

Washtenaw CTE Partner Spotlight – Andrew Milkey Video Transcript

Andrew Milkey, Project Manager – Ideal Contracting:

I think CTE, Career Technical Education, is an important part of society. It's building the backbone of America. It truly is. And my expertise is in the construction industry, and CTE plays a very important role in that. It provides the infrastructure and the expertise, and we're in dire need of more CTE students coming in and more support to the CTE program. 41% of our workforce is going to be retiring by 2031. If I can get contractors, local contractors into the classrooms, they hire those students. Those students know the area. They live in the area. They want to stay in the area. And that is a key aspect of the growth within Washtenaw County, is to capture those students, to keep them here, to employ them here.

I was a product of the South and West Washtenaw CTE program. I was in the field learning the trigonometry, the geometry, the technical writing piece of it, which is important. I came back to Washtenaw County. I'm raising my family in Washtenaw County about 10 miles from where I grew up, and I love this county and what it has to offer. Career Technical Education is that foundation. And from there, there's endless possibilities because you've been hands-on. You've done the work. And when you come into a company or into the big world, I guess you could say, that's where we can fine-tune you. But you already have the basics. You already have that foundation footing, which is so important in this industry. What they're learning is invaluable. You're really building society by investing in CTE.

[Graphic: The Future Moves with Us]

[Graphic: Washtenaw CTE (Career Technical Education) logo]