

Washtenaw CTE Partner Spotlight – Jochen Faber Video Transcript

Jochen Faber, Managing Director - Liebherr Aerospace Saline, Inc.:

Skilled labor is global, the demand is global, it's not just a local thing. So if you're good, you maybe add a language to it, there's no limit to what you can do.

Career technical education is basically my background, so I started as an apprentice back in Germany. This gave me my foundation for the career that followed in the aviation industry and brought me through several countries here to the US.

I think as a young person growing up, you need guidance, your passion needs to be nurtured, and it's often a trial and error thing. Sometimes, you have to try something, you fail, that you narrow down the field what you're good at. So I think the CTE offers the opportunity to try different things, to find that what you're good at or what your passion is or whatever your future horizon may be.

One of the things that was always important for me, you need to find passion in what you do. For many people, this is a job. It's more than a job, because you spend the majority of your life doing this, so you better find a path that suits you, whatever that may be.

By not offering these opportunities, it kind of shrinks the talent pool in the long run. I think it's important to create this infrastructure. What we're really lacking are the mechanics, the welders, the technical skills to be able to actually do the work. The engineer designs it and somebody has to put into action, there has to be a skilled mechanic, worker, drone pilot, whatever it may be, who creates at the end what other people think of. So basically, we're looking for good mechanics who can use their skills and their hands and can read blueprints and can create.

I think we have, as Michigan, we're a highly technical state, I think we have that recognition, we have a good baseline that should be able, through something like CTE, to maintain. It's really a matter of maintenance and maybe increasing the flow. There are enough students going through the school system, but what happens to these people? A lot of people leave the state. So in order to address that, you need to provide opportunities at home. That's really the only way to really do it.

[Graphic: The Future Moves with Us]

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