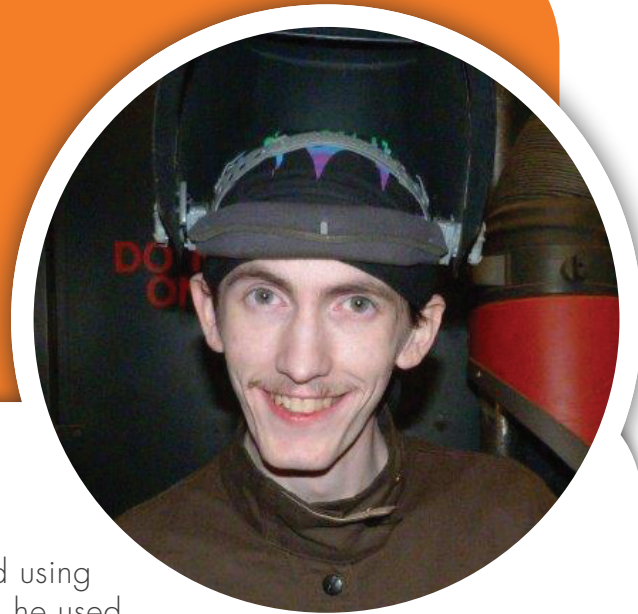


Celebrate COMMUNITY



MICHAEL KRAUSE

Ever since he was little, Michael has enjoyed building and using his hands to create things. When he was seven years old, he used to spend time building scale model kits, such as cars, jets and planes, which evolved into him constructing tabletop minis and remote-control cars. His abilities eventually led him to become interested in welding, which proved to be exactly what he was looking for as a career path.

As a child, Michael's interest in building models was something he found to be extremely fun. Still today, he is working on several remote-control car projects, which he loves because he can enjoy them after he's done assembling them. He also became interested in video games, especially Diablo 1 and Diablo 2: Lord of Destruction, and anime shows like Ghost in the Shell, Big O and Cowboy Bebop, which he used to stay up late watching when he was a kid. Michael's favorite childhood cartoon, though, has always remained Ed, Edd n Eddy.

Once he started high school, Michael first encountered welding but enrolled in an auto collision repair program. Even though he did well in auto collision, he realized that welding was actually exactly what he was looking for.

This August, Michael decided to register for Auburn Career Center's evening welding program to improve his skills. In order to be accepted into the program, he had to pass an entrance exam and meet specific standards and criteria. Already, Auburn Career Center has granted Michael the opportunity to develop an innovative career and technical path that is paving the way for him to excel in the workplace, enrich his community and master his chosen craft.

Michael's favorite part about welding so far is being in the shop, as it's proven to be more enjoyable to engage in something hands-on, rather than just hearing someone talk about the activity. He also loves interacting with the welding machines, experiencing how different electrodes feel and how to keep a good bead.

According to Auburn Career Center's teachers, Michael is always excited to learn and further master his craft. In addition to his good grades and impeccable attendance, the teachers said "Michael's positive outlook and intoxicating smile draws people to his side!"

In the course, Michael received his certification in Stick welding and is currently learning MIG (metal inert gas), TIG (tungsten inert gas) and pipe welding, as well. It has proven to be a great experience for him, especially with the help of his teachers who play off each other well and make it a joy to be there. After he completes the course, Michael is considering becoming a welding inspector, fabricator or iron worker.

