



May 2024

# Student Connection



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

## Owen Szymanski

### Independence



Owen Szymanski is a junior at Independence High School, currently enrolled in CVCC's Heating & Air Conditioning program taught by Matt Schoeffler. Encouraged by his father, a longtime member of Local 33 who joined the union at 22, Owen decided to attend CVCC to gain valuable experience. While he's still unsure about his post-high school plans, he's keen to explore various options.

Owen advises incoming CVCC students to apply themselves fully and tackle problems head-on. *"You'll figure it out," he assures them.*

Owen's favorite part of CVCC is the sense of community, especially within his program. A highlight of his year was competing in the Sheet Metal Competition at SkillsUSA. *"Participating in SkillsUSA was an incredible experience. Competing at States in Columbus was a blast, particularly because my dad came along and introduced me to many of his acquaintances."* Owen also appreciates the job shadowing opportunities he's received. *"Shadowing my dad this year was amazing. We discuss my class activities over dinner, and he helps answer my questions. It's been fun and rewarding to share this experience with him."*

Outside academics, Owen works for the City of Independence Parks & Recreation, handling tasks like mowing grass, masonry, and installing playgrounds. He also participates in track and football at Independence High School and is a member of the National Honor Society. At CVCC, he is a member of the National Technical Honor Society and actively participates in SkillsUSA. Keep up the great work, Owen!

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