

Ocean County Vocational Technical School

Working in the Field

Sharing Success Stories



Student: Jennifer Stueber

Class of: 2017

OCVTS Program: Adult Education – HVAC Apprenticeship

Center: Brick

Instructors: Ray O’Grady, Dave Leonard, Paul DeMarco, and Chris Riley

Employer: Blue Ridge Heating and Cooling, Pine Beach, NJ

In Jen’s own words... From an early age, I enjoyed helping and learning about the HVAC/R industry. I have held several positions at my father’s company through high school, college, and during my first career as a teacher. When my dad had become ill and was not expected to return within a time frame that would support the continuation of a profitable business, I took a leave of absence from my teaching career. In my father’s absence, I realized I needed to learn as much as I could about the trade. Because of my desire to be successful in the family business, I started taking management, business, and marketing classes through Fred Pryor, as well as at the local county college. I wanted to learn as much as possible to enhance my knowledge regarding business management and financial profitability. I was also very interested in educating myself regarding the mechanical and technical aspects of the trade. I started reading trade magazines, taking technical classes, and enrolled in the Ocean County Vocational School’s accredited 4-year Apprenticeship Program for HVAC/R.

Enrolling in the OCVTS program has been the most valuable to me. I wanted to learn everything my dad knew from 25 plus years in business, but there was never any time to teach me. Also, a couple of years ago, there was discussion of licensing coming to our state. This was a major reason for me enrolling in school. I wanted to protect my future and ensure my father’s legacy could go on if something was to happen to him. I found the teaching and learning experience at the vocational school so paramount to my success in moving forward. The HVAC/R program has enabled me to have hands-on experience in a teaching environment. This program has made a positive impact on my career.

“Jen’s long-term goal is to be a successful business owner and a well-respected woman in the HVAC/R industry. Of course, she wants to continue this quest within our family business. It was her decision to enroll in the vocational program and work in the field for the last four years. In many ways, she is still a teacher and a student, sharing what she knows with employees and customers. Most importantly, she has influenced me on how to grow the business and has brought a new perspective and outlook to the company. My business has grown three-fold since Jen came onboard. I am so fortunate to have Jen as part of my team. Her previous experiences and continued educational growth have made her the exceptional businesswoman she is today. Jen is a leader with vision and financial acumen, a teacher who shares knowledge, a skilled hands-on technician, and a customer focused agent,” commented Bill Stueber, Jen’s dad, and owner of Blue Ridge Heating and Cooling.



Like father, like daughter. Jen and her proud dad, Bill Stueber

Mary Beatty-Sharisky, Principal of Adult Education, nominated Jen as a success story. “Jennifer Stueber is a wonderful example of perseverance, fortitude and compassion. Specifically, Ms. Stueber received the Vocational Education Commitment Award (VECA) at our recent 2017 Apprentice Certificate Ceremony. She also received the Ocean County Vocational Foundation’s Outstanding Apprentice Award. Likewise, the Adult Education Division was extremely proud to showcase Ms. Stueber as the valedictorian, and class speaker at this prestigious event. While enrolled in the OCVTS Apprentice program, Jennifer was also recognized by Soroptimist International of Toms River as the recipient of the Striving for Success Award.”