. Carson shared that he recently took a piece of wire cloth to school as part of a class project to show his technology education class more about what he does on the job at Durex. Flexibility from both the school and employer allow Carson to work a full 40 hour week, even during the school year. He leaves school early and works a few hours of the first shift, something he enjoys because it is a shift that he shares with his dad. He then works a portion on the second shift to complete his workday. In the summers, he is able to take advantage of the company's modified workweek, putting in four 10-hour days in exchange for long weekends. Carson plans to spend this summer at Durex and see what opportunities lie ahead for him with the company. With his hard work and dedication, we have no doubt that Carson will have many opportunities for growth and development within the company in the future.

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