Sharing Success Stories
Own Your Own Business

Student's Name: Patrick Erbe
OCVTS Program: Construction Technology
Instructor: Ray Gudzak
Name of Business: Erbe Builders, Inc., Toms River, NJ
Website: www.erbebuilders.net

Class of: 1987
Center: Toms River
High School: Toms River North
Years in Business: 20+

In Patrick's own words: In my junior and senior years of school, I was a shared time student. I attended Toms River High School North and the Toms River Center of OCVTS in the Construction Trades Program. I wanted to learn as much as possible about all phases of the construction trades industry, focusing on the importance of getting things done properly. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Ray Gudzak for teaching me a good deal of the basics so that when I went out into the field I knew why you were doing things a certain way. My success and long career would not have been possible if not for the exemplary training I received from the faculty and staff at OCVTS.

Looking back, I guess you could call me a workaholic, even at a young age. I worked part-time while in high school and full-time in the summers. I worked hard and saved my money. After graduation, I began by buying my first home, renovating and selling it, and repeated the process all the while saving my money. Then I started to purchase land, both residential and commercial, and began development. Owning your own business means working long hours but the hard work pays off. Then you get to a point in your life when you can give back to the community in different ways.

To the future graduates of the construction trades, I would say never be afraid to put yourself out there. There is no harm in asking questions. Always try to do the right thing. Be on time and learn as much as you can if someone is willing to teach you and always be willing to help others.

“Erbe Builders is based right here in Toms River and employs a staff of 12 full-timers. Driving around Ocean County you will see many of his beautiful homes including a couple of new subdivisions. Patrick was a recipient of our Acknowledging Excellence Award not for what he learned at OCVTS, but for what he has accomplished since graduating. Both Erbe Builders and his family have an altruistic mind-set. They are strong supporters of the J. Phillip Citta Regional Cancer Center, Ocean County College Foundation, Harbor House, YMCA, Toms River Rotary and OCVTS. Congratulations Patrick on being a true success story,” commented Christine Karaska, Job Services Coordinator.

“Whether you are looking to build your dream home, renovate your current residence, add a deck or a 2nd floor our qualified craftsmen can turn your dream into reality,” retrieved from their website at www.erbebuilders.net.