

Alumni Spotlight

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Marielle Bender **Class of 2017**



Marielle Bender, a 2017 graduate of Independence High School, took her first steps toward a career in print through the Graphic Imaging Technology (GIT) program at CVCC, under the instruction of Patrick Ruebensaal. Unsure of what path to pursue after high school, Marielle was encouraged by her parents to explore CVCC. Initially thinking she was interested in culinary, her plans quickly changed after stepping into the GIT classroom. Drawn in by the program's presentation and the opportunity to work with Adobe Creative Suite, computers, and print machinery, Marielle discovered a new passion.

During her time in the program, Marielle gained valuable technical experience working with a variety of software and equipment. Even more impactful, however, were the professional skills she developed—communication, customer service, and workplace professionalism—which continue to benefit her today. She fondly remembers the friendships she built in the program and especially enjoyed working with the Xerox printer. After graduating, Marielle attended Ferris State University, majoring in Graphic Media Management. As a freshman, she secured a position at a menu printing company, crediting CVCC for providing the strong foundation that helped her succeed in the role.

Today, Marielle works at TKM Print Solutions, Inc., where she has spent the past four years growing within the company. She began as a Production Worker in the cutting department, transitioned into print, advanced to Cut Coordinator, and now serves as a Production Technician and Color Manager in the print department. Looking ahead, Marielle hopes to return to a career center classroom as a print instructor—following in the footsteps of her former teacher and giving back in the same way she was inspired. Her advice to current CVCC students: stay open to every opportunity and take advantage of learning as many skills as possible—you never know how they'll shape your future. We're so proud of you, Marielle. Keep shining!

Written By: Makayla Robertson, CVCC Media Specialist

