



MID-MISSOURI COMPANY VALUES THEIR STATE TECH CONNECTION

PHOTO BY TRAVIS DUNCAN

Established in 1983, GH Tool & Mold, Inc. is a family-owned business located in Washington, MO that serves the die cast, aerospace and precision machining industry.

GH Tool & Mold has hired State Tech graduates since its inception, and currently employs 16.

"We have always been pleased with the individuals that we have hired from the college," said Dave Graves, GH Tool & Mold President and '85 Design Drafting graduate. "I can't remember an instance where we haven't been pleased with the outcome."

In addition to employing graduates of the college, the company advises

the college on the current trends and technologies specific to their needs as an employer. Lyle Schultz, Technical & Support Services Manager and '88 Machine Tool graduate, serves on the advisory committee for the Machine Tool Technology program.

"I think it is smart for the college to include employers in this process," commented Schultz. "It ensures the curriculum stays relevant and new graduates have the skills employers expect to see."

Graves and Schultz attended the college during the '80s while the college was referred to as Linn Tech and the campus was behind the high school.

Graves admits the old campus wasn't much to brag about, but he didn't feel slighted. "I got exactly what I wanted," he said. "A good education."

Schultz agrees. "I knew once I got my degree, there would be well-paid, employment opportunities."

Graves believes the college has remained committed to a quality technical education. "It's why we stay involved and keep hiring graduates of the college," said Graves. "We value the employees we hire from State Tech." <<

MONROIG COLLECTS COLLEGE'S TOP HONOR

An easy style and unassuming nature made Bryce Monroig of Krakow, MO a natural leader and easy pick for the 2014 President's Award of Distinction. His dedication both in the classroom and around campus made him stand out among his peers.

"Bryce connects well with people and does not shy away from responsibilities," said his Phi Theta Kappa Advisor, Becky Dunn. "It's no surprise to me that he received the President's Award. It's given to a student who has demonstrated excellence and that certainly fits Bryce."

A 2014 Machine Tool Technology graduate, Monroig applied his tool and die expertise to not only teach his peers, but to also take another top honor, first place in the fourth annual #BOOM pitch entrepreneurial competition. His noise and vibration dampening bow accessory was awarded \$5,000 in start-up and production funding.

Instructor and chair of Machine Tool Technology, Chris Muenks, saw firsthand how Monroig connected with his fellow students.

"His personality along with his knowledge and experience in machine tool made him a natural leader in the classroom," said Muenks. "Bryce gets everything done with a good attitude and does whatever is asked of him without hesitation."

Monroig was active on campus as well. He served numerous leadership roles within the Student Government

Association (SGA). His direction and oversight of intramural duties for SGA allowed 12 different sports to be offered that year.

"He is an outstanding student and an exceptional leader," said SGA Advisor, Ashley Anderson. "He went above and beyond his intramural duties to accomplish the goals of SGA while maintaining a 4.0 GPA and being involved in Phi Theta Kappa and the Machine Tool Club."

In Phi Theta Kappa, Monroig served as the Vice President of Fellowship and played a major role in completing the Honors in Action Project, an advocacy campaign encouraging students to balance their time between hunting and attending class. He also actively participated in the college project, which established a campus food pantry for students in need. Both projects received awards at PTK's Regional Convention.

After graduation, Monroig continued his machine tool career accepting a position at GH Tool & Mold, Inc. in Washington, MO.

"He represents what State Tech's goals and mission are all about," said Muenks. "And we couldn't be prouder." <<<



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