

At the beginning of my journey is Sussex Technical High School I knew I wanted my career path to be carpentry before I had even walked through the doors on my first day. I was always making things out of wood when I was younger, I once made my own bike ramp to jump off of. My grandfather had a big influence on my decision as I saw all the incredible things he had made out of wood and steel. Soon the steel came into play though when I had gotten my classes switched around and put into a welding elective, now at my time as a freshman welding was only an elective for us. I was a little worried about all the gasses, high heat, and just bare metal itself until the first time I had picked up an oxyacetylene torch and started cutting away or the first time I laid a weld with a MIG gun, I was in love with something totally different. By junior year I had taken all the elective courses for welding and I couldn't take any more unfortunately. My welding teacher was pretty great though and allowed me to come down and weld in my free time. Once senior year came I had realized that if I wanted to be out on work based learning I didn't have to get a carpentry job as long as it was something that correlated to construction and well of course welding does. So before my senior year I had already had a welding job lined up at First State Fabrication in Seaford, DE, I worked there through the summer and a little bit before Christmas before I had lost the job due to a few sick days which was really unfortunate because my fiancé and I have a baby and I was the one taking care of things for a while. Welding is an incredible part of the countries workforce and many things would not be the way they are without it, cars wouldn't have frames, planes wouldn't have wings, and bridges would have never have been scaled to where they are now. That's just the tip of the iceberg of things you can do with welding there is far more. Plus, the amount of fun you have when doing the things that welding entails is even better, I would rather pick up a gun and connect two steel objects

with intense heat than sit at a 9-5 desk job for the rest of my life. I have not clocked any volunteer hours and the only extracurricular activity I have done is bowling club. I have my OSHA10 certification through my tech area and I am forklift certified through First State Fabrication. I believe this money would be an extreme help for getting me on my feet right out of high school. It would likely go to a welding adult ed to get my certifications for welding or any tools I need to do the work I am doing. Plus, on a financial aspect, I'm watching my little one grow just as much as I'm trying to grow myself and with the right help I will be there in no time.