

RYAN — USDOL Registered Apprenticeship

Great Lakes Castings established a USDOL Electrical Apprenticeship program, but soon faced a setback when their Master Electrician left, leading them to abandon the apprenticeship initiative. In 2022, Michigan Works! West Central intervened, collaborating to restructure the program into an Electrical Technician track that could be overseen by journeyworker Tom Green, and apprentice Ryan Woods.

Michigan Works! West Central worked alongside West Shore Community College to reconstruct the necessary requirements for the revised apprenticeship, aligning the program with the specific needs of the employer and securing the essential approvals from USDOL. Notably, this marked GLC's first-ever registration of an apprentice within the USDOL program.

During his interview in August 2023, Ryan expressed profound gratitude to Michigan Works! West



Central for reviving the program at GLC. Having attended ITT immediately after high school, Ryan harbored a strong interest in electrical applications. With GLC's current journeyworker approaching retirement, Ryan

aspired to pursue further education following the apprenticeship, aiming to acquire licensure as a journeyworker and eventually as a master electrician.

He attributes his profound learning experiences

to the practical insights and techniques passed down by Tom, emphasizing their value beyond what any textbook could offer. Ryan's coursework was primarily conducted online, with practical labs scheduled at West Shore Community College one evening per week, allowing him to fulfill all the modules required for the Electrical Technician, registered apprenticeship. Ryan expressed sincere humility at Michigan Works! West Central's proactive efforts to reinstate the program and ensure the successful registration of apprentices.

Indeed, sometimes all it takes is one dedicated individual to spearhead the necessary changes and set things right. Key activities, highlights, and accomplishments include the successful reconstruction of the Electrical Tech USDOL RA, the enrollment of Ryan into the program, and his current progress through one-quarter of the program's requirements.