

# Ocean County Vocational Technical School

## Working in the Field

### Sharing Success Stories



**Student:** Shea Manning

**OCVTS Program:** HVAC/R

**Instructor:** Robert Doherty

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

**Class of:** 2017

**Center:** Brick

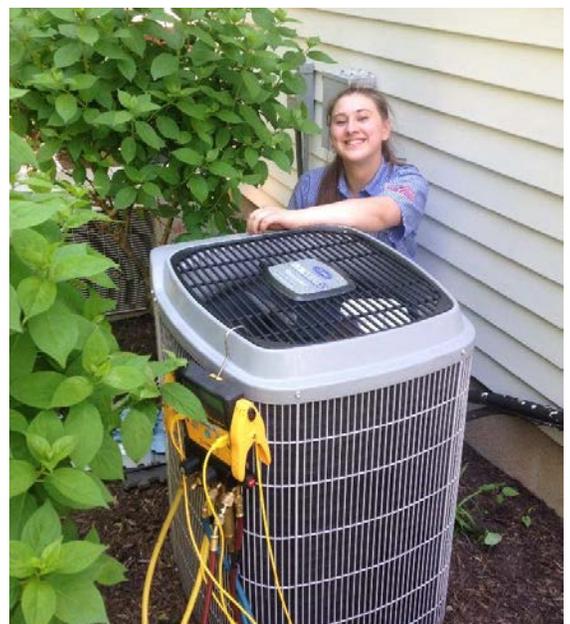
**High School:** Toms River South

**In Shea's own words...** Before starting the HVAC/R class, this was a skill set and career path that I had never thought of pursuing. Then, Mr. Doherty asked me to give his class a try and it sparked my interest. I found that I enjoyed being able to repair the HVAC equipment. Having a specific trade skill set gave me a sense of independence. I did very well in the class. Mr. Doherty encouraged me to enter the SkillsUSA competition and I did. By coming in second place in the HVAC/R competition and winning a silver medal, I was able to prove to myself that I can do it.

Through the Cooperative Education Program, I was able to attend OCVTS and work part time. Blue Ridge hired me before I was even out of school. Now, I am able to support myself financially, do something I love, and work with an honest, friendly, amazing company...that is Blue Ridge Heating and Cooling.

Bill Stueber, owner of Blue Ridge Heating and Cooling, commented, "We hired Shea because we have a passion for growing the trade. HVAC is a great career choice and you can make an honest living. The most important quality we look for is the employee's personality. People skills are crucial to being successful in this trade. The skill set that Shea learned is teachable, but being a good person with a great personality is not. We are fortunate to hire from the OCVTS daytime program and Adult Education Apprenticeship Program. We are very impressed that Shea was able to break through the stereotyped boundaries of a male dominated industry."

Rob Doherty, our HVAC/R instructor, touted Shea as one of his many successes. "Shea Manning, with no hands-on tool experience entered my accelerated program in September. She won a silver medal at SkillsUSA and landed a cooperative education job with Blue Ridge Heating and Cooling."



*Shea pictured with Bill Stueber, Owner of Blue Ridge. She loves her job and cannot stop smiling!*