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Student Connection



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Donald Raymond

Cuyahoga Heights



Donald Raymond, a senior at Cuyahoga Heights High School, is enrolled in CVCC's Machine Technology program under the instruction of Rich Parrott. With a lifelong passion for science and a childhood dream of becoming an astronaut, Donald's career goals shifted after touring CVCC's Machine Technology lab. He was captivated by the machines and the endless possibilities of what could be created. Currently, Donald is one of only five students working as an apprentice at Assembly Tool Specialists, Inc. in Twinsburg—a role he secured thanks to Mr. Parrott.

Due to his dedication over the summer, he's been on early placement since mid-September and is on track to earn a one-year apprenticeship certificate from the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council. His work involves crafting tools like sockets and drill bits, which he enjoys because it involves manual machining rather than CNC work, which he prefers less.

Donald's ultimate dream is to work for NASA, helping manufacture components for rockets—a fitting way to pursue his astronaut-inspired aspirations! His favorite class experience so far was a field trip to Kennametal, where he enjoyed seeing the impressive shop—and getting Chick-fil-A afterward!

Beyond the classroom, Donald stays active through soccer, track & field, and bowling at Cuyahoga Heights High School. He's also excited to compete in SkillsUSA this year at CVCC. His advice for future students? If college isn't your preferred path, CVCC's programs can set you up for a successful career right after graduation. For science enthusiasts who enjoy creativity and hands-on work, Donald highly recommends the Machine Technology program. Keep up the great work, Donald!

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