

Washtenaw CTE Partner Spotlight – Rich Chang Video Transcript

Rich Chang, Entrepreneur and Engineer; Chief of Staff – Blumira:

You gotta want to just get your hands dirty, and it's not just getting oil or grit or whatever. Getting your hands dirty, also in computer science, you have to do that. You have to be willing to experiment and also not heavily rely on being told what to do and in particular, how to get to the solution, which is why I really appreciate CTE. It's a lot broader than I think most of us are aware of. There's the tech part and there's just the nitty-gritty, like someone has to make parts, but someone has to design and run the machines and figure out how to actually bring these parts to life. So yeah, I would say every industry in this area can benefit.

If we all want this community to thrive, we have to be able to have folks in different industries. One of our biggest challenges we have in particular in Michigan is the brain drain. We're really behind the eight-ball, in particular around our skilled workforce. That workforce pipeline in the end drives overall economic development, but you can't have a workforce pipeline if you don't have skilled workers.

There is a high demand for the skills that CTE graduates have, and I think there comes a point that we as humans need to have as many diverse experiences as we can, because even if you don't like working with your hands, having that experience is going to be invaluable for umpteen number of reasons. I feel like CTE in general builds a lot of confidence, not just in skills, but for people in themselves.

[Graphic: The Future Moves with Us]

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