Sharing Success Stories
Working in the Field

Student’s Name: Trevor Finch
OCVTS Program: Welding
Instructor: James Mansfield
Employer: Local 9 Pipefitters Union

Class of: 2013
Center: Toms River
High School: Lacey Township

In Trevor’s own words: I chose the Welding Program because I always knew that college was not the best fit for me. I am more of a “hands-on” and “learn by doing” type of person. OCVTS and Mr. Mansfield in particular, helped me by teaching me the important fundamentals and etiquette of the welding industry. After vocational school, I attended trade school at the Local 9 Training Center for five years as an apprentice in order to become a pipefitting journeyman.

Punctuality, determination, and a willingness to learn are the most important attributes in becoming a Union pipefitter. I spent hundreds of hours of my own personal time at the training center learning to weld. It was difficult to do, along with working full time, and going to school but that separated me from the others. The most crucial advice I can give to students would be to set goals for yourself to work towards every day. No matter what career path you chose in life, you will need to work hard to be successful. For me, I knew exactly what I wanted to do with in life. There are many reasons why I enjoy going to work but the most important reason is being paid to do what I love!

Trevor Finch is a former student of mine who was enrolled in the daytime welding program at OCVTS for two years. Trevor did well in the welding program, and he even earned some certifications before completing the class. He applied to Local 9 Plumber and Pipefitters Union and was accepted into the local union and started working that September. I cannot believe five years have passed since Trevor became a journeyman plumber pipefitter. To see Trevor go from a high school student to one of the top welders in his field in just five years is amazing! It is my pleasure to write these comments about Trevor and to let everyone know how much he has accomplished by staying focused in the welding field. He has a wonderful career ahead of him. On behalf of everyone at OCVTS, I would like to congratulate Trevor on his success!

(Pictured) Trevor proudly poses in front of his home, performing his welding skills, a sample of his work and job site.